



Faculty
of Medicine

Department
of Pharmacology



Prof. Jaroslav Jezdinský, M.D., Ph.D.

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Before his two-month military service, and after graduating from the Faculty of Medicine at the Palacký University in Olomouc in 1957, Jaroslav Jezdinský, M.D. started work at the Prostějov hospital. Coincidentally, he was the only physician in the ward when its head was absent, so he was really faced with the need to show his full capabilities. He spent four months at the Prostějov hospital, which was probably an excellent school. This presaged his interest in clinical aspects of pharmacology and modern approaches in medicine as a whole. He is, therefore, not just a theorist and is very pleased to study clinical cases that colleagues are very gladly to consult with. They can be sure that Professor Jezdinský will have his position perfectly substantiated with great experience and careful study of the relevant issue.

The second moment that significantly determined Prof Jezdinský's professional focus was the work on his candidate thesis. He chose the topic himself and is proud of it to this day. In his thesis, he demonstrated, among other things, the anti-inflammatory effect of one of the fractions of the electrophoretically separated fraction of the posterior pituitary extract. He was then very close to the discovery of the anti-inflammatory, but, primarily analgesic, effect of peptides such as enkephalins and dynorphin. He then studied the issue of inflammation and developed it experimentally until recently. It should be noted that for the quantification of the effect of inflammation and the analgesic effect, Prof Jezdinský developed original methodologies, which are still successfully used (the method of traumatic swelling of a rat's paw and the method of monitoring the contact time of the limb with the pad while under nociceptive irritation, when he and his co-workers received a number of patents for the device developed for this method). The successfully defended candidate doctoral thesis allowed Prof Jezdinský

I met Prof Jezdinský in 1959 when I started at the Department of Pharmacology at the Medical Faculty of the Palacký University in Olomouc as a demonstrator and since 1962 as an assistant. At that time, under the leadership of Associate Pro-

–before the normalised bureaucrats in September 1968 – to go to an annual internship at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. Everyone who has completed a similar stay abroad knows the importance of this, from the hardening of the body and soul of the worker to acquiring much experimental and theoretical knowledge. Interest in pain and inflammation also led him to study and apply acupuncture.

The third milestone was certainly in 1989. His habilitation in 1990, the appointment to the leadership of the department and after one year the full professorship, means (finally) recognition of prof. Jezdinský at the professional and pedagogical field. Under his leadership, the Works council of postgraduate studies of pharmacology started its activity. The department was changing. Many workers were coming and going due to material conditions, not very pleasant especially for young assistants. Since 2000, Prof Jezdinský has switched to part-time employment, but this is a formal limitation because the Professor was always present in the workplace for much longer. In his later years, he handed down the leadership of the Works council for the field of Medical Pharmacology and attended the workplace less frequently, but he is still a highly educated specialist in his field. He carefully watches all the news and is still involved in the examination of postgraduate students. He participates in the commissions for the defense of doctoral theses, and for State Rigorous Exams in the field of Medical Pharmacology. He also works for the Ethics Committee of the Faculty Hospital in Olomouc. His activity and interest in everything new is still an example for young co-workers of the Department of Pharmacology at the Faculty of Medicine of the Palacký University in Olomouc.

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fessor Lenfeld, a young team of workers were named according to their career path – Dr Kroutil, Dr Jezdinský, and Dr Marek. All four of my older new colleagues excelled in qualities that could affect the emerging new apprentice of pharmacology. Associa-

te Professor Lenfeld was an insurmountable teacher and lecturer, he also could find the essence of the problem very quickly, naming and analysing it well in the field of pharmacology. Dr Kroutil excelled in diligence and carefulness and Dr Marek with his highest degree of seriousness and honesty both in scientific work and in civic life. The Fates endowed Prof Jezdinský with a huge experimental investment: the ability to work hard on the given problem and tighten the solution to maximise his options at the appropriate time. Prof Jezdinský also understood, very early on, the necessity of cooperation not only within the field, but especially in interdepartmental cooperation.

