

OBITUARY NOTICE

Professor JIŘÍ DAVÍDEK died



At the age of 83 years died suddenly on Friday, April 17, 2015 Prof Ing JIŘÍ DAVÍDEK, DrSc. Professor DAVÍDEK was born on April 23, 1932 in Krásná Hora nad Vltavou. In the years 1950–1954 he studied at the Faculty of Food Technology, Institute of Chemical Technology in Prague (ICT Prague) and then as a postgraduate at the Department of Vitamins of the Research Institute of the Food Industry in Prague, where his supervisor was Ing Dr Jiří Fragner. In 1957 Professor DAVÍDEK became a researcher at the same institute and in 1958 he defended his CSc. (today Ph.D.) dissertation. For his next career was a momentous year 1960, when he returned to Institute of Chemical Technology in Prague as a researcher at the Department of Chemistry and Food Testing, whose leader was Prof Ing Gustav Janíček, DrSc. In 1967, Professor DAVÍDEK became an associate professor, in 1971 defended his doctoral dissertation and in 1972 he was appointed Professor of Food Chemistry and Analysis. To the Faculty of Food Technology (now the Faculty of Food and Biochemical Technology) and the Department of Chemistry and Food

Testing, later the Department of Food Chemistry and Analysis, today the Department of Food Analysis and Nutrition, Professor DAVÍDEK remained faithful until his death.

Professor DAVÍDEK worked actively for the development of ICT Prague, where he was in the years 1972 to 1990 Dean and between 1976–1990 he served simultaneously as head of the Department of Chemistry and Food Testing. In the years 1980–1990 he was Vice Chairman of the Czechoslovak Academy of Agriculture. Among many other activities, he was co-founder of the Expert Group for Food and Agricultural Chemistry of the Czech Chemical Society, in 1990 he became Chairman and longtime member of the committee and one of the main organizers of the annual “Symposium on new directions in food production and evaluation”, was a member of the American Society Institute of Food Technologists, a member of the editorial board of the journal *European Food Research and Technology* (formerly *Zeitschrift für Lebensmittel-Untersuchung und -Forschung*) and of the journal *Biomedical and Environmental Sciences*. It is not possible to forget the merit of Professor DAVÍDEK to the establishment of journal *Potravinářské vědy* (since 1998 *Czech Journal of Food Sciences*). Here, in 1990, he served as chairman and till the last day was a co-editor of journal. He was a national delegate in the Division of Food Chemistry, Federation of European Chemical Societies (FECS), since 2004 European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS) and was one of the main organizers of prestigious conferences “Chemical Reactions in Foods”, held in Prague since 1992.

Professor DAVÍDEK was also an important educator and researcher at the institute and faculty. He developed the faculty subject “Food analysis” and his major contribution is connected with the introduction of interdisciplinary study, “Food Chemistry and Analysis” in the academic year 1978/1979 when the Faculty went on a four-year cycle. In the academic year 1980/1981 has introduced a new faculty subject “Food Chemistry” and in the academic year 1983/1984 prepared a five-year study of some study branches. In the academic year 1989/1990, when teaching in the institute returned to a five-year cycle, participated in the establishment of a new independent prestigious study branch “Food Chemistry and Analysis”. The scientific and research activities of professor DAVÍDEK dealt with changes in food quality during produc-

tion and storage, Maillard reaction, formation of flavour-active substances in foods and methods of their determination, natural toxicants, food additives, and food contaminants. He was the author or co-author of about 15 mostly foreign-language monographs and more than 320 publications in scientific journals.

In addition to professional activities, Professor DAVÍDEK had a close relationship to the visual arts, especially painting. He had deep knowledge that would allow him to expertly launch exhibitions, write catalogs and characteristics of artists. He was a member of the art group “Tolerance ’95”, and a committee member of the “Union of Creative Artists”, the association founded in Prague in 1898.

Professor DAVÍDEK died unexpectedly. He left an important figure in food science, both at home and abroad. All members of the Department of Food Analysis and Nutrition as well as academic staff of faculty and institute knows that they have lost a colleague, teacher, friend, and a good man.

Honor to his memory!

Prof JAN VELÍŠEK and Editorial Board of CJFS