Egon Diczfalusy

19 September 1920
18 September 2016

in memoriam of his
100th birthday

The Five Epochs of Egon Diczfalusy's life

- Growing in his native Hungary
- The days at the Hormonlaboratoriet
- Founding the WHO Expanded Programme of Research in Human Reproduction
- Working for an ageing humanity
- ED phone home: The E&AD Foundation

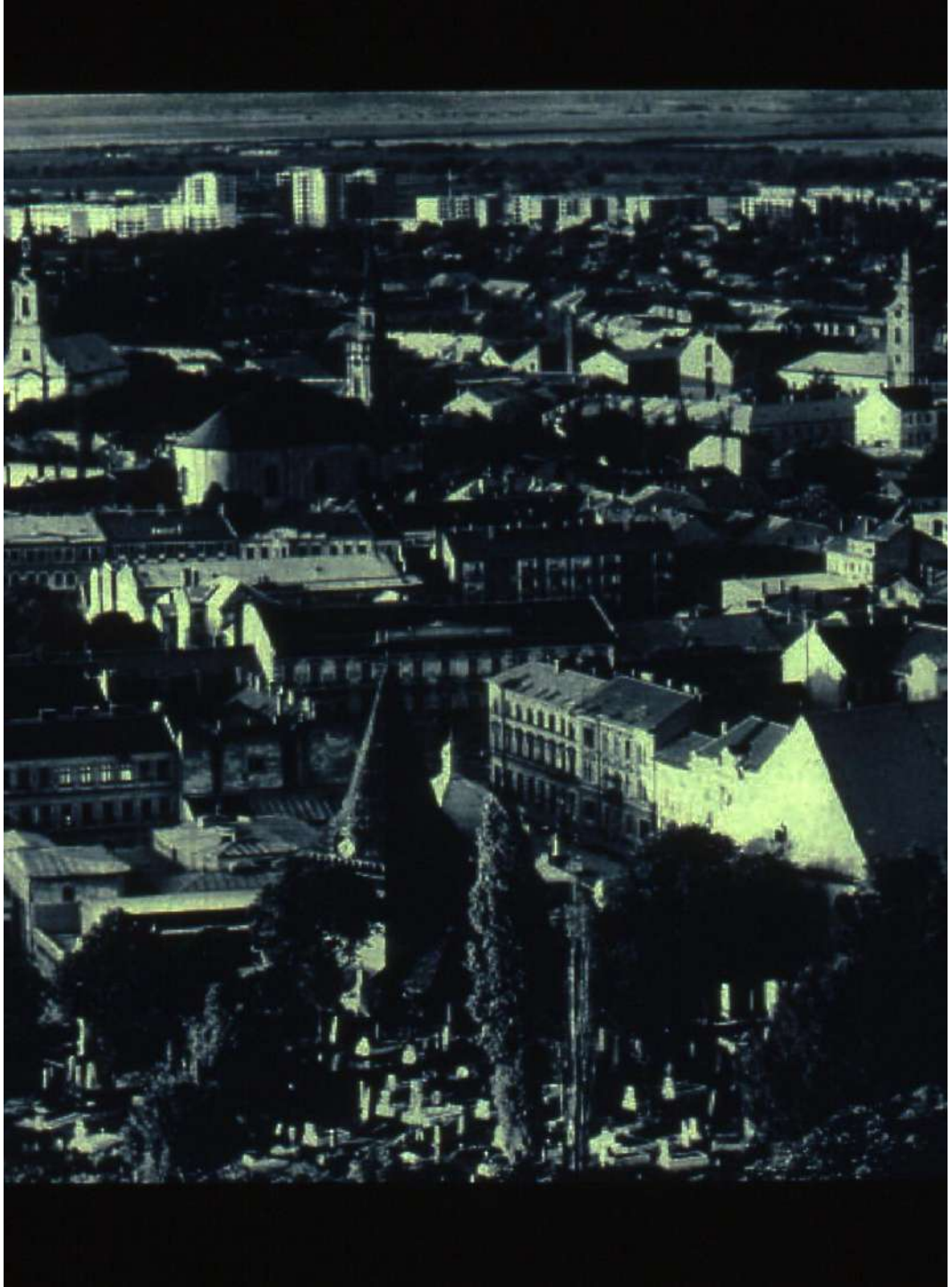
EGON'S FIRST LIFE

“A family in arms”

