



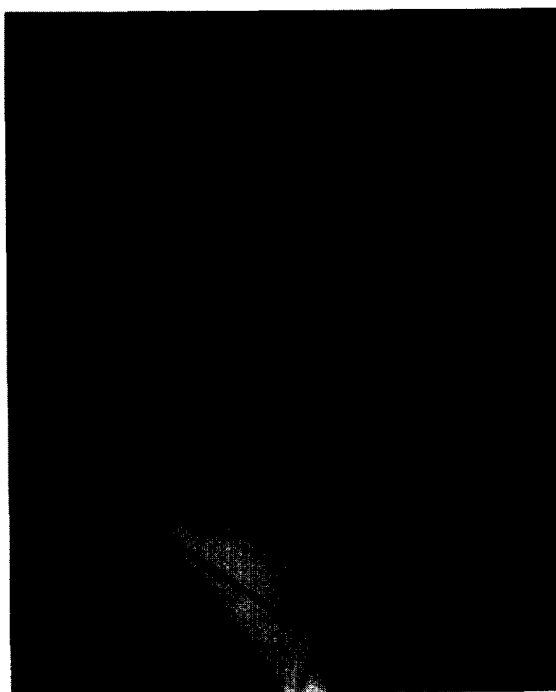
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Obituary

Ivo M. Hais (1918–1996)



Professor Ivo Hais, one of the pioneers in the area of paper chromatography, died unexpectedly on October 25, 1996, at the height of his full activities at the age of 78 years. Professor Hais was born on July 5, 1918, in Prague. His studies at the Faculty of Medicine of Charles University of Prague (1937–1939 and 1945–1947) were interrupted by the German occupation of Czechoslovakia and the following closure of the Czech universities during the 1939–1945 period. In the meantime, he finished his studies in chemistry at the Chemistry College in Prague and concomitantly, he was employed in the pharma-

ceutical company B. Fragner, where, under the leadership of Dr. Koštíř, he got acquainted with column chromatography. After finishing his medical studies, he spent half a year (1947–1948) as a postgraduate fellow at the Department of Biochemistry, University College, London with Sir F. Young and Dr. Kerly. After he returned from England, he worked from 1948 till 1961 in the Research Institute for Pharmacy and Biochemistry in Prague as the head of the Department of Physiological Chemistry. In 1961, he became the head of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry of the Faculty of Medi-

cine of Charles University in Hradec Králové. In the years 1962–1963, he was awarded a fellowship in the Experimental Radiopathology Unit, MRC, in London. After the occupation of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet armies, he was forced to leave the Faculty of Medicine in 1970 for political reasons; he kept, however, the position of a research fellow in the Department of Biochemistry of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Charles University, in Hradec Králové, where he was nominated to the position of full professor in 1990. Professor Hais' spectrum of interests was unusually broad and involved, besides chromatography and electrophoresis, analytical biochemistry, studies in drug metabolism, biochemical effects of drugs, physiological chemistry and pathobiochemistry and last, but not least, the history of chromatography. Perhaps his main contribution can be seen in the development and popularization of chromatographic techniques. His first scientific paper dates from the end of World War II, when he was the first to use buffered stationary phases in column chromatography for the isolation of penicillin. Being influenced by C.E. Dent, R.L.M. Synge and R. Conden, he focused his interest after his return from England to the most progressive method of those days, paper chromatography. At the end of the 1940s, he created, in the Research Institute for Pharmacy and Biochemistry in Prague, the first center devoted mainly to paper chromatography in central Europe, where many scientists in this discipline gained their first experience. His review papers about this technique and, especially, his large monograph, *Paper Chromatography*, which appeared

in 1954 and enjoyed three editions in six languages, attracted particular attention. He also co-authored books dealing with the bibliography of planar techniques and participated in the organization of a number of international symposia devoted to planar and, more recently, column chromatography techniques (1954–1988).

His primary papers dealt mainly with the general aspects of planar techniques, their applications in biochemical and pharmaceutical analysis, in particular, for following drug metabolism. His publishing activities amount to 150 primary papers, 83 review articles and 30 books. Also, his teaching and pedagogical activities were quite extensive. From 1959 until 1996 he was an editorial board member of the *Journal of Chromatography*, which means that he kept this position since the 2nd volume of this Journal. For 30 years, he was a board member of the Chromatography Section of the Czechoslovak Chemical Society, of which he was a co-founder in 1961.

Regarding the personality of Professor Hais, the chromatographic community is losing one of the pioneers of chromatography whose activities had a profound impact on nearly three generations of scientists. Considering myself a collaborator and good friend of Professor Hais, I felt a deep personal sorrow seeing him passing away; I will never forget the almost 50 years that I spent with him and that deeply marked my professional life.

Prague, Czech Republic

Karel Macek