

## DEAR READER,

Sixty years ago on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 1946, the University of Palacký in Olomouc was re-established as an educational institution for students of theology, medicine and philosophy. '*Biomedical Papers*', formerly '*Acta Universitatis Palackianae Olomucensis Facultatis Medicae*', a specialist periodical of the Faculty of Medicine, also celebrates this year since its 150<sup>th</sup> volume is coming out in 2006. As with the University, '*Biomedical Papers*' commemorates the unique periods that have contributed to its specialist profile and current design. In the following, I would like to briefly delineate the genesis of this periodical and remember those whose efforts have markedly influenced and in some cases still, shape its image.

Mindful of other universities and their experience, leading representatives of the reinstated Faculty of Medicine became aware of the significance publication of authentic research results in a faculty or university journal yields. Hence it seemed only natural that on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1949 at a Faculty meeting of the Faculty of Medicine, Professor Jan Kabelík proposed commencement of an issuance of the Faculty's own periodical entitled '*Acta Facultatis Medicinae Universitatis Palackianae Olomoucensis*'. His idea was accepted and submitted to the University Council of the University of Palacký. The Council however rejected the idea on the basis that there was a joint intention to commence publication of a university periodical with the possibility to publish manuscripts for all departments including the Faculty of Medicine.

Nevertheless, the University Council's attitude did not break the resolve of the Faculty of Medicine Board members to start their own specialist journal. Members of the academic community hence came to the conclusion that their goal could be accomplished by co-operating with the Medical Faculty of Masaryk University in Brno which had been issuing a periodical entitled '*Spisy Lékařské Fakulty Masarykovy university*' since 1922; in 1949 its title changed to '*Scripta Medica Facultatis Medicinae Universitatis Masarykianae*'. Negotiation between representatives of the scientific communities of both Moravian Medical Faculties was successful and produced a joint publication entitled '*Scripta Medica Facultatum Medicinae Universitatis Masarykianae et Palackianae*'.

Close co-operation between the two Medical Faculties in the publication terminated in 1955. The specialist studies produced by various departments of the Medical Faculty of Palacký University in Olomouc at that time were later published in the second volume of '*Acta Universitatis Palackianae Olomucensis*'. The long-lasting aspiration of the Medical Faculty workers to issue their own journal was finally realised. The *Spiritus agens* of the initiative was Professor František Šantavý, the head of Department of Medical Chemistry. It was he who encouraged the formation and issue of the collection volume '*Acta Universitatis Palackianae Olomucensis Facultatis Medicae*' (hereinafter referred to as AUPO) and as an executive editor he had been shaping its specialist orientation till he passed away in 1983.

Given that specialist articles published in this collection volume were solely in foreign languages (English, German, French and Russian), the journal thus provided publicity for Olomouc scientists abroad. The Central Medical Library also rendered significant support by distributing the journal to libraries abroad or by swapping it for the specialist journals that enriched the library collections.

In 1983, Vilím Šimánek of the Department of Medical Chemistry, who cooperated intensively with the deceased Professor Šantavý in editions from 1975, became the executive editor of AUPO. In 1986, Jitka Ulrichová from the same department also became involved in editorial work. Throughout its existence, AUPO has had its own editorial board formed by specialists from the Faculty of Medicine of Palacký University representing various medical disciplines. By authority of the post, the Vicedean for Science and Research held the office of Chairman of the Editorial Board until 2005.

Events that arose in 1989 influenced the editorial politics of the Medical Faculty and consequently also the publication of the journal. The editorial board chairman's office continued to be held by the Subdean for Science and Research. However, the Faculty Board showed little interest in supporting the journal in any way at this time. All financial costs related to the journal publishing work at that time were covered by the resources of the Department of Medical Chemistry and Biochemistry and possibly from sponsor donations. Thanks to both executive editors, their close co-workers and of course the personal concern of all involved, the workers of the Faculty however still had the space to publish the authentic scientific results of their research, and AUPO "survived" this critical period.

A significant qualitative turnover in the history of AUPO was recorded in 2001 when both executive editors together with Jarmila Potomková of the Information Centre of Medical Faculty initiated a change in the journal's title to '*Biomedical Papers*'. Along with the change in AUPO's title, a new graphic design was created and the publication frequency stabilised to two volumes per calendar year. The collected volumes constitute a periodical. Currently an integral part of '*Biomedical Papers*' are Supplements coming out on various occasions and publishing contributions from international conferences organized by the Medical Faculty of Palacký University. '*Biomedical Papers*' publish original research in all fields of biomedicine including clinical works. Emphasis is placed on reviews elaborated by postgraduate students during their PhD study programmes and whose work has publishing priority. The professional and formal quality of each manuscript prior its acceptance is assessed by independent reviewers while linguistic corrections of the text are done by the editorial board.

In accord with the statutes of '*Biomedical Papers*' accepted by the Academic Council of the Medical Faculty of Palacký University, the substance of the periodical is

the responsibility of the Editorial board formed by leading Czech and foreign experts. Members of the board are appointed by the Dean and the Chairperson is elected by board members in a secret vote. For the term 2006–2010 the chair of Editorial Board will be held by Jitka Ulrichová. The executive body of the Editorial Board is formed by a group (edition circle) whose professional qualifications are vital for the quality of the editorial work. Currently, members of the Editorial Board are Taťána Bukvová, Jarmila Potomková, Alexander Oulton, Svatopluk Rieger, Martin Volmut and Vilím Šimánek.

In order to provide the complete picture, I also would like to mention that thanks to the initiative of Professor Šantavý, the collected volumes „*Acta Universitatis Palackianae Olomucensis Facultatis Medicae* (Vol. 1–144) have been abstracted by the Chemical Abstract Service of the American Chemical Society. At the present time “*Biomedical Papers*” are indexed in MEDLINE/EXCERPTA MEDICA, BIBLIOGRAPHIA MEDICA ČECHOSLOVACA, CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS SERVICE and BIBLIOTHEK UNIVERSITÄT REGENSBURG. Thanks to the project realized by the

Information Centre of the Medical Faculty of Palacký University in Olomouc in co-operation with the National Library of Medicine (Bethesda, USA) the journal in full wording has been freely accessible via American biomedical ingress PubMed ([www.pubmed.com](http://www.pubmed.com)) since the year 2002 (Vol. 146). One of the advantages of the free access to articles in full wording is the significant increase in number of citation responses in the Science Citation Index. The website archive of full wordings retrospectively beginning with Vol. 141 (1998) is easily accessible on the journal's home page <http://biomed.papers.upol.cz>.

In 2005 the Editorial Board applied for evaluation of “*Biomedical Papers*” at the Thompson Institute with the intention of obtaining an *Impact factor*. On behalf of the whole academic community I wish “*Biomedical Papers*” much success with the evaluation procedure which is to be completed in 2007. This will undoubtedly raise the prestige of the journal within the expert's community and broaden the readership as well as a group of those who intend to publish their work in it. It would also clearly prove the usefulness of the work of all those, who have shaped the professional profile of the periodical in the past or are still forming it.

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