1894
The Wedding picture of Egon Diczfalusy's grand parents

Miskolc

Egon Diczfalusy birth place in north-eastern Hungary



Miskolc

An old picture of the street where he first lived

An autobiography
Egon R. Diczfalusy

The Sir Henry Dale Lecture for 1978

Reproductive endocrinology and the merry post-war period

“How did I become a reproductive endocrinologist? By the Hungarian approach. As a second year medical student at the University of Szeged, I was working in the Department of Pathology and Bacteriology of Professor György Ivánovics and my first task was to repeat a study by the Nobel laureate Prof. Hans von Euler and his co-workers in Stockholm, who found transaminase activity in suspensions of yeast and *E. Coli* bacilli”

“I just could not confirm their findings and my Professor felt that I must publish this. This negative report (Diczfalusy, 1942) was my first publication; it was probably instrumental in bringing me to Stockholm after the war, when I had the privilege of working as professor Hans von Euler’s assistant during the years 1946-1947”.

EGON'S SECOND LIFE

Nobel laureate
Hans von Euler,
Egon Diczfalusy's
First Professor
At the Karolinska
Institute in
Stockholm

The question of re-animation by bacterial cells

Sonderabdruck
*aus „Biochemische Zeitschrift" **313**, 75, 1942.*
Springer-Verlag, Berlin W 9.

Die Frage der Umaminierung durch Bacterienzellen.

Von

E. Diczfalusy.

(Aus dem Institut für Allgemeine Pathologie und Bakteriologie der kgl.-ung. N. v. Horthy-Universität in Szeged, Ungarn.)

(Eingegangen am 11. April 1942.)

Nach *Braunstein* und *Kritzmann* (1937) kann in den Organen der Warmblüter die NH_2-Gruppe der α-Aminosäuren infolge der Wirkung eines bis dahin unbekannten Ferments durch den Sauerstoff der Carbonylgruppe der α-Ketosäure ersetzt werden (1, 2). Der ersten Mitteilung folgten weitere (3, 4), aus denen zu ersehen ist, daß dieses Ferment, die *Aminopherase*, bloß einen Teil der Aminosäuren oxydiert: die Aminogruppe der Asparaginsäure, Glutaminsäure, Cysteinsäure Homocysteinsäure bzw. des Phosphoserins wird auf Brenztraubensäure, oder eine andere Ketosäure übertragen, die dabei zu der entsprechenden Aminosäure aminiert wird. Es zeigte sich, daß die Umaminierung der Glutaminsäure und der Asparaginsäure durch jeweils verschiedene Fermente bewerkstelligt werde (4, 10). Man spricht daher von Glutamico-Aminopherase und von Aspartico-Aminopherase. Die Aminopherase wurde zunächst in der quergestreiften und Herzmuskulatur in großen Mengen gefunden, später gelang der Nachweis derselben auch noch in anderen Organen (9), in bösartigen Geschwülsten (5, 6) sowie in den verschiedensten Pflanzenzellen (11, 13). Nach *Euler* und seinen Mitarbeitern enthalten auch Hefepilze und Colibazillen Aminopherase (8, 7). Diese Forscher fanden nämlich, daß durch die gewaschene Suspension der Colibazillen in Gegenwart von Asparaginsäure und Ketoglutarsäure Oxalessigsäure gebildet werde. War jedoch eine der beiden erstgenannten Säuren in dem System nicht vorhanden, dann blieb die Bildung der Oxalessigsäure aus. Aus dieser Beobachtung zogen sie den Schluß, daß Colibazillen die Umaminierung ebenso katalysieren wie tierisches Gewebe.

Durch die Colibazillenversuche von *Euler* und seinen Mitarbeitern sahen wir uns veranlaßt, die Versuche in bezug auf diese Frage fortzusetzen. Trotz zahlreicher Versuche, bei denen wir uns im wesentlichen an die Technik von *Euler* und seinen Mitarbeitern gehalten *hatten, gelang es uns jedoch nicht zu beobachten, daß Colibazillen — sei es in Gegenwart von Ketoglutarsäure + Alanin, sei es in Gegenwart von Ketoglutarsäure + Asparaginsäure — Brenztraubensäure bzw. Oxalessigsäure bildeten.*

ARKIV FÖR KEMI, MINERALOGI OCH GEOLOGI.
BAND 25 B. N:o 4.

Resistance of Escherichia Coli to Streptomycin Induced in vitro.

