

2. THE HUNGARIAN BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

THIRTY TWO YEARS OF THE ORGANIZED HUNGARIAN BIOPHYSICS

The physics oriented biology had rather strong roots in Hungary even between the two wars. The University Department of Biophysics in Pécs founded in 1947 was one of the first five university chairs of biophysics all over the world. The biochemistry school of A. Szent-Györgyi at Szeged had also a strong biophysical orientation. The main direction of biophysical research was the muscle biophysics led by Eugene Ernst.

The formal organization of the Hungarian Biophysical Society started in May, 1960 and was completed on March 3, 1961 with 111 founding members. Prof. E. Ernst was elected President and the author of this paper became Secretary. The foundation of the Society gave a remarkable impulse to the development of biophysical research and education in Hungary. In addition to the Biophysics Department of Pécs, Prof. I. Tarján founded the second biophysics chair in Hungary at the University Medical School of Budapest in 1968. Prof. L. Szalai established the third one at the József Attila University in Szeged in 1969, the fourth one was founded in Debrecen in 1970 by Prof. L. Tóth., meanwhile teaching of biophysics started also at the L. Eötvös University in 1965 and later the Biophysics Research Laboratory was formed at the Technical University of Budapest (P. Greguss). The largest biophysical research laboratory of the country was created in the frame of Biological Research Center of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences headed by A. Garay in 1971. The National Research Institute for Radiobiology and Radiohygiene was also a significant research unit with biophysical orientation.

The membership of the Hungarian Biophysical Society was steadily increasing. The number of members in the years 1980, 1985 and 1989 were 391, 512 and 768, respectively. In 1989 a revision of membership was initiated which resulted in the splitting of about 400 members of the Section of Basic Acupuncture, so the membership decreased to 400, or so.

Anyhow, we should state that the „density” of organized biophysicists in Hungary amounts to around 40 per million, which figure stands among the firsts of the world. (For comparison USA 22, Japan 30).

Concerning the quality of membership there were 13 members of the Academy, 28 D. Sc. and 83 Ph. D. in 1980. Numerous young scientists joined the Society during the past years. However we had 34 founding members (of 111) in our list in 1989.

The milestones of the scientific activity were the national meetings. 16 of them were organized during the 32 years. Moreover 9 different sections used to



Profs. E. Ernst (Founder of Hungarian Biophysical Society) and A. Solomon (the first Secretary General of IUPAB) in Pécs, 1964.

meet regularly to discuss special, narrow fields of biophysics. The number of meetings amounted to 8 to 12 a year during the last decade.

We may sum up that the Hungarian Biophysics had vivid and successful 3 decades. The organization of the 11th International Biophysics Congress can be considered as a summit of the achievements of biophysicists in Hungary.

Fortunately, the details of the activity of the Hungarian Biophysical Society has been published in the triennial „Bulletin of the Hungarian Biophysical Society” in 9 Volumes 1963, 1966, 1969, 1972, 1975, 1978, 1981, 1985 and 1989. These volumes (over 1800 pages) offer a detailed review of the activity of biophysicists in Hungary between 1961–1993.

JÓZSEF TIGYI

Honorary President of the H. B. S.

THE HUNGARIAN BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1961 with the aim of providing mansided assistance to Hungarian biophysicists. The main points are:

- to promote and develop the biophysical research,
- to support biophysics teaching,
- aiding the application of biophysics,
- promoting the social and material appreciation of the biophysicists and their results.

The work of the Society is directed by the Presidium which consists of the Managing Presidium, elected members and the presidents and secretaries of the scientific sections.

The members of the present board are as follows:

Honorary presidents:	Prof. Imre Tarján, Member of the Academy Prof. József Tigyi, Member of the Academy
President:	Prof. Lajos Keszthelyi, Member of the Academy
Vice Presidents:	Prof. Sándor Damjanovich, Member of the Academy Prof. Györgyi Rontó, D. Sc.
Secretary General:	Dr. Sándor Györgyi, Ph. D.
Secretary:	Prof. Antal Niedetzky, Ph. D.
Treasurer:	Dr. Barnabás Sas, Ph. D.
Head of Control	
Commission:	Dr. Zoltán Szőkefalvi-Nagy, Ph. D.
Elected members:	Dr. Júlia Gidáli, D. Sc. Dr. László Kutas M. D. Dr. Tibor Lakatos, Ph. D. Dr. István Simon, D. Sc. Dr. László Szalay, D. Sc. Dr. Attila Török, Ph. D. Dr. Lajos Trón, D. Sc. Dr. Pál Vittay, Ph. D.

The leaders of the scientific sections are listed below.

Apart from the biannual national conferences the scientific activity of the members has been displaid in the work of the scientific sections of the Society. In the course of 32 years 7 sections (including some groups) were organized by those colleagues who wished to use the frame of an organization in the development of a special field of biophysics.

The sections and their leaders are as follows:

Radiation biology	President: Dr. György Köteles, D. Sc. Secretary: Dr. Lajos Gázsó, Ph. D.
Medical physics	President: Dr. Pál Zaránd, D. Sc. Secretary: Dr. Zoltán Dézsi Ph. D.

