

Professor MIKLÓS TIMÀR M.D., D.Sc.

Emeritus Professor MIKLÓS TIMÀR, former Head of the Occupational Health Department of "Haynal, Imre" University of Health Sciences (earlier Postgraduate School of Medicine, Budapest), first Director of the National Institute of Occupational Health, founding Editor-in-Chief of the Central European Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, contributing editor of the International Journal of Occupational Medicine and Environmental Health died on 8 April, 1995.

He was born in Kecskemét on 31 March, 1914 and graduated in Pécs in 1938 as a medical doctor. In 1945 he became interested in occupational health problems and joined the Industrial Health Department of the National Institute for Social Security. Based on his theoretical and practical knowledge, as well as research experience gained abroad he worked out plans for the establishment of an occupational health institute, including, professional tasks and organizational structure. In 1950 he was appointed director of the newly established National Institute of Occupational Health. He organized the practical hygiene and clinical units as well as the research units working in harmony with the former ones to ensure the scientific development of the profession. He was the Director of the Institute till his retirement in 1984. The profession needed his experience and knowledge also after 1984. Till September, 1994 he remained a member of the Occupational Health Professional Board and as an adviser he helped with everyday work of the Institute. With unbelievable efforts and a high level of competence he established the Central European Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. The first issue of the Journal appeared a few days before the death of Miklós Timár, Editor-in-Chief. Since 1987 he was active contributing editor of our International Journal of Occupational Medicine and Environmental Health.

He was also the founding President of the Hungarian Society for Occupational Health, president or leading member of several Hungarian scientific medical societies and committees of the Academy of Sciences, founding chief editor of the journal Munkavédelem (Occupational Health and Safety) and a member of the editorial board of several Hungarian and international journals (e.g. Egészségtudomány, Amer J Industr Med).

His scientific work was presented in more than 120 publications, six books and three chapters in books. In 1952 he was awarded Ph.D. and in 1985 D.Sc. degrees. As a part of his extensive scientific work, he summarized in his D. Sc. thesis results on the early diagnosis and epidemiology of pneumoconioses and on the experimental analysis of the biological effects of mineral dusts in animals.

Miklós Timár carried out scientific work, recognized internationally, on clinical and toxico-hygienic problems of several occupational chemicals. He was the first in the world to recognize the importance of the biological limit values which he termed biological MAC values (1949).



He was also among the first of those who drew attention to the non-specific occupational diseases which are termed today as "work-related diseases". For example he demonstrated already in 1949, that nonspecific respiratory diseases were more frequent among miners than among the general population.

Professor Miklós Timár played an outstanding role in the founding, development and teaching of his profession, a discipline, so important from the point of view of the health of both workers and the population as a whole.

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