

Greetings

“Far-sighted science – responsible answers for the future.” In 2014 this is the motto of the Hungarian Science Festival when this Compendium of Knowledge by the University of Szeged, a snapshot of the University of Szeged, is published. It seems that the eight volumes that had been published in the past two years as a result of the USZ. UNIVERSITY OF SZEGED TÁMOP-supported dissemination tender by the Publishing Department at the University of Szeged were following this motto. The Compendium of Knowledge by the University of Szeged reflects on all areas of science that are cultivated in Szeged, puts into the spotlight the great achievements of the University and indicates its forward-looking responses to the challenges of the age.

It is not enough to be aware of the scientific responsibility nor is it sufficient to anticipate problems and be aware of the consequences of scientific work, it is also necessary that the scientists themselves and the results of their research serve society. Consequently, the dissemination of scientific achievements and, through this, the promotion of scientific research activities and the encouragement of the utilization of these results are also within the tasks of universities. *Albert Szent-Györgyi*, the Nobel laureate scientist of the University of Szeged, also shared this view. In his Rector’s office inaugural speech, Szent-Györgyi stressed the following: “*Universities have triple missions. The oldest mission is to collect, distribute and enrich human knowledge. The second mission is to develop for the future a small number of scientists who will take over this profession from us. More recent in its origin, but no less sublime, is the third mission of universities: to educate citizens for the country who are equipped with the weapons of the intellect. (...) I may also add that our University has a fourth special mission that is to be the intellectual centre of the great Hungarian plain, the Alföld.*”

In this Compendium of Knowledge by the University of Szeged, a wide arsenal of the weapons of the intellect is revealed to the reader. The University’s historical photo album helps the reader glance back into the past up to the time of the founder Prince *Báthory*. A volume that collects newspaper articles linked to our Nobel laureate scientist and the books in Hungarian and English that are based on the open university lectures held to celebrate the year of the 75th anniversary of this Prize illustrate that the University of Szeged is a worthy heir and successor of the spirit and research attitude of Szent-Györgyi. The discipline-focused volumes that concentrate on prominent research workshops and PhD schools in Szeged demonstrate that in Szeged

the distinct disciplines are close to each other. This is a determinant factor in modern science because today the focus is on problems and the competencies that are required to solve these problems. Achievements that are awarded with a Nobel Prize are born in the contact points of scientific disciplines.

Just like a good inventory, the Compendium of Knowledge by the University of Szeged may be seen as a take-off point: by summing up the results achieved so far, the Compendium points to the direction of continuance. With this quality, the Compendium of Knowledge by the University of Szeged may contribute to the fact that at the University of Szeged, time after time, we should be able to achieve scientific results at an international level and give responsible answers for the future.

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