

## **Preface**

We have received several sad news recently. Prof. Dr. M. PÉCSI, member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, passed away on 23 January, 2003. We have come a long way since we started a joint research program on the geography and anatomy of the Upper Tertiary lignites of Hungary. We planned to complete it together.

Last year we lost Dr. W.A. SARJEANT an excellent scientist of the research into fossil Dinoflagellatae.

The function of the Rector of the University of Szeged, Prof. Dr. R. MÉSZÁROS, who is the member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, has ended this summer. Previously he was the Dean of the Faculty of Sciences and the Rector of J.A. University and he has always helped our Laboratory. From now on he is going to concentrate his energy on his researches and on the education at the Department of Economic Geography. The staff of the Laboratory expressed their grateful thanks by giving him both the Commemorative and the Millenium Medal of the Laboratory in the same time.

The international joint research programs of the Laboratory has increased this year. In this moment we have active researches with the B.S.I.P. in India, the Ain Shams University in Egypt, El Salvador and Brasil.

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Head of the Laboratory