



Faculty
of Medicine

Department
of Pharmacology



Associate Professor Nina Škottová, M.A., Ph.D.

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Associate Professor Nina Škottová, M.A., Ph.D. played a major part in the history of the Faculty of Medicine at Palacký University, where she worked for many years. She began her career there in the Department of Medical Chemistry and Biochemistry in 1982, and from 1999 to 2003 was Head of the Department of Pharmacology.

Associate Professor Škottová came to Olomouc from Bratislava; she stayed and worked there for many years. She was one of the most successful graduates of the Faculty of Pharmacy at Comenius University in Bratislava; at the time of her studies, this was the only pharmaceutical faculty in the then Czechoslovakia. Nina Škottová always had ambitions to contribute to the development of world science and for this reason she began a scientific career at the Slovak Academy of Sciences, whose departments, especially the Department of Experimental Endocrinology in Bratislava, are renowned for their high level of scientific work. One of the most joyful moments for her was meeting in Bratislava with former colleagues from the Slovak Academy of Sciences, for example with Professor Kvetniňanský. The local workplace was where high-quality research projects, on whose solution the Associate Professor cooperated, took place. Already in her first publications we begin to see her influence on lipid homeostasis in the experimental animal organism: for example, in her study of changes in blood cholesterol levels, triacylglycerols and hepatic enzymes after the premature weaning of young rats, or her study of influencing lipolytic activity. With her colleague Palkovič, Nina Škottová even devoted time to studying the effect of space flight on lipogenesis and lipolysis in a laboratory rat.

After arriving in Olomouc in 1982, she dealt with issues related to the effect of flavonoids resp. flavolignans on the body. The main objects of her interest in the faculty were the substances contained in the beautifully named plant Milk thistle (*Silybum marianum*), a substance of silymarin. She led the group that became interested in the fundamental issues related to the mechanisms of the effect of silymarin extract, to its pharmacokinetics and its effect on lipid and antioxidant parameters. The beneficial effect of silymarin has been

documented in her scientific work. Her group also dealt with the comparison of the effects of numerous natural extracts with used hypolipidemic drugs. These studies had already begun in the Department of Medical Chemistry and Biochemistry, where the Associate Professor's group achieved a number of valuable results regarding mainly the hypolipidemic effect of the already mentioned silymarin. At the end of the 1990 s, the Radiopharmacological Laboratory in the Department of Pharmacology was established with the support of Professor Šimánek and Professor Ulrichová from the Department of Medical Chemistry and Biochemistry, where the Associate Professor started to act as Head in 1999. With her arrival, the reconstruction of the other laboratories in the Department began. In addition to studying the pharmacokinetics of radioactively labelled natural substances (especially silybin – the main component of silymarin), the Associate Professor's team dealt with research in the field of the action of natural substances on a pathologically altered organism. At the centre of interest was a rat model suffering from metabolic syndrome (the so-called hereditary hypertriglyceridemic rat), which was obtained from the Department of Metabolism of Diabetes at IKEM in Prague, headed by Kazdová, M.Sc. Cooperation with this reputable workplace continues successfully today.

It should also be noted that Assoc. Prof. Škottová was one of the first workers to go to a foreign workplace after 1989 and be very successful there. She worked for three years at Umeå University in Sweden, where she studied lipoprotein lipase in the perfused rat liver. This enzyme plays one of the key roles in maintaining lipid homeostasis in the body. Her publication with Professor Olivecrona from that time is still quoted and the results of their studies are permanently valid.

Associate Professor Škottová was also a public personality. She worked in the ODS district council in Prostějov and was elected to the European Parliament in 2004. After returning in 2009, she continued to work in politics at the local level.

Although her health was not good, she successfully overcame serious illness several times, but weakened health

contributed significantly to her death. Memories of her purposeful conduct, the merits of starting the modernisation of the Department of Pharmacology in the Faculty of Medicine, and her efforts to convince colleagues about the correctness of her point of view will remain. She was very consistent at work and successfully participated in publishing the results

of a scientific team that she led for many years. She also trained a number of postgraduate students. It is quite right that future and younger colleagues should continue to work in the direction of her research.

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