

**SEVENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
HUNGARIAN SOCIETY OF MICROBIOLOGY**

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**ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS**

## Plenary Session

### TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF THE HUNGARIAN SOCIETY OF MICROBIOLOGY

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In the late forties of this century, the microbiologist members of the re-organized Hungarian Academy of Sciences, R. MANNINGER, G. IVÁNOVICS and A. HAVAS (D. FEHÉR joined them somewhat later) and the parasitologist S. KOTLÁN felt the necessity of a society of experts working in different fields of microbiology. Thus, the Hungarian Society of Microbiology (H.S.M.) was founded under the auspices of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences 25 years ago. According to the first constitution of the H.S.M., its main task was to advance general microbiology, virology, bacteriology, protozoology, helminthology, acaro-entomology, immunology and epidemiology. For this purpose, experts interested in practical and theoretical problems of the application of these sciences in the field of human medicine, veterinary medicine, soil research, nutrition research and industry are united in a society in order to deepen their knowledge and promote an interchange of their experiences and experimental results. Helminthology and acaro-entomology was ruled out of the list in 1964, when the Society of Hungarian Parasitologists had been founded.

It has been a great advantage for the H.S.M. that the first president, A. HAVAS, was at the same time director-general of the National Institute of Hygiene (O.K.I.), the institution that has played a central role in the organization of the medical application of microbiology in this country. O.K.I. has intensively supported the activities of the H.S.M. The general secretaries have been elected out of the O.K.I. microbiologists.

In the scientific annual meetings of the H.S.M. all branches of microbiology were represented. Seven large congresses have been organized with international participation. In each of these, 20 or more foreign participants were guests of the H.S.M. By these invitations we made attempts to return the great hospitality enjoyed by our members when they participated at congresses abroad, most frequently in the neighbouring countries.

The H.S.M. joined the International Association of Microbiological Societies in 1966. The representatives in different committees have been G. IVÁNOVICS, K. RAUSS, HEDDA MILCH, I. NÁSZ, E. K. NOVÁK and B. LÁNYI,

among others. The Society is member of the European Society against Viral Diseases (former name, European Society against Poliomyelitis). I. DÖMÖK has been appointed member of the presidium of this Society. From 1958 until the elimination of poliomyelitis in Europe, H.S.M. had a Poliomyelitis Committee which took part, in co-operation with the mentioned European Society, in the organization of the highly successful fight against poliomyelitis in Hungary. I. JOÓ has been elected a member of the Council of the International Association of Biological Standardization.

The local organization of the 2nd International Congress for Virology (1971), of the 13th International Congress of Biological Standardization (1973) as well as of the Symposium on Pyrogenicity etc. of Biological Preparations to be held in this week has been undertaken by the H.S.M., the last two by our Section of Immunology.

We intend to strengthen our international activities and make them more systematic. The considerable number of participants in this Congress from abroad, among them representatives of several microbiological societies, is promising in this respect.

Recently the annual meetings of the H.S.M. have been held in country towns such as Debrecen, Szeged, Kőszeg, Veszprém, Pécs and Sopron. These have been our most successful meetings.

H.S.M. organized several symposia and conferences in which recommendations have been issued in some topics of microbiological nature, having nation-wide importance.

Presidents of the H.S.M. were A. HAVAS (1951–1954), G. IVÁNOVICS (1954–1958 and 1967–1975), R. MANNINGER (1958–1967) and L. VÁCZI (1975–). Secretary-generals: E. FARKAS (1951–1959 and 1966–1975), GY. WEISZFEILER (1959–1966) and F. FORNOSI (1975–). Vice-presidents of the Society: J. MÉSZÁROS and E. FARKAS (1975–).

In the course of years, the H.S.M. formed several sections. At present there are 5 sections, viz. the Section of Mycology (chairmen, J. BÁNHEGYI, 1956–1975 and E. K. NOVÁK, 1975–), Section of Immunology (L. KESZTYÜS, 1958–1972, I. JOÓ, 1972–), Section of Bacteriology (I. KÉTYI, 1975–), Section of Virology (I. DÖMÖK, 1975–), and the Section of Agricultural and Industrial Microbiology (M. KECSKÉS, 1975–).

Among the sections, the most active was the Section of Immunology. Its activity extended to all fields of immunology (initially even to allergology) till 1971. Then the Hungarian Society of Immunology was founded, and since then the activities of the Section of Immunology have only covered immunity against infectious diseases, problems of vaccinations and standardization of immunological procedures.

The H.S.M. worked under the supervision of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences till 1966. Then we joined the Federation of Hungarian Medical

Societies, which is under the supervision of the Ministry of Health, as somewhat more than half of the members belong to the medical profession. Of course, microbiologists of other professions, veterinaries and biologists, are always represented in our presidium and committees.

Members of the H.S.M. exerted an intense activity in the Editorial Board of the *Acta Microbiologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae*. The editors-in-chief were A. HAVAS (1954), G. IVÁNOVICS (1955–1976) and B. LÁNYI (1976–).

H.S.M. has supported microbiologists in attending scientific meetings in this country and abroad. We have offered prizes for papers of our young members and founded the R. MANNINGER medal. This was awarded to 8 microbiologists before the present Congress.