

“Research is *to see* what everybody else *has seen*, and to *think* what *nobody* else *has thought*”. Albert Szent-Györgyi (1893 – 1986)

### Szent-Györgyi 75 – Conference in Szeged

The best-known scientific award, the Nobel Prize was honored to Albert Szent-Györgyi 75 years ago, in 1937. Remembering the anniversary, an international conference with the participation of nine Nobel Prize laureates was organized by the University of Szeged, Faculty of Medicine in March 2012.

Albert Szent-Györgyi is the only Hungarian Nobel Prize laureate scientist who received this outstanding international prize as an honor for his activity in his homeland. He proceeded with his researches, launched in the Netherlands and Great-Britain, as the head of the Chemistry Department of the University in Szeged (founded in 1921). The subject of his experiments became paprika, from which he soon isolated a multitude of “hexuronic acid”, later known as vitamin C. The Nobel Prize was adjudicated to him "for his discoveries in connection with the biological combustion process with special reference to vitamin C and the catalysis of fumaric acid" by the Medical Faculty of the Royal Caroline Institute in Stockholm in 1937.

As commemoration for the illustrious anniversary an imposing international conference was organized by the University of Szeged, Faculty of Medicine between March 22 and 25, 2012.

What made this event special is that 9 Nobel Prize laureate scientist visited Szeged: Andrew V. Schally (1977), Bert Sakmann (1991), Robert Huber (1988), Eric Wieschaus (199), Peter C. Doherty (1996), John E. Walker (1997), Tim Hunt (2001), Aaron Ciechanover (2004) és Ada E. Yonath (2009). All of them held successful plenary lectures on the conference where 800 researchers participated from nearly 30 countries. 420 lectures were held in four days and six different sections: Cardiology, Gastroenterology, Immunology and Inflammation, Molecular Biology and Genetics, Neurology and Tuberculosis.

The conference was carried out with the financial support of the TÁMOP project, financed by the European Union, the city of Szeged, Richter Gedeon Pharmacy Factory and several other companies.

According to the wish of the organizers the citizens of the city and especially high school students also had the opportunity to join the programs. An open forum, with the participation of Nobel Prize laureates, was organized. The scientists planted the Tree of Science in the park of the university together and some other high standard programs also provided pleasant leisure activities for the participants.

Albert Szent-Györgyi was remembered not only as a Nobel Prize laureate, but also as a thinker, writer and the rector of the university. The thoughts, writings and relics of the scientist (part of which can be found in the Szent-Györgyi Memorial Room of the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Medicine) draw us the portrait of a wise and humane person who loved life in its entirety.