Ultrasound in medicine	President: Dr. Zoltán Tóth, Ph. D. Secretary: Dr. György Harmat, Ph. D.
Membrane-transport	President: Dr. László Horváth, D. Sc. Secretary: Dr. Tamara Kubasova, Ph. D.
Photobiology	President: Prof. György Rontó, D. Sc. Secretary: Dr. Béla Böddi, Ph. D.
Agro- and Food Physics	President: Prof. János Nagy, Ph. D. Vice presidents: Dr. József Kispéter, Ph. D. Prof: Árpád Nagy, Ph. D.
Radioecology	President: Dr. Béla Kanyár, Ph. D. Secretary: Dr. Pével Szerbin, Ph. D.
<i>Groups:</i>	
Biophysics of Acupuncture	President: Dr. Tibor Predmerszky, Ph. D. Secretary: Dr. Ajándok Eöry, Ph. D.
Bioelectrochemistry	President: Prof. Lajos Keszthelyi, Member of Acad. Secretary: Dr. Sándor Györgyi, Ph. D.

The programs and the scientific activities of the sections and groups are summarized separately, but one common feature has to be mentioned here: The great majority of the members of the sections belongs also to other national and international scientific communities being organized for a specific aim like radiation biology, ultrasound application, bioelectrochemistry, etc. The administrative and financial disadvantage of this situation is fully compensated by the possibilities of the manyside cooperation, the better opportunity of changing ideas with scientists working with the same methods but on other objects etc.

As to the international cooperation, it is also elaborated and organized by the sections and their members using, of course, the services and support of the Society.

As a consequence of their scientific activity many of our senior scientists were elected into the different boards of international scientific organizations, very often as the members of their managing presidiums.

Considering the position of biophysics among the adjacent sciences it is quite obvious that very close connections and fruitful cooperations have been formed with many Hungarian biochemists, physiologists, morphologists, biologists and other representatives of natural sciences, as well as with their scientific societies. Common scientific papers, books and also commonly organized local and national programs prove the success of this tendency.

The address of the Hungarian Biophysical Society:

H-1371 Budapest, Fő u. 68. P. O. Box 433. Phone/Fax: (1) 202-1216

SÁNDOR GYÖRGYI
Secretary General of the H. B. S.

NATIONAL MEETINGS OF THE H. B. S. (1961–1991)

- 1 st: Pécs, 23–26 August, 1961.
President: J. Ernst
Dept. of Biophysics, University Medical School
- 2nd: Debrecen, 21–25 August, 1962.
President: L. Tóth
Dept. of Medical Physics, University Medical School
- 3rd: Budapest, 26–28 August, 1964.
President: V. Várterész
National Research Institut for Radiobiology and Radiohygiene
- 4th: Budapest 23–24 May, 1966.
President: I. Tarján
Dept. of Medical Physics, University Medical School
- 5th: Szeged, 28–30 August, 1968.
President: L. Szalay
Dept. of Physics, József Attila University
- 6th: Pécs, 23–25 August, 1971.
President: J. Tigyí
Dept. of Biophysics, University Medical School
- 7th: Tihany, 31 May – 2 June, 1973.
President: J. Salánki
Biological Research Institut of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- 8th: Debrecen, 27–30 August, 1975.
President: S. Damjanovich
Dept. of Biophysics, University Medical School
- 9th: Pécs, 30 June – 2 July, 1977.
President: J. Tigyí
Dept. of Biophysics, University Medical School
- 10th: Tihany 20–22 September, 1979.
President: J. Salánki
Biological Research Institut of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- 11th: Szeged, 5–8 July, 1981.
President: L. Keszthelyi
Biological Research Center of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

- 12th: Budapest, 24–26 August, 1983.
 President: Gy. Rontó
 Dept. of Biophysics, University Medical School
- 13th: Debrecen, 3–5 July, 1985.
 President: D. Berényi
 Nuclear Research Institut of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- 14th: Pécs, 2–4 July, 1987.
 President: A. Niedetzky
 Dept. of Biophysics, University Medical School
- 15th: Szeged, 3–5 July, 1989.
 President: J. Kispéter, A. Török
 University Medical School
- 16th: Budapest, 2–4 July, 1991.
 President: L. B. Sztanyik
 National Research Institut for Radiobiology and Radiohygiene

Abstracts of the 4th – 13th National Meetings have been published in English, too:

Acta Biochim. Biophys. Acad. Sci. Hung.

4th	<u>1.</u>	333-344 (1966)
5th	<u>3.</u>	449-469 (1968)
6th	<u>6.</u>	459-483 (1971)
7th	<u>8.</u>	183-214 (1973)
8th	<u>11.</u>	143-236 (1976)
10th	<u>15.</u>	111-159 (1980)
11th	<u>16.</u>	229-265 (1981)
12th	<u>18.</u>	1-124 (1983)
13th	<u>20.</u>	1-112 (1985)

Acta Physiol. Acad. Sci. Hung.

9th	<u>52.</u>	95-321 (1978)
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LÁSZLÓ KUTAS
 Editor