

Conferment of the degree of doctor "Honoris causa"

PROFESSOR JÁNOS SZILÁRD, Rector of Albert Szent-Györgyi Medical University

We wish to continue this renaming celebration — following the old traditions of our University — by conferring degrees of doctor "honoris causa" on four outstanding scientists from abroad.

I sincerely welcome in our town and University

Professor SERGE BONFILS
Professor EGON DICZFALUSY
Professor HELMUT KALA
Professor JOACHIM WOLFF

I am happy to inform you that the Council of the Szeged University of Medical Sciences at its meetings held on June 20, 1986, December 19, 1986 and on June 19, 1987, respectively, decided to confer the degree of doctor "honoris causa" for your internationally acknowledged results in the medical and pharmaceutical sciences and for furthering the contacts between our Universities.

Now I invite the Deans of our University to outline the main landmarks in the career of the candidates for the degree of Doctor "honoris causa".

PROFESSOR GYULA TELEGDY, Dean of the Medical Faculty at Albert Szent-Györgyi Medical University.

Professor SERGE BONFILS has been working at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Paris since 1945. In 1970 he was appointed head of the Internal Department of the Hospital Bichat. His predecessor and teacher at this department was Professor Lambling, who is regarded as the greatest living French gastroenterologist.

Professor SERGE BONFILS is the leading personality in French Gastroenterology. Until 1984, besides running the Department of Internal Diseases, which focuses particularly on gastroenterologic problems, he also performed the duties of director of the INSERM (U.10) Research Institute. Since 1984 he has continued in charge of the clinic, but as the leader of his research team he participates in the work of the Research Institute, now functioning under the leadership of one of the members of the school he has created. In 1983 he was the president of the French Gastroenterologic Society. At present he is the active vice-president of the gastroenterologic World Organization (OMGE). Besides the French Gastroenterologic Society, gastroenterologic societies abroad (e.g. in the USA and England) have also elected him as a member. He was elected honorary member of the



Candidates for the degree of doctor "Honoris causa" and representatives of universities.

Hungarian Gastroenterologic Society in 1985. His scientific work is marked by a great number of books, publications and lectures.

Professor BONFILS's connection with Hungarian internists, including gastroenterologists, dates back more than twenty years. He has made it possible for four internal specialists from our University to take part in one-year fellowships in France. With the support of the Cercle André Lambling, founded in honour of his predecessor, two clinicians from the socialist countries, both from Szeged, have so far been invited to Paris to become acquainted with the achievements of French culture.

Professor SERGE BONFILS is a clinician and researcher of international repute. He has visited Hungary several times and has been of great help to our University in the course of preparatory work for scholarships and scientific co-operation by promoting relations between researchers from Szeged and French institutes. Apart from clinicians, organic chemists participating in peptide-research have benefited from his support.

This conferment of the title of Doctor "Honoris Causa" on Professor BONFILS is a symbol of the warm scientific relations between Hungary and France. The international prestige of our university can only be increased by this award to Professor BONFILS.

Professor EGON DICZFALUSY was born in Miskolc on 19th September, 1920. He was a student at our university from 1938, and graduated here "summa cum laude" in 1944. While a student, he worked, as an assistant at the Institute of Pathology and Bacteriology, together with Professor Ivanovics, from 1942 to 1945. He then joined the staff of the Institute of Biochemistry. He started his research work in Szeged and his first results were published here. In 1946 he moved to Sweden, where he continued his work at the Karolinska University in Stockholm. He was director of the Reproductive Endocrinological Research Institute of the Swedish Medical Research Council from 1967 to 1981, and in 1981 he was appointed director of the Department of Reproductive Endocrinology of the Karolinska Institute. Furthermore, he is director of the Research Institute of the World Health Organization in Stockholm and a leading consultant of the Human Reproduction Program of the World Health Organization.

The main subject of his research work for many years has been human reproduction. The term "foetoplacental unit" is associated with his name, and his investigations have provided basic knowledge about the hormonal function of the placenta. During the past 20 years he has mainly been studying the contraceptive aspects of human reproduction. His achievements have been published in more than 500 papers. The books written or edited by Professor DICZFALUSY number about 20.

Professor DICZFALUSY is an honorary member of 15 international medical societies, including the Hungarian Endocrinological and Metabolic Society and the Society of Hungarian Gynecologists. He has been awarded several high-ranking medical medals (the Ruth Gray Medal, the Medal of the Barren Foundation, the Sir Henry Dale Commemorative Medal, and the Commemorative Medal of the Academy of Paris). He has been or is a member of the editorial boards of the 10 most important endocrinological journals.

He has always maintained close contacts with Hungarian medicine, and with our university in particular. He played a great role in the selection of the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, University Medical School, Szeged as a World Health Organization Clinical Research Center in 1972. He has been an active supporter of

the collaboration between this center and the World Health Organization ever since. This has meant considerable financial support, besides the scientific achievements and the fellowships for several research workers from this Department. He has been to Szeged several times as a representative of the World Health Organization. He has made it possible for more than ten Hungarian researchers to spend a one- or two-year fellowship at his institute, the good results of which are reflected by nearly 20 joint publications. Several researchers from our university have also spent long periods at the Institute of Professor DICZFALUSY or have paid him short visits in Stockholm.

By virtue of his world-famous research work, his close scientific connections with Hungary and Szeged in particular, and his constant good will and readiness to help, Professor DICZFALUSY, who gained his medical degree at our university, is fully worthy of the degree of doctor "Honoris Causa", which is conferred upon him by this university. This award to Professor DICZFALUSY is a further sign of the continuation of the friendly and fruitful Swedish-Hungarian relations, and it greatly adds to the prestige of our university.

