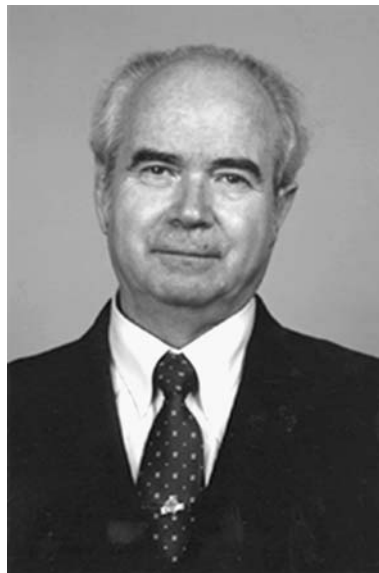


Obituary



Professor Jozsef Szejtli passed away on 26th November 2004 at the age of 70. Born in Nagykanizsa (Hungary), he received his education in chemical engineering at Budapest Technical University (Hungary), where he received a PhD degree in 1961. During 1963–1964 he was a Postdoctorate Fellow at the Technical University in Trondheim (Norway) and from there he moved to Germany, to the Institute of Nutrition in Potsdam, where he took up the position of Research Fellow (1965–1966). From 1967 to 1970 Jozsef Szejtli worked as the University Professor in Cuba (University of Havana). Following this period of seven years abroad, Jozsef Szejtli returned home to take up the position of Head of Biochemical Research Laboratory at the famous Hungarian CHINOIN Pharmaceutical & Chemical Works in Budapest. He served in this position from 1971 to 1988 where he developed the European cyclodextrin science, promoting all aspects of its progress from the fundamental research, through recognition studies on new applications, to marketing and propagation of knowledge in the field of cyclodextrin related science and development.

Jozsef Szejtli knew virtually everything about cyclodextrins and developed cyclodextrin technology in Hungary. When CHINOIN approached collapse, the CYCLOLAB laboratory, as an independent research organization, was established on Jozsef Szejtli's initiative and the obvious consequence was that he became its managing director. CYCLOLAB grew and evolved into a key organization in cyclodextrin technology and related science – chemistry, including pharmaceutical,

medicinal, food and agriculture, scaling-up of production processes to the industrial scale, and many, many others. In Spring 2004, at 70 years of age, Jozsef Szejtli retired from his position in CYCLOLAB, but he remained active in science. The tragic news of his death was extremely surprising to all of us who knew Jozsef as a very energetic person, full of new ideas and always ready to travel the world to propagate cyclodextrin news and technologies.

Professor Szejtli contributed not only directly to cyclodextrin science and technology, but he had outstanding merits in organizing international life in this field of research. It was on his initiative and with his involvement that the 1st International Symposium on Cyclodextrins (Budapest, 1981) was organised, from which a series of regular meetings was begun. Among his memberships in many scientific journals one is exceptional: the initiation and editorship of *Cyclodextrin News*, a journal recognised across the world for its reporting of news in this field and the journal which became a fundamental source of information for everyone active in the field, from students and scientists to industrial engineers and medical doctors. He also lectured at many summer schools on supramolecular chemistry and related sciences and will remain in the memories of his students as a person dedicated to his work and field of interest, and as a distinct and fascinating lecturer and advisor.

A great many of us shall also miss Jozsef Szejtli as a great friend. For the next generation he has left a very large scientific contribution consisting of more than 450

original papers, 6 books and more than 90 patents. From numerous awards and distinctions, the Academic Award (Budapest, 1986), Gold Medal of the Incheba (Bratislava, 1988), the Mot-Hennessy prize (Paris, 1991) and the Széchenyi prize (Budapest, 2003) should be emphasized as well as his activity in education at the

university level – he has been the Professor at Kossuth University, Debrecen since 1980.

We wish all the success possible to Professor Szejtli's followers and successors but understand that it will be very difficult to keep up the outstanding pace and enthusiasm Jozsef Szejtli had for all his activities.