

Obituary Ctibor Dostálek, MD, PhD, DSc

EDITORS OF THE JOURNAL *Activitas Nervosa Superior Rediviva* have the sorrowful duty to inform the members of *Collegium Internationale Activitatis Nervosae Superioris* and the readers of ANSR that prominent Czech member of the Collegium and its President in the years 1984–1988, Academician **Ctibor Dostálek, MD, PhD, DSc**, died on April 24th, 2011 at the age of 82 years.

C. Dostálek studied medicine at Charles University of Prague and worked firstly as researcher in the Laboratory of the Higher Nervous Activity founded by Professor Vilém Laufberger in the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. Research units of the Laboratory were later reorganized into the Institute of Physiological Regulations and C. Dostálek became its director after the retirement of V. Laufberger.

In the years 1956–1962, C. Dostálek was invited by the German Academy of Sciences to take part in the organization and research activities of the Institute of Cortico-Visceral Pathology and Therapy in Berlin-Buch.

In the field of research of the higher brain functions, C. Dostálek was recognized namely for his studies of elaboration of the backward conditioned reflexes. Considerable part of his research activities was devoted also to psychophysiological and psychosomatic research of effects of Indian Hatha Yoga exercises on the human organism and mental abilities. He described electrophysiological methods of research in this field, the results of which contributed to the use of these exercises in prevention of some psychosomatic disorders. C. Dostálek was also one of the founding members of Indian Academy of Yoga at Varanasi Hindu University.

Among international appreciations of C. Dostálek's work, membership of the New York Academy of Sciences can be also mentioned, as well as the Swami Kavalayananda Yoga Research Prize and Purna Swasthya Award. Scientific and organizational work of C. Dostálek in Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences was awarded namely by its Golden Medal.

Ctibor Dostálek was a thoughtful man with a deep erudition in various areas of natural sciences, arts and philosophy. He was a passionate discussant as well as a concentrated and open-minded listener. He was a gentle man with a highly developed sense of curiosity and boundless energy, encompassed by a personal charm.

Fedor Jagla, MD, PhD.