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**XXIX CONGRESS OF
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GASTROENTEROLOGICAL
AND HEPATOLOGICAL SOCIETIES
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ABSTRACTS

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Dear readers

In July 1945, a few enthusiasts met to establish the Czech Gastroenterological Society. The preliminary meeting was attended by Karel Herfort, Jaroslav Hořejší, Josef Charvát, Zdeněk Mařatka, Josef Mašek, Miloš Netoušek, Bohumil Prusík, Jiří Scheinar and Václav Šváb, while Josef Pelnář and Václav Jedlička excused their absence. At that time, about 140 doctors volunteered for work in the Society. The first committee was elected at the foundation meeting on the 24th October 1945 and the first President of the Society was J. Scheinar (1945–1950). The title of the Society has been changed several times in accordance with the extending range of its activities and the development of the political situation in the country. From the beginning, the existence of the Society has been remarkably supported by its professional journal, originally called "Gastro-Enterologia Bohema" and edited by K. Herfort, which has been issued since 1947. In 1951, all doctors' societies were unitedly organized under the Czechoslovak Medical Association of J. E. Purkyně, which has extended the range of the Society's activities into Slovakia. However, the federal system of the Czechoslovak state introduced in 1968 led to the split of the Society and establishment of two independent organizations, whose activities had been coordinated since 1969 by the federal committee of "Czechoslovak Gastroenterological Society" and this organizational structure lasted until the split of Czechoslovak federation in 1993.

The first national congress of the "Czech Society for Gastroenterology and Nutrition" was held in 1950 in Karlovy Vary and the President of the Congress was J. Diviš. Activities of the Society, characterized by close cooperation between internists and surgeons, have always been very rich. Beside a number of working conferences and national-wide meetings, regular congresses attended by Czech as well as Slovak specialists were held periodically and became a firm tradition that has not been shattered by the split of the Czechoslovak state in 1993.

For the first time, the Congress of the Czech and Slovak Gastroenterological and Hepatological Society will be held in Olomouc, an attractive historical city in the center of Moravia. Olomouc is the seat of Palacky University; being established in 1573 the second oldest university in the Czech Republic, and of the Archbishops Office. After a period when more industrial areas of Moravia had overshadowed this town, Olomouc is now blossoming and regaining its position of educational and administrative centre of the region.

The issue of digestive system diseases has a long tradition at various departments of the Teaching Hospital and the Medical Faculty in Olomouc. Gastroenterology was predominantly developed by the Internal Department II led by Prof. Zdeněk Kojecký, who engaged himself in the activity of the Czech Gastroenterological Society soon after its establishment and held many important posts within the Society as well as in international gastroenterological organizations. An outstanding female personality of the Czech hepatology was Prof. Dagmar Hauftová, although she had been originally employed by the Internal Department I focusing predominantly on cardiology. Founders of a distinct gastroentero-surgical orientation of Olomouc surgeons and close co-operation between gastroenterologists and surgeons were Prof. Vladislav Rapant and Prof. Zdeněk Šerý. This tendency, characterized by a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary teamwork, is being further developed by the present generation of Olomouc gastroenterologists.

We hope that the Olomouc Congress will maintain the same spirit and will be perceived as a great opportunity to share professional experience as well as an enjoyable social gathering event offering also some spare time for the sightseeing of Olomouc and its surroundings."

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President of the Congress

Prof. MUDr. Jiří Ehrmann, CSc.
Secretary General

Prof. MUDr. Petr Dítě, DrSc.
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