

PREFACE

I am pleased to welcome the reader on the occasion of the appearance of this *Special Issue on Methylglyoxal* dedicated to the memory of the famous Hungarian scientist, Professor Albert Szent-Györgyi.

Szent-Györgyi was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1937 for his contribution to the understanding of biological oxidation, with particular regard to vitamin C and fumarate catalysis. Besides Szent-Györgyi's outstanding contribution to the knowledge of biological oxidation, he was also extremely active in the field of muscle biochemistry and cancer research. His long and fruitful scientific activity clearly revealed his devotion overall to the topic of bioenergetics.

During the last 40 years of his life, Szent-Györgyi was engaged in methylglyoxal research, striving to elucidate how normal cells are transformed into malignant ones, and how these malignant cells could be either reconverted to normal or prevented from further division.

In the course of the past 30 years there have been developments in all aspects of methylglyoxal research, leading to both clinical and scientific advances. This special issue highlights some of the complex changes. Its purpose is essentially to inform the readers about the recent developments, in so doing paying tribute to Professor Albert Szent-Györgyi. Leading scientists in methylglyoxal research from different countries present papers relating to different aspects of this field. Their approaches to the problem possibly differ but their commitment to science is clearly beyond doubt.

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