

## A BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE

### **Prof. Ing. JAN VELÍŠEK, DrSc., Chairman of our Journal Celebrates his 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday Anniversary**

The 65<sup>th</sup> birthday is the milestone birthday, one that we do not always celebrate; but we should. On 11<sup>th</sup> April 2011, Professor JAN VELÍŠEK, the Chairman of the editorial board of Czech Journal of Food Sciences, celebrated his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. On behalf of the scientific board of this journal, I have the privilege and a distinct pleasure to present my previous student, later my co-worker and then my friend. I would like to focus on his professional carrier and commemorate his outstanding merits in food science.

Prof. JAN VELÍŠEK was born in Trhové Sviny, a small Southbohemian town, on April 11<sup>th</sup> 1946. After his grammar and secondary school education he was admitted to the Institute of Chemical Technology in Prague, where he studied at the Faculty of Food and Biochemical Technology, he had been studying programme Food Preservation and Meat Technology in 1964–1968. His more than 40 years of successful work on food science rose from that fact that he started his professional career at the Department of Food Chemistry and Food Inspection (since 1991 Department of Food Chemistry and Analysis) as a research worker in 1969. After five years he was conferred upon PhD degree on the ground of his thesis Glyoxal in non-enzymatic browning reactions. Then he became scientific worker at the same department. He was assigned to the position of Assistant Professor in 1983. In the 1990 he earned the degree of Associate Professor and at the same year he defended his DrSc. thesis devoted to Chlorinated organic compounds in food protein hydrolysates. Two years later he became the Professor of food chemistry and analysis. From 1991 till 2010 Professor VELÍŠEK was head of the Department of Food Chemistry and Analysis. He also worked as the dean of the Faculty of Food and Biochemical Technology (2000–2006) and vice dean (2006–2009) at the same faculty. He is also a member of the scientific council of the Faculty of Food and Biochemical Technology (2000–2006 as a chairman) and the member of the scientific council of Prague Institute of Chemical Technology. Besides these activities on the institute, faculty and department, it is necessary to mention his engagement in many scientific organisations. He has been or still is a member of the Working Party on Food and Agricultural Chemistry, Czech Chemical Society (since 1979), national delegate in IUPAC, Commission V1.1 Food Chemistry (1992–1993), national delegate in Division of Food Chemistry, European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences, EuCheMS (1998–2010), member of the International Maillard Reaction Society, IMARS (since 2007). He is also active in scientific journals; he serves as the Chairman of the editorial board of Czech Journal of Food Sciences, (since 1998), member of editorial board of the journal European Food Research and Technology (since 1999), Journal of Food and Nutrition Science (since 2000), and World Journal of Agricultural Science (since 2006).

Scientific and educational activities of Prof. VELÍŠEK are extremely large and connected with food chemistry and food analysis. Now he lectures Food chemistry, earlier also Reaction mechanisms in food chemistry, Special food analysis and Multidimensional statistical methods. He has been and is still active as a supervisor of a range of students of bachelor, master and PhD study programmes.

He is an author, co-author and editor of many books, textbooks and lecture notes for students, food research workers, as well as for specialists in food industry, e.g. DAVÍDEK J. (ed.), HRDLIČKA J., KARVÁNEK M., POKORNÝ J., SEIFERT J., VELÍŠEK J.: *Handbook of Food Analysis* (in Czech), SNTL 1977 and 1981; DAVÍDEK J., VELÍŠEK J., POKORNÝ J.: *Chemical Changes during Food Processing*, Elsevier, 1990; DAVÍDEK J., VELÍŠEK J.: *Vitamins*, in: GORDON M.H. (ed.), *Principles and Applications of Gas Chromatography in Food Analysis*, Ellis Horwood, 1990; VELÍŠEK J., DAVÍDEK J.: *Panthothenic Acid*,

in: DE LEENHEER A.P., LAMBERT W.E., VAN BOCXLAER J.F. (eds): *Modern Chromatographic Analysis of Vitamins*, Marcel Dekker, 1992 and 2000; VELÍŠEK J.: Four chapters in: DAVÍDEK J. (ed.): *Natural Toxic Compounds of Foods, Formation and Changes during Food Processing and Storage*, CRC Press, 1995; VELÍŠEK J.: *Food Chemistry*, three volumes (in Czech), OSSIS 1999 and 2002; VELÍŠEK J., CEJPEK K.: *Biosynthesis of Food Compounds*, OSSIS, 2008; VELÍŠEK J., HAJŠLOVÁ J.: *Food Chemistry*, two volumes (in Czech), OSSIS, 2009; VELÍŠEK J.: *Chloropropanols*, in: STADLER R.H., LINEBACK D. (eds): *Process-induced Food Toxicants – Occurrence, Formation, Mitigation and Health Risks*, John Wiley & Sons Inc. (2009). He has published over 200 original papers in recognised foreign as domestic scientific journal and presented about the same number of lectures and posters on foreign as well as domestic scientific meetings. His scientific activity is focused to changes (mechanisms) of nutritional quality of foods during technological processing and storage, especially to the Maillard reaction, formation of flavour-active compounds, food contaminants arising during food processing and storage, instrumental methods of food analysis and multidimensional statistical methods.

In the row of Prof. VELÍŠEK's scientific achievements, which are many, I would like to emphasize its fundamental work on toxic 3-chloropropane-1,2-diol and other chloropropanols in foods. Since 1978, he has accomplished more than 50 original research papers devoted to their formation during food processing. He explained the related reaction mechanisms and outlined the possible mitigation procedures. In this connection it is necessary to mentioned that Prof. VELÍŠEK has been served as consultant of Nestlé Research Centre, Lausanne, Switzerland in 2004–2007. He also governed a number of scientific domestic and international research programmes.

In addition to his scientific research, Prof. VELÍŠEK is known as a successful organiser of repetitive scientific actions Chemical Reactions in Foods of the Food Chemistry Division of the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Science (EuCheMS) that took place in Prague in 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2009. As a board member and vice chairman of the Working Party on Food and Agricultural Chemistry of the Czech Chemical Society he has been a co-organiser of the annual Symposia on new trends in food production and evaluation since 1970.

For several of the above achievements, he was conferred with Silver Medal of the Czech Academy of Agricultural Sciences (2009), Votoček Medal of the Institute of Chemical Technology Prague (2009), and Balling Medal of the Faculty of Food and Biochemical Technology Prague (2011).

The decades of his distinguished leadership and mutual cooperation are greatly recognised as his contribution to development of food science and, especially of food chemistry, and not only in our country. All the time he is full of energy and creative scientific ideas. We would like to wish him health and success in his professional as well as personal activities.

Jiří DAVÍDEK (Prague)