

## **THE 2000 SYMPOSIUM ON NON-INVASIVE DIAGNOSTIC METHODS IN CARDIOLOGY**

The rapid development of industrial technology has had a great impact on the progress and refining of a broad range of techniques used in medicine; among other things, it has facilitated wider application of non-invasive diagnostic methods in health care. Czech and foreign specialists in cardiology have an opportunity to exchange information and present the latest achievements of their field at a symposium that, under the title of Non-invasive Methods in Cardiology, has been a regular part of the Progress in Medicine and Pharmacy Congress organised for the participants and visitors of the International Fair of Medical Technology held in Brno, Czech Republic, every year since 1992.

The outcomes of these annual meetings have demonstrated the importance and benefits of good inter-disciplinary cooperation, including basic research, clinical research, clinical practice and industrial technology, as well as flexible collaboration of institutes and departments on an international basis. The existing links between Austrian, US, French and Czech institutions have further been promoted because Professors Franz Halberg of the University of Minnesota, USA, and Thomas Kenner of the University of Graz, Austria, were awarded honorary doctorates of medicine at Masaryk University in Brno on the occasion of the 2000 year symposium.

The papers published in this issue and those to be published in the next are based on the selected contributions presented at the 8th symposium. Although the main topic of this 2000 year symposium was chronobiology and cardiovascular diseases, it also allowed for the presentation of results of both research studies and clinical trials related to non-invasive diagnostic methods. The papers range from highly theoretical, or even philosophical, approaches to field trials ready to be applied to clinical practice. The Czech authors are all affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine in Brno and their contributions are representative of the research carried out at Masaryk University. The fact that many of them were co-authors of joint papers with foreign scientists testifies to the good standard of scientific and clinical research at and international prestige of Masaryk University in Brno.

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