



1937 - 2012

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALBERT SZENT-GYÖRGYI'S NOBEL PRIZE AWARD



Szeged hosts a Conference with Nine Nobel Laureates

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22-25 March all eyes will turn to Szeged! These days nine Nobel Laureates and nearly 1000 researchers from all over the world will arrive to the county seat in order to discuss their recent scientific results and commemorate Albert Szent-Györgyi. According to the organizing committee, the event hosting this number of Nobel Laureates at the same time has an unprecedented significance in a national level and is considered a very unique occasion even at an international level.

The Conference series on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of Albert Szent-Györgyi's Nobel Prize Award welcomes participants from all over the world: Szeged will host the academic elite during the period of 22-25 March. Preparations began more than one year ago. „It is uncontested that the internationally acknowledged scientific work of the University of Szeged - worthy of the heritage of Szent-Györgyi - has contributed a lot to the realization of this event of great significance. The fact that nine Nobel Prize Winners has accepted the invitation is considered a sign of recognition of the scientific work done by the University of Szeged. The organizational committee as well as the university staff have made very serious efforts to ensure the event to be realized” - said László Vécsei, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, president of the Szent-Györgyi Conference.

The conference has great scientific significance

The Attila József Study and Informational Center will be the central venue of the four-day program. Sessions will focus on topics researched by the University of Szeged. „*The latest results of six academic fields will be presented during 412 lectures given in four different venues - all related to the personality of Albert Szent-Györgyi - to the participants of this event of great scientific importance.*” - said Péter Hegyi, General Secretary of the Conference. Almost 1000 internationally renowned researchers - among them nine Nobel Laureates - will take part in the six parallel conferences in Cardiology, Gastroenterology, Immunology&Inflammation, Molecular Biology&Genetics, Neuroscience, and Tuberculosis Evolution.

Commemorating the Nobel Laureate, former rector of the University of Szeged

Szent-Györgyi received his Nobel Prize Award for Medicine in 1937 for his discoveries in connection with the biological combustion processes, with special reference to vitamin C and the catalysis of fumaric acid. *“He is the only Hungarian scientist who has been honored with this award for his scientific work realized in Hungary. He went to the Nobel Prize Award Ceremony from Hungary and returned there as well.”* - said András Varró, Vice Rector of the University of Szeged for Science, Research Development and Innovation. The organizing committee is commemorating Szent-Györgyi not only as an excellent researcher, but also as a former rector: in 1941 Albert Szent-Györgyi was the head of the University of Szeged.

Those who accepted the invitation

From the nearly 1000 visitors of the Conference, the most attention definitely goes to those nine Nobel Laureates who accepted the invitation of the organizing committee. They were all recognized with a Nobel Prize for making significant scientific discoveries. Andrew W. Schally in 1977, Bert Sakmann in 1991, Eric Wieschaus in 1995, Peter C. Doherty in 1996, Tim Hunt in 2001 received the Nobel Prize for Medicine, while Ada E. Yonath in 2009, Aaron Ciechanover in 2004, John E. Walker in 1997 and Robert Huber in 1988 received the Nobel Prize for Chemistry. It is the first time - and probably the last time too - that they will attend a public event together.

Representing Hungary

„We are aware of representing not only the city and the University of Szeged, but Hungary as well. Therefore we intend to prepare a variety of special additional programs to welcome our guests.” - said József Pál, Vice Rector of the University of Szeged for Foreign Affairs and Public Relations. He added: high-quality entertainment for guests staying in Szeged will be ensured by cultural and culinary programs, an organ concert by Xavér Varnus and a piano night by Csilla Szentpéteri, as well as a joint production featuring the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble, the Danube Folk Ensemble, the Szeged Dance Ensemble and Márta Sebestyén.

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