Jaroslav Jezdinský joined the Department of Pharmacology in 1958 after a short stay at the hospital in Prostějov. He joined research activities, both in the main thematic area of the Department – inflammation – and in a number of other problems. In co-operation with Dr Stojan from the Department of Pathological Physiology, Prof Jezdinský studied the anti-inflammatory effect of hormones of the posterior pituitary. They found that, besides known hormones, the extracts of the posterior pituitary contained yet another unknown treatment with a strong inhibitory effect on the development of formalin-induced swelling. It was probably one of the now-known opioid peptides that were discovered 10 years later. The results of this work were used by Prof Jezdinský in his candidate doctoral thesis, which he defended in October 1968, and, immediately after the defence, he attended a one-year study in Canada.

In the meantime, he has solved further research tasks. Together with Dr Dušek (pathology) and Dr Ressler (medical ward) attempted to clarify the issue of pathogenesis of embolisation with foetal water during childbirth. With Dr Talaš and Dr Stehlíková (gynaecology) he participated in the determination of urinary and serum gonadotrophin levels using biological titration methods. Cooperation with the dental clinic was also rich. A new treatment for ulcerous gingivitis was a local application of hydrocortisone in the form of solid gingival bandages (with Dr Fiala), influencing traumatic swelling (with Dr Ochonský). He also contributed to the pathogenesis of non-allergic embolotoxic reactions after depot injection penicillin preparations and other drugs in cooperation with Associate Prof Malota (allergology), Dr Dušek (pathology), and Dr Neoral (forensic medicine).

Dr Jezdinský has developed a number of original experimental methodologies, such as traumatic swelling, bloodless blood pressure measurement of rats and mice, and, in particular, the methodology of evaluation of the medication analgesic effect in laboratory animals (in cooperation with Hálek, M.Sc.). At the beginning of this method, there was a 'simple' observation during which the rat with the nociceptive irritation of the hind limb raised its paw. The contact time with the pad is also the degree of analgesic efficacy of the given drug. Realisation required six years of hard work at night and at weekends and the result were patents in the US, Switzerland, Germany, and the GDR. In coo-

peration with the geriatric ward (Dr Zábaj, Dr Bretšnajdrová), he developed a simple test method for the objective evaluation of the analgesic efficacy of drug forms of non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory drugs for local application in patients.

Prof Jezdinský presented the results of experimental work at many domestic and foreign congresses (a total of about 250 lectures and more than 120 publications). He was always an active speaker, and I remember his advice to a young beginner: 'When you are at a congress, do not sit there like a stone, but talk actively!'

The incomplete number of research topics shows frequent cooperation with clinical departments (internal, gynaecology, allergology, dentistry, geriatrics) thus the great affection of Prof Jezdinský towards clinical pharmacology. Since 1991, he has been a clinical pharmacology head and since 1994 he has been the responsible editor of the quarterly published journal 'Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacy'. A year later, the journal was nationally registered and has become the only magazine of its kind in the Czech Republic, to which important clinical pharmacology experts and other clinical specialists contribute. The publishing and high professional level of this journal is a huge success and a credit to Prof Jezdinský and his co-workers.

For the young Prof Jezdinský, teaching was a duty rather than a joy, but times have changed substantially and so Prof Jezdinský became chairman of the pedagogical committee of the Czech Society for Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology and author of nine textbooks. Education at the Department of Pharmacology at the Faculty of Medicine of Palacký University in Olomouc, is at a high level.

In 1990, the newly appointed Associate Professor Jezdinský became the third in a row of Heads of the Department of Pharmacology at the Medical Faculty of Palacký University, and, a year later, he was appointed as a Professor. With more than 20 years of diligent work in the normalisation environment, since the defence of the candidacy and without any hope for the scientific-pedagogical degree, Prof Jezdinský established the departmental committee of pharmacology for the education of young researchers.

Prof Jezdinský is not a one-dimensional science-oriented personality. Only a few people know that he played excellently on clarinet and oboe. Classical music was, and remained, his hobby. I remember one celebration, 30 years ago, at the end of April (it was a feast of Jaroslav, Jiří and the birthday of some half of the department's staff), when a large amount of water flowed traditionally. At the end of the celebration, Prof Jezdinský took the oboe into his hands and played the classics. Others had little desire to hear the music and they poured water over his head. Prof Jezdinský played on and on until the water drowned the oboe. He then remarked: 'You morons, you do not even know that it was Haydn'.

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