

In Memoriam

Tomáš Hraba (1928–2000)



The end of August 2000 hit us by the alarming news that Tomáš Hraba, M.D., D.Sc., Associate Executive Editor of FOLIA BIOLOGICA, passed away in spite of defying the illness he was combating for several years.

Tomáš Hraba was one of the co-founders of the Institute of Molecular Genetics of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, as well as of the international Journal published by the Institute, the Journal *Folia Biologica*. He helped to form the scientific profile of the Institute as Deputy Director and that of the Journal *Folia Biologica* as a member of the Editorial Board, and later as Associate Executive Editor. Since the very beginning, the original papers by Tomáš Hraba on immunological tolerance to protein antigens and on avian immunology belonged among the cornerstones of research at the Institute as well as of the Journal *Folia Biologica*. Tomáš was the closest collaborator of Professor Milan Hašek, co-discoverer of immunological tolerance, and he significantly contributed to the progress in the formulation and understanding of the fundamental rules of immunological tolerance, including its mathematical modelling.

Tomáš Hraba inspired many students and attracted them to science. He educated a number of outstanding immunologists (Professor Juraj Iványi, London; Professor Jan Černý, Baltimore). For several years he had worked in the United States of America; he spent his sabbatical period at the Basel Institute of Immunology in Switzerland and acquired there, as well as at home, many lifelong friends.

Tomáš Hraba was always a highly impressive personality, with deep interest in history, reflecting and putting forward new ideas. His intelligence, together with a broad and deep knowledge in avian immunology and B-cell tolerance opened his way to a number of renowned laboratories, where his presence and performance were highly esteemed. In our memory, he stays not only as an eminent scientist, but also as a pleasant, gifted and good human being and friend.

Jan Bubeník