Jindřich Nečas (December 14, 1929 – December 5, 2002)

Our distinguished colleague and friend Jindřich Nečas passed away on December 5, 2002. The Mathematical Community has lost one of its most prominent members.

He will be remembered for seminal work in mathematical fluid dynamics that sets him among the greatest of that discipline, as well as his fundamental contributions to the fields of partial differential equations and nonlinear functional analysis, and their applications to various other branches of continuum mechanics. But he will also be remembered for his incomparable enthusiasm, tremendous energy and contagious laughter. He was an outstanding mathematician and a wonderful man, and we all miss him now.

In the last few years of his life, Jindřich Nečas was gently obsessed with the problem of global regularity for the initial-value problem for the Navier–Stokes equations. He often alternated between periods during which he was convinced that "regularity" was the answer, and periods during which he devoted all of his efforts to proving "blow-up". It frequently happened, when someone would ask him questions about possible ways of proving regularity, that he would reply with the joke "Sorry, I am a 'blow-up'-man today!", and vice-versa.

We all hope that, by now, he knows the right answer. Good bye Jindřich!

Giovanni P. Galdi   John G. Heywood   Rolf Rannacher