

**A WELCOME TO PROFESSOR ANTHONY DAVID SMITH ON
WHOM THE TITLE "DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA" WAS CONFERRED BY
THE COUNCIL OF JÓZSEF ATTILA UNIVERSITY**



We greet Professor ANTHONY DAVID SMITH on whom the title "Doctor Honoris Causa" was conferred by the Council of József Attila University (Szeged, Hungary) at the ceremonial meeting of the Council of József Attila University on 21st September, 1993. On this occasion, he presented a lecture entitled "Cholinesterase - from basic science to clinical practice". The complete text of his lecture is published in this issue.

ANTHONY DAVID SMITH was born in China in 1938, where his father spent several years as a missionary. During the Second World War, the family returned to England and ANTHONY DAVID SMITH was educated at Kingswood School in Bath; then, in 1959, he began his studies at Christ Church College in Oxford. He achieved first-class honours in Biochemistry in 1963, and then carried out research for a D. Phil. degree at the Department of Pharmacology under the guidance of Professor HERMAN BLASCHKO, Fellow of the Royal Society. After several years of successful research, they provided the first biochemical evidence of the exocytosis of hormonal substances from the adrenal medulla. The beginning of his scientific cooperation with Dr. ISTVÁN BENEDECZKY dates from this period, when he published his results in the same field in *Nature*. DAVID SMITH was appointed University Lecturer in Pharmacology and elected a Fellow of Christ Church College in 1971. In 1979, he was awarded the Gaddum Memorial Prize of the British Pharmacological Society for his discoveries on the mechanism of release of the sympathetic transmitter noradrenaline. In 1979, he introduced an antenatal test for spina bifida in early pregnancy that is used throughout the world. In 1984, he was appointed Professor of Pharmacology and Head of Department of Pharmacology at the University of Oxford, and in 1985, the Medical

Research Council appointed him Honorary Director of the Anatomical Neuropharmacology Unit. In 1987, Professor SMITH negotiated a research agreement with BRISTOL MYERS SQUIBB, which led to the donation of 20 million pounds to the University in order to provide a new building of 6000 m² for the Department of Pharmacology and funding for research projects on brain diseases for 12 years. The building was completed in 1991.

Professor SMITH's interests relate to Alzheimer disease, schizophrenia, and the control of movement and blood pressure by the brain. He is chairman or member of the board of a number of international scientific journals.

Professor SMITH has a wide range of international scientific connections including Hungarian scientists, such as Professors VIZI, KÁSA and BENEDECZKY (the last was the head of the Zoological Department at József Attila University from 1982 until his retirement in 1993). His co-director at the MRC Anatomical Neuropharmacology Unit is PÉTER SOMOGYI, also "Doctor Honoris Causa" of the József Attila University.

Professor SMITH has very intensively supported József Attila University: first of all, as chief editor, he regularly sends the outstanding journal *Neuroscience* free for ten years, he has presented a large number of scientific books to the Department of Zoology and he has also helped us with fine chemicals. As a continuation of the cooperation, KATALIN HALASY, lecturer at the Department of Zoology, has now spent altogether more than two years in Oxford.

Professor SMITH is a world-famous scientist, with several thousands of citations of his work, including those results which were achieved together with the earlier-mentioned Hungarian scientists. After taking into consideration his remarkable scientific activity and the enormous help that he provided to the Department of Zoology at our University, the University Committee decided unanimously to confer on him the title "Doctor Honoris Causa".

We wish to congratulate Professor SMITH on being awarded this title and wish him every further success in his scientific research.

K. HALASY