



Prof. Dr. László Kovacs, MD, DrSc

Obituary:

Prof. Dr. László Kovacs, MD, DrSc, pediatrician and pediatric nephrologist from the Department of Paediatrics, University Hospital in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, died on Sunday 17th of September 2017 at the age of 66 years. László was born on October 16, 1950 in Budapest in a Hungarian intellectual family. He studied at the Faculty of Medicine in Moscow and moved with his wife to Bratislava after graduation in 1975. His academic activities started at the 1st Department of Pediatrics in Bratislava headed by professor Birčák. As part of his postgraduate study, Laszlo spent three years as a research fellow in Chicago, USA. Later on he worked as a visiting professor in Aarhus (Denmark) and Pécs (Hungary).

Shortly after returning from the sabbatical leaves, Laszlo defended his PhD thesis entitled „Vasopressin: disturbed secretion and its effects“ and received a distinguished research doctoral degree (DrSc).

Subsequently, he became the head of the 2nd Department of Pediatrics in Bratislava, which he successfully led for more than 16 years. László's accomplishments until his untimely death involved medical education, research, patient care, and administrative leadership. The main topics of his interest were water metabolism, nocturnal enuresis and genetics of renal disease. He published the results of his scientific work in many renowned medical journals and became an internationally recognised member of the pediatric nephrology community. With his foreign experience and linguistic talent, he was able to stimulate and support the team of his coworkers and involve them in a number of international projects.

Laszlo was a big promoter of intensive contacts between pediatric nephrology colleagues worldwide and facilitated fellowships for his young fellows in renowned medical facilities in Denmark, Austria, Hungaria and Canada.

László was very active in international societies such as the European Society of Paediatric Nephrology and International Pediatric Nephrology Association (IPNA) by serving as a Council Member in both societies. László had a leadership role in many national academic societies in Slovakia, most notably the Slovak Pediatric Society and Slovak Pediatric Nephrology Society, culminating his long-term service (over 20 years) as a President of the society. He cultivated friendly contacts with the Czech and Hungarian paediatric Societies and was a honorary member of the Czech and Hungarian Medical Society. He also served as a co-editor of the journal Česko-Slovenská pediatrie. Recently, he was awarded by a distinguished Hungarian National Award from the president of Hungary

His subtle humor, keen intellect, and engaging personality will be missed by all whom he interacted with.

László is survived by his mother Maria, wife Boba and two daughters Kristina and Veronika.

Jan Janda, Ludmila Podracká and Janusz Feber