



PROF. SÁNDOR SZALAY 70 YEARS

Professor SZALAY (A. SZALAY), Ordinary Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, celebrates his 70th birthday on 4th October 1979.

Professor SZALAY has achieved numerous outstanding scientific results in nuclear physics and in the very broad field of the applications of nuclear methods. Let us mention here only the evidence for the neutrino recoil effect in a cloud chamber, the discovery of uranium enrichment in some Hungarian coals and as a generalization of the latter, the clarification of the role of humic acids in Nature in the retention of uranium and other cations. These results

led to the discovery of the uranium deposit in Hungary. Professor SZALAY played an important role in the introduction of isotope application into biomedical research and practice in Hungary. He initiated the study of the environment from the point of view of radioactive pollution, the application of the techniques of mass spectroscopy in the geochronological investigation of Hungarian rocks. The construction of many nuclear instruments and techniques in Debrecen were also prompted by him, e.g. Van de Graaff generators and other accelerators, scintillation and semiconductor detectors, alpha-, beta- and mass-spectrometers, etc.

His interest and activities cover very broad fields. He has never restricted himself to any individual branch of science. All his scientific activities have had a real inter- and multidisciplinary character from the very beginning. Every time he considered the phenomena of Nature, he followed the logic of Nature, regardless of the risk of eventually exceeding the boundaries of physics and entering e.g. the area of chemistry, geology, biology or medicine. His starting point was always experimental in all fields, confessing that the only solid basis in all branches of science was experiments and empirical evidence. Similarly, he has always been interested in the practical applications of his scientific results.

Most of his scientific work was carried out in cooperation with his numerous collaborators. As a result of his careful selection of talented young research associates, Professor SZALAY founded a scientific school. This school is characterized by the same main features as Professor SZALAY's own research activities: an experimental and interdisciplinary approach to the understanding of natural phenomena and a keen interest in the application of the fundamental results obtained. The staff of the Institute of Nuclear Research of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences has actually derived from this research community.

Professor SZALAY is highly active in research work at this Institute still to date. He is much interested in microelement research in plants and foods and in investigating the primordial atmosphere of the Earth by means of quadrupole mass spectroscopy.

His colleagues and all Hungarian physicists as well as the whole Hungarian scientific community wish him many more years and further success in his scientific and private life.

D. BERÉNYI