Professor JOACHIM WOLFF was born on 25th March, 1935 in Berlin. He graduated from the Medical University of Berlin in 1960. From 1961 to 1971 he worked as researcher and lecturer at the Institute of Anatomy. He was then invited to Basel, as a guest researcher by the firm Sandoz, where he worked for one year. Between 1971 and 1980 he was head of the Neuroanatomy Unit of the Max-Planck Institute, Göttingen. Since 1980 he has been director of the Anatomy Institute and Developmental Neurobiological Centre of Göttingen University. He has been a guest professor in Berlin, Würzburg, Regensburg, Heidelberg, Basel and Sydney. For his outstanding achievements in the field of neuroscience, he was requested to join the Wissenschaftskollege zu Berlin in West-Berlin for a year.

Professor WOLFF's scientific activity, the exploration of the vascularization developmental mechanism of the cortex and the plasticity of the central and peripheral nervous systems, with special regard to his scientific work in the field of the induction of neuronal plasticity without lesion, has won international appreciation. The results of his research work have been published in a great many books and in more than 200 scientific papers. He is internationally recognized for his scientific achievements, and received an honorary doctorate from the University of Göteborg in 1978.

He is a member of many scientific societies, for instance the International Brain Research Organization, the European Neuroscience Association, the International Society for Developmental Neuroscience, the International Society for Stereology, the Anatomische Gesellschaft, and the Deutsche Naturforscher und Arzt-Gesellschaft.

Professor WOLFF is always willing to work together with Hungarian researchers. His connections with our country and particularly with Szeged date back more than a decade. During that time he has received 18 Hungarian researchers, who have spent altogether 16 years at his institute.

On this basis, and in the knowledge of Professor WOLFF's affection for Hungary, we can be sure that, by conferring on him the degree of doctor "Honoris Causa", we are strengthening the long-established Hungarian — West-German connections. This award further enhances the reputation of our university.

On the basis of all that has been put forward. I, Gyula Telegdy, university professor and Dean of the Medical Faculty, confer the degree of Doctor "honoris causa" upon

Professor SERGE BONFILS
Professor EGON DICZFALUSY and
Professor JOACHIM WOLFF

and confer on you all the rights due to honorary doctors according to the rules and customs of our university.

I wish that you, in the possession of the highest decoration our university can give, have the strength to strive towards the enrichment of your research field and the successful training of the next scientific generation for the benefit of science and mankind.

PROFESSOR BÉLA SELMECZI, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy at the Albert Szent-Györgyi Medical University

Professor Dr. HELMUT KALA was born on 18 th January, 1926, in Kreisfeld. After receiving his degree in pharmaceutics in 1953, he worked as a research assistant at the Pharmaceutical Institute of the Martin Luther University in Halle. Here he received his university doctorate, after which he was appointed first research assistant and was invited to lecture on drug analysis and drug technology. In 1963 he became a lecturer, in 1964 associate professor and in 1967 full professor. Two years later he was appointed head of the Drug Technology Institute of the Pharmaceutical Faculty.

As a distinguished scientist in the field of pharmaceutics, in 1971 he received the title of Academic Doctor of Sciences.

Professor KALA's scientific work has always been characterized by co-operation with the pharmaceutical industry. In recognition of his scientific research, he has been awarded the Research Prize of the Martin Luther University three times. In 1981 he received the Thomasius Medal.

Four of his students have been appointed university professors. He has so far produced over 150 publications and 15 patents. He has participated in numerous conferences in his home country and abroad, ranging from Paris to Cairo, where he has reported on pharmacist training in the GDR and on his own world-famous research.

Professor KALA has always placed special emphasis on international co-operation. Thus, he has carried on intensive and fruitful co-operation with the Drug Technology Institute in Szeged for 20 years. He and his colleagues spend one month in Szeged every year, exchanging working methods and lecturing. 15 publications have so far resulted from this co-operation. The staff of the Szeged Drug Technology Institute have all visited Professor KALA's institute on study tours or to exchange working methods on several occasions.

Besides his outstanding educational work and scientific research, Professor KALA has always taken an active part in community and civic work. While still an associate professor, Professor KALA was elected to the Pharmaceutical Scientific Committee, where he was President of the Training and Educational Board for 10 years. For almost 20 years he worked as deputy director of the educational section of the Pharmaceutical Department. He has been a member of the Presidium of the Drug Technology Panel of the Pharmaceutical Association of the GDR for 10 years. He is one of the founders of the Special Drug Technology Committee of the Berlin Medical Graduate Academy. In this position he has worked actively in the field of training specialist pharmacists. For 10 years he was president of the

Revisional Committee of the Pharmaceutical Association of the GDR. In 1971 the Ministry of Health of the GDR awarded him the title of pharmaceutical chief counsellor.

In honour of his achievements, he has received numerous awards, among them the Döbereiner Award, the Hufeland Silver Award, the Carl-Wilhelm-Scheele Prize and the golden Award for Service to Public Health and Social Work.

Professor KALA's scientific accomplishments are known and recognized throughout the world. His professional and personal relationships in Hungary, and especially Szeged, have proved fruitful and permanent, and he is undoubtedly worthy of the conferment of the degree of doctor "Honoris Causa" by our university.

On the basis of all that has been put forward, I, Béla Selmeczi university professor, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy at the Albert Szent-Györgyi Medical University, confer the degree of Doctor "Honoris causa" upon

Professor HELMUT KALA

and confer on him with all the rights due to honorary doctors according to the rules and customs of our University. I wish that you, in the possession of the highest decoration our University can give, have the strength to strive towards the enrichment of your scientific field and the successful training of the next generation for the benefit of science and mankind.

After the conferment Professor János Szilárd Rector of the Albert Szent-Györgyi Medical University greeted the new honorary doctors of the University.