

EDITORIAL

With this issue Acta Biologica Hungarica intended to celebrate the 70th birthday of Professor Gábor Szabó, Ordinary Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, member of the Editorial Board of this Journal. However, fate decided otherwise. While manuscripts of university colleagues, research associates and scholars were already under preparation to honour the jubilee, Prof. G. Szabó, founder and first head of the independent Department of Biology at the University Medical School, Debrecen, passed away on the 13th December 1996, three weeks before his birthday anniversary, 2nd January 1997. This way, the papers collected in this issue are dedicated to the memory and respect of the man with a wide intellectual horizon, to the researcher microbiologist and geneticist, university teacher, science politician, true friend and colleague.

The educational, teaching and research carrier of G. Szabó is reviewed and praised in the following pages by one of his fellows in profession. As the Editor of this Journal and a close friend for nearly half a century I want to add and underline his great interest and enthusiasm about theoretical, methodological questions, his strict morality and exceptional devotion to duties he was entrusted at the University and at the Academy of Sciences. He was sensitive to social problems and paid great attention to the life of the research community. He served more than twenty years in our Editorial Board and contributed in many ways to its successful functioning with his initiatives, good proposals, criticism and by a high scientific demand.

The decease of Professor G. Szabó is a great loss for all of us. His name and achievements will be retained in history of Science and in our memory for ever.

János Salánki
Editor