

## 2nd International Conference in Pharmacology: From Cellular Processes to Drug Targets Rīga, Latvia, 19–20 October 2017

### MEETING ABSTRACT

#### A1.5

##### **The contributions of Professor Modris Melzobs to the pharmacology of Latvia: commemorating his 90th anniversary**

Staņislavs JANKOVSKIS<sup>1,\*</sup>, Antons SKUTELIS<sup>2</sup>, Jānis BALTKĀJS<sup>3</sup>  
and Ardijs RANKS<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Faculty of Medicine, Rīga Stradiņš University, Riga, Latvia;*

<sup>2</sup>*Faculty of Pharmacy, Rīga Stradiņš University, Riga, Latvia;*

<sup>3</sup>*Latvian Society of Pharmacology, Riga, Latvia*

Professor Modris Melzobs was born in 1927 in the homestead "Ievīņi" in Alūksne parish. He studied at the Primary School in Paideri, at the Cesvaine Gymnasium, and graduated from Alūksne Secondary School with excellence in 1947. In 1953, he graduated from the Riga Medical Institute (RMI). From 1953 to 1957, he was a post-graduate student at the RMI, and started his career as lecturer at the Department of Pharmacology of the RMI. From 1966 to 1994 M. Melzobs was Head of the Department of Pharmacology, received a degree of Doctor of Medical Science, and a degree as Habilitated Doctor of Medicine, and was elected Professor. While leading the Department, he managed to maintain the Latvian language in pharmacology. He wrote four textbooks and ten teaching materials in pharmacology in Latvian, and took care of the young generation of scientists. Under his supervision seven doctoral theses have been defended, and he was a reviewer of 20 doctoral theses.

Professor Melzobs is the author of 230 scientific publications as well as of five inventions. His scientific areas of interest include: studies of cholinergic and adrenergic processes, calcium antagonists and antioxidant compounds. He presented scientific results at pharmacological conferences in Paris, Helsinki, Prague, Warsaw, San Francisco, as well as in the congresses of the Baltic Republics and the USSR. He published 75 popular articles devoted to science. In addition, Prof. Melzobs was a member of the Editorial Board of the journal *Pharmacology and Toxicology* (Moscow, Russia), and a Member of the Board of the USSR Pharmacology Society. He was the first President of the Latvian Society of Pharmacology (from 1972 to 1994). From 1998 Prof. Melzobs was State emeritus scientist. He was the first Chair of the Drug Register Committee (from 1997 to 1999) at State Agency of Medicines of the Republic of Latvia.

Professor Modris Melzobs has been awarded medals of outstanding scientists, such as Kravkov, Schmiedeberg, Grindel. Prof. Melzobs was a colleague with outstanding intelligence, versatile knowledge, and a high culture of behavior. He has devoted 45 years of his life to pharmacology, nearly 30 he taught pharmacology to thousands of young Latvian physicians, dentists and pharmacists.

**Keywords:** Melzobs, Modris – pedagogical activities – scientific activities – administrative activities

\*Corresponding author: Staņislavs Jankovskis, Faculty of Medicine, Rīga Stradiņš University, 16 Dzirciema Str., LV-1007, Riga, Latvia.  
E-mail: [stanislavs.jankovskis@rsu.lv](mailto:stanislavs.jankovskis@rsu.lv)