

Conclusion

This *first* volume of the Compendium of Knowledge by the University of Szeged is based on the open university lectures held to celebrate and commemorate in 2012 the year of the 75th anniversary of Albert Szent-Györgyi's Nobel Prize award.

In 2012, the University of Szeged commemorated a *double anniversary*. On the one hand, the various events referred to the fact that *the birthplace of vitamin C is a laboratory in Szeged*. It was 80 years ago, 18 March 1932, when Szent-Györgyi announced that hexuronic acid and vitamin C are the same material and in the autumn of 1932, he demonstrated that the Szeged sweet pepper has high vitamin C content. Finally, it was here in Szeged where Szent-Györgyi produced large amounts of the valuable material. On the other hand, in 2012, the University by the banks of the river *Tisza* celebrated that the University of Szeged is a *Nobel Prize awarded* university. It was indeed 75 years ago when, mostly for his local achievements, Albert Szent-Györgyi was awarded the most important award in the scientific world and brought back to Szeged the Nobel Prize that he received on 10 December 1937 in Stockholm for “the biological combustion processes and in particular for the discoveries in the field of the role of vitamin C and the catalysis of fumaric acid.

The diverse genres and forms of the academic celebration during the double anniversary were inspired by Szent-Györgyi's versatile personality. Most of the programmes were coordinated by the Directory of International and Public Relations at the University of Szeged.

Albert Szent-Györgyi was a quick and efficient *science organizer*.

Between 22 to 25 March 2012, nine Nobel Prize-winning scientists visited the town of vitamin C to honour the *Szent-Györgyi International Conference* at the University of Szeged. This event of historic significance was greeted by the institutional paper, reborn as University of Szeged magazine, with a special Szent-Györgyi issue that is partly in English.

In the headquarters of the Szeged Academic Committee of the HAS, the University of Szeged organized a *memorial exhibition* to honour Albert Szent-Györgyi. In the anniversary year, the traditional medical and health sciences Szent-Györgyi Days were also held. As part of the autumn programme of the Hungarian Science Festival, the life and work of Szent-Györgyi was discussed in a *university and science history symposium*.

The University day celebration that began with a festive meeting of the Senate of the University of Szeged was crowned by a *memorial concert* in 2012. The performance repeated the concert that was given 75 years earlier in the Szeged National Theatre building to honour Szent-Györgyi.

As an *arts and sports enthusiast*, the research-teacher professor at the University of Szeged had lived a colourful life. In 2012, it was the first time that the Sports Center at the University of Szeged organized an Albert Szent-Györgyi *tennis tournament* and a *Szent-Györgyi volleyball tournament*.

The Department of Culture at the University of Szeged announced a photo project titled: “Everything that is vitamin C”. The *photos* that were taken were presented at the Autumn Cultural Festival exhibition at the University of Szeged. The “My Szent-Györgyi’ *essay contest* also motivated the students.

One of Szent-Györgyi’ *s writings*: The crazy ape (*Az örült majom*) was presented by the actors of the Szeged National Theatre. The Szeged University Theatre, paying tribute to the predecessors, presented the so-called student Hamlet and thus recalled the spirit of the era. At the end of the Autumn Cultural Festival, films were shown on the Nobel Prize winner scientist. These films included: *Századfordító magyarok: Szent-Györgyi Albert, Psalmus Humanus* and *Egy világfi Szegeden*.

After the student awards ceremony, there was a premiere at the University of Szeged Choir concert to honour the festive occasion. A work titled the *anthem of Szent-Györgyi*, composed by *István Benedekfi*, was performed.

Albert Szent-Györgyi *has become a familiar face in Szeged* and become an honorary citizen.

Under the title: “In Szent-Györgyi’s steps” the organizers invited the public repeatedly to take part in a *town and cultural history walk*. For the contemporary admirers of the Nobel Prize-winning scientist, this included a visit to the memorial room established in the Dean’s Office at the Medical Department of the University of Szeged .

Representatives of both the University of Szeged and the local town council have made their *pilgrimage* to the downtown cemetery to pay their tribute to the Szeged grave of the Nobel laureate’s mother Szent-Györgyi Miklósné Lenhossék Jozefin.

With the support of the University of Szeged, in the “birthplace” of vitamin C, the former academic institution and Szent-Györgyi’s apartment: the *Déri Miksa* vocational school celebrations were held and the *Szent-Györgyi memorial room at the site was inaugurated*.

In Szeged, the professor has become a popular university teacher and leader.

Today's youth has also remembered the history of the University of the Szeged Youth Movement that was the *first united student body* and formed on encouragement by Albert Szent-Györgyi. On the one hand, with a press history exhibition titled: "Selection from the papers of the University of Szeged" which exhibition was an assignment by the Department of Media Center and compiled by the Klebelsberg University Library. On the other hand, with a tableaux exhibition under the title: "The University of Szeged Youth Movement – mosaics, pictures and articles on the youth organization founded in December 1940". At the joint opening of the two exhibitions a book was presented: University youth associations in Szeged 1919-1944.

The idea came from the richness and exemplary status of Szent-Györgyi's research, teaching department head and rector activities to announce, for the first time in 2012, the *Szent-Györgyi Study Competition*, which attracted high school students from across the country's borders.

Albert Szent-Györgyi was also *professional in scientific information dissemination*. He wrote articles, gave interviews and held lectures at the Open University; contributed to the recognition of scientists and the popularization of science.

Following the Kolozsvár tradition, the professors organized *Open University lectures* in Szeged as well.

Albert Szent-Györgyi also talked about his research. For example, in 1933, on the open university lecture of Szent-Györgyi, under the title: "Life through the eyes of a chemist", a contemporary correspondent of the *Délmagyarország* wrote the following: "*In a throughout fascinating and witty presentation, Professor Szent-Györgyi has demonstrated the fight which science does to find out the most hidden secrets of life*".

This gave rise to the idea that in the commemorative year, between September 12 and December 5, 2012, coordinated by the Department of Marketing and Communication. Department, the popular, 12 part lectures series: Open University – Szeged should recall the person of Szent-Györgyi via the professional means of the researchers, teachers and leaders of the University of Szeged. The 10th semester of the Open University i.e. lectures on Szent-Györgyi are available: <http://www.u-szeged.hu/szabadegyetem-szeged/korabbi-szemeszterek/szemeszter>

Detailed information and photographs on the programmes of the *commemorative year* are available on a website, designed for this occasion within the website of the University of Szeged, which has been updated since 2012: <http://www.u-szeged.hu/szentgyorgyi>

The first volume of the Compendium of Knowledge by the University of Szeged, which illustrates the intellectual heritage of Szent-Györgyi, revives the traditions of science popularization.

Contemporary newspaper articles could be matched with each topic in the Open University – Szeged series. Moreover, two lectures out of the 12 are titled: “The basics of biochemistry” and “Life through the eyes of a chemist” which are the same as the topics chosen by Szent-Györgyi in 1931 and 1933. These writings that summarize the presentations of Szent-Györgyi or report on his activities confirm the key role of the press in popularizing science. It is clear from the studies that the articles provide inspiration or backdrop for today’s scientists to elaborate on what they want to say.

Out of the 12 edited sections from the autumn 2012 Open University programmes, 10 was shaped into an article and put into this volume. Under the title: The interrogation of nature from Szent-Györgyi to today, Professor Emeritus *Kálmán Szendrei* (Faculty of Pharmacy) held a lecture.

Although Professor Szendrei replaced Professor Emeritus Gábor Miklós, Faculty of Pharmacy) who fell ill in autumn 2012, but Professor Szendrei did not want to put into writing what has been presented.

However Professor Gábor has handed over for publishing the basics of that part of his Open University lecture that was not presented. Archivist *Róbert Károly Kiss* (University Archives, University of Szeged), who processes the international relations and cultural diplomacy activities of Szent-Györgyi, stayed away from turning his lecture into an article.

Compared to the web-based presentations, this volume gives more. Out of the 12 lecturers, 10 university lecturers have taken on to put their pulpit lectures into writing: Professor *László Dux*, (Faculty of Medicine, University of Szeged), Professor *István Hannus* (Faculty of Science and Informatics, University of Szeged), Professor *Mária Homoki-Nagy* (Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, University of Szeged), Assistant Professor *Csaba Jancsák* (Juhász Gyula Teacher Training Faculty, University of Szeged), Professor *József Pál* (Faculty of Arts, University of Szeged), Professor *Pukánszky Béla* (Juhász Gyula Teacher Training Faculty, University of Szeged), academic *Gábor Szabó* (Faculty of Science and Informatics, University of Szeged), Professor *Gábor Tóth*, (Faculty of Medicine), historian *Tamás Vajda* (University of Szeged, University Archives), Professor *János Wölfling* (Faculty of Science and Informatics, University of Szeged).

The trainees at the Department of Media Center contributed in shaping the lectures into written texts. Highlighting this feature indicates a close relationship between scientists and students which characterizes the University

of Szeged. The photographs and important documents that are favored by the authors of the studies illustrate the atmosphere of the age of Szent-Györgyi and linked to the fact known by the authors. It happens sometimes that a contemporary photo or fact emerges repeatedly in this volume. The editor did not consider it to be his task to filter out these duplicates or half-information bits because it was considered that these fit the atmosphere of the given presentation and study.

The dissemination of knowledge and looking after Szent-Györgyi's heritage is not limited to anniversaries; these did not end in 2012. These aspirations of the University of Szeged are shown in the fact that, among other things, in 2013, the University took part in the events of the 84th Book Festival Week. The Publishing Department at the University of Szeged presented workshops operating within the walls of the University. By opening for visitors the front door of the study room of Albert Szent-Györgyi on his Dóm square work place, a university sanctuary of the book, literary historian *József Pál* lectured on the poems of the Nobel Prize winner scientist. The modern reader may keep the imprint of this in his hands. The library here is the guardian and mediator of university values and by the editors of the Compendium of Knowledge by the University of Szeged, the library is respected in its undying merits via the fact that in the first volume of the series a study is published on Szent-Györgyi that had been written by a librarian: *Tasiné Ildikó Csúcs* (Klebensberg Library, University of Szeged).

In the process of explaining and popularizing research work, the University of Szeged took another step in 2014. During the 85th Book Festival Week, among many other programmes, with the assistance of the professors who got involved in the editorial work of the Compendium of Knowledge by the University of Szeged, the University "*took science to the streets*".

In Albert Szent-Györgyi's work it is continuously present that at an early stage he already had the feeling that the only way to find answers to the scientific questions of the age was to step out of the disciplinary framework. By recognizing this, the University of Szeged aims, in several ways, to preserve, keep constantly on the surface and follow Szent-Györgyi's spirit and keep the memory of the Nobel Prize winning scientist.

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