

## Obituary

### Professor Dr. Peter Czedik-Eysenberg



On October 26th, 2001, Hon. Professor Peter Czedik-Eysenberg died, aged 72, *en route* to a scientific conference in Austria. European food chemists, friends and colleagues from the Food Chemistry Division of FECS, and the editors and coworkers of this journal are united in mourning the death of a man whose enthusiasm and support for the development of food chemistry in Europe knew no bounds.

Peter Czedik-Eysenberg was born in Vienna on October 2nd, 1929. He studied chemistry in Vienna and after a short period working for Siemens joined Unilever, Austria, where he remained until his retirement in 1995, rising to become Chief Chemist.

In addition to this industrial career, he lectured at the Agricultural University of Vienna and the Technical Universities of Graz and Vienna for many years, being appointed as Honorary Professor at the latter.

He was one of a small number of enthusiasts who met in 1976 to discuss the possibility of pan-European co-operation in food chemistry, from which idea the Working party on Food Chemistry of FECS emerged to become a significant international platform for food chemistry and food chemists. Peter Czedik-Eysenberg was

elected chairman [a position he retained until 1995] and was the driving force behind the organisation of numerous conferences and scientific activities. His diplomatic skills and innate sensitivity enabled a growing number of participants from the "Eastern bloc" to join and take an active role in the Working Party's activities. In this manner acquaintances became colleagues and then friends.

In 1981, the first *Eurofoodchem* conferences was held in Vienna to promote the activities of food chemists and demonstrate the central importance of food chemistry to European society and industry. These conferences have been subsequently held biennially and it was fitting that Peter should have attended the eleventh, celebrating the Working Party's [now Division's] 25th anniversary shortly before his untimely death. Today the *Eurofoodchem* conferences are widely accepted to be the most important platform for food scientists in Europe to meet and discuss common interests and opportunities with colleagues from, and beyond, the continent.

In 1984, this journal, recently retitled *European Food Research and Technology*, was selected as the official organ of the Division, a negotiation personally conducted by Peter Czedik-Eysenberg. Subsequently the Division worked closely with Springer Verlag to produce the *Who's Who of European Food Chemists*, a volume that stands as a lasting tribute to its long-time Chairman.

Peter Czedik-Eysenberg's life-long concern for understanding and communication between scientific disciplines was evident in the development of on-going series of joint conferences, including *Eurofoodtox*, *EuroResidue*, *Chemical Reactions in Food* and, most recently, *Food Allergy*.

We are mourning an extremely engaging and popular colleague and friend who promoted our professional interest and stimulated co-operation and friendship throughout his career. We are dedicated to remembering his activities and to continuing his efforts. Our thoughts are with his widow, Gerda, and family.

Werner Baltes

G. Roger Fenwick