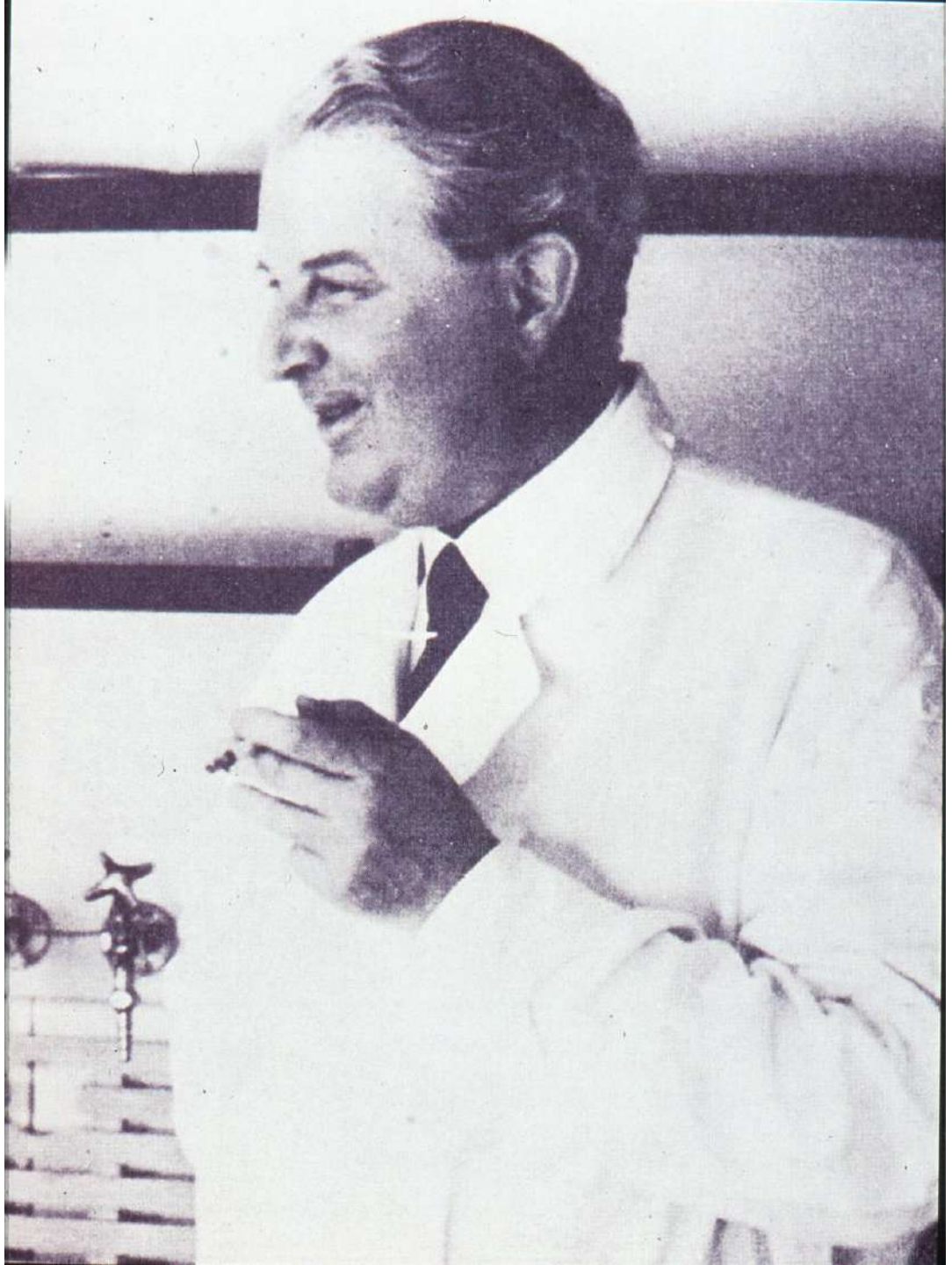
By

EGON DICZFALUSY and HANS von EULER.

Read October 8th 1947.

Axel Westman

Professor at Karolinska and second father to Egon.
He prematurely died in 1960.



He was Egon’s teacher in research in obstetrics and gynecology and was famous for his studies on tubal motility in rabbits; he created a small glass window into the abdomen and registered the tubal movements during 24 hours or longer.
He was also his master in teaching him the real Swedish way of drinking both "folkconjac" and genuine Martell.

ACTA PHYSIOLOGICA SCANDINAVICA

VOL. 16 FASC. 2—3

EXCERPTUM

*

