

Editorial

DEAR Colleagues,
In front of you is a supplement of *Neuroendocrinology Letters* containing the full text of selected papers to be presented at the opening of the XVI Congress of Atherosclerosis for 2012. The dominant role in atherosclerosis and its clinical complications as a leading cause of death is evident. During the past two decades, the clinical complications of atherosclerosis is not only the top killer in the developed countries but also in many developing countries. This Supplement represents a new and ground-breaking step in the development of the Czech Society for Atherosclerosis.

When we started to set up our society in 1995, our intention was to unite all our Czech colleagues working in the field of risk factors for atherosclerosis – from the experimental approach in preventive cardiology, to clinical treatment and epidemiology of cardiovascular diseases. Our aim was quite modest and we expected to organize relatively small conferences to give a chance for all specialists to meet and discuss issues of common research.

In recent years, our Congress has become a conclave that promotes interaction between these groups and provides an exchange of basic research in the prevention and treatment of atherosclerosis in the Czech Republic

Not only has the size of our annual congresses increased steadily from our first conference in Podebrady 1996, but also the quality of the data presented is to gradually increase. It is evident from the list of full-text papers to be presented this year that the broad research field of atherosclerosis and its risk factors is expanding. We will consider new data on such topics as the ongoing battle against smoking, the treatment of risk factors for cardiovascular disease through diet, statins and hormones, and the clinical data of technically sophisticated treatment of heart failure. There is a tradition of our congresses to also include several documents on molecular genetics of cardiovascular disease. Personally, I am glad that this addition also contains several articles focusing on gradually increasing importance of adipose tissue in obesity and the risk of premature atherosclerosis development. The new scientific information in this Supplement of *Neuroendocrinology Letters* is a further step in the development of our society.

I wish you rewarding and inspiring stay during next three days of our annual congress here in Spindleruv Mlyn.

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