

EDITORIAL

THIS ISSUE features some additional contributions subsidized at the International C.I.A.N.S. Conference 2016 in September this year. The joint event of the C.I.A.N.S., Slovak Society for Higher Brain Functions SkMA and Slovak Neuropsychiatric Society SkMA gave new impetus to the transdisciplinary approaches to effects relating to highest regulatory functions of the human brain particularly with regard to the Higher Brain Functions. Participants witnessed the fact that the C.I.A.N.S. is really *an interdisciplinary space in which we can know, compare and discuss biological, physiological, neurological, psychiatric, psychological, educational and social problems. A space where we can focus our attention on the connection and the interdependence between behaviours, cognitions and emotions, the superior nervous functions, the somatic functions, as well as the impact of the natural and social environment the human beings live in* (G. F. Goldwurm: The concise history and purpose of CIANS, 2005).

Since 1999 it was the 6th International C.I.A.N.S. Conference held in the Slovakia. One can ask how this is possible in a country which has as many inhabitants as the big world cities? The answer may be two names. In particular, it is the Professor *Vladislav Zikmund*, MD, PhD, DSc with his all life work focussed on the exploration the neurobiological bases and symptoms of mental processes and the effect of mental stimuli and influences on physiological processes and functions of the body (see the Laudatio to his significant jubilee – 90 years, in ANSR Volume 57 No. 1–2 2015). His activity as the head of the Slovak Society for Higher Brain Functions SkMA contributed significantly to maintaining the goals and mission of C.I.A.N.S. in Slovakia.

The second one is Professor *Ivan Ruttkay-Nedecký*, MD, PhD, DSc who in the early years of his scientific activity studied the physiological effects of psychological influences on somatic functions, including the cardiovascular reactivity. In 1960, on his initiative an international symposium focussed on the psychosomatic and corticovisceral relations was organized in Smolenice with participants from many countries including Russia and USA. The symposium gave rise to the establishment of an international collegium for higher nervous activity – Collegium Internationale Activitatis Nervosae Superior. The Collegium became the oldest neuroscience association focused on higher brain functions in Europe. Professor Ruttkay-Nedecký belongs among the founding members of the Collegium. He later focused his research on the cardiovascular system and the largest part of it was devoted to the study of the electric field of normal and diseased human heart. On the occasion of his nineties (December 22, 2016) we warmly congratulate and wish him firm health and lots of nice moments with his interests and hobbies.

*Fedor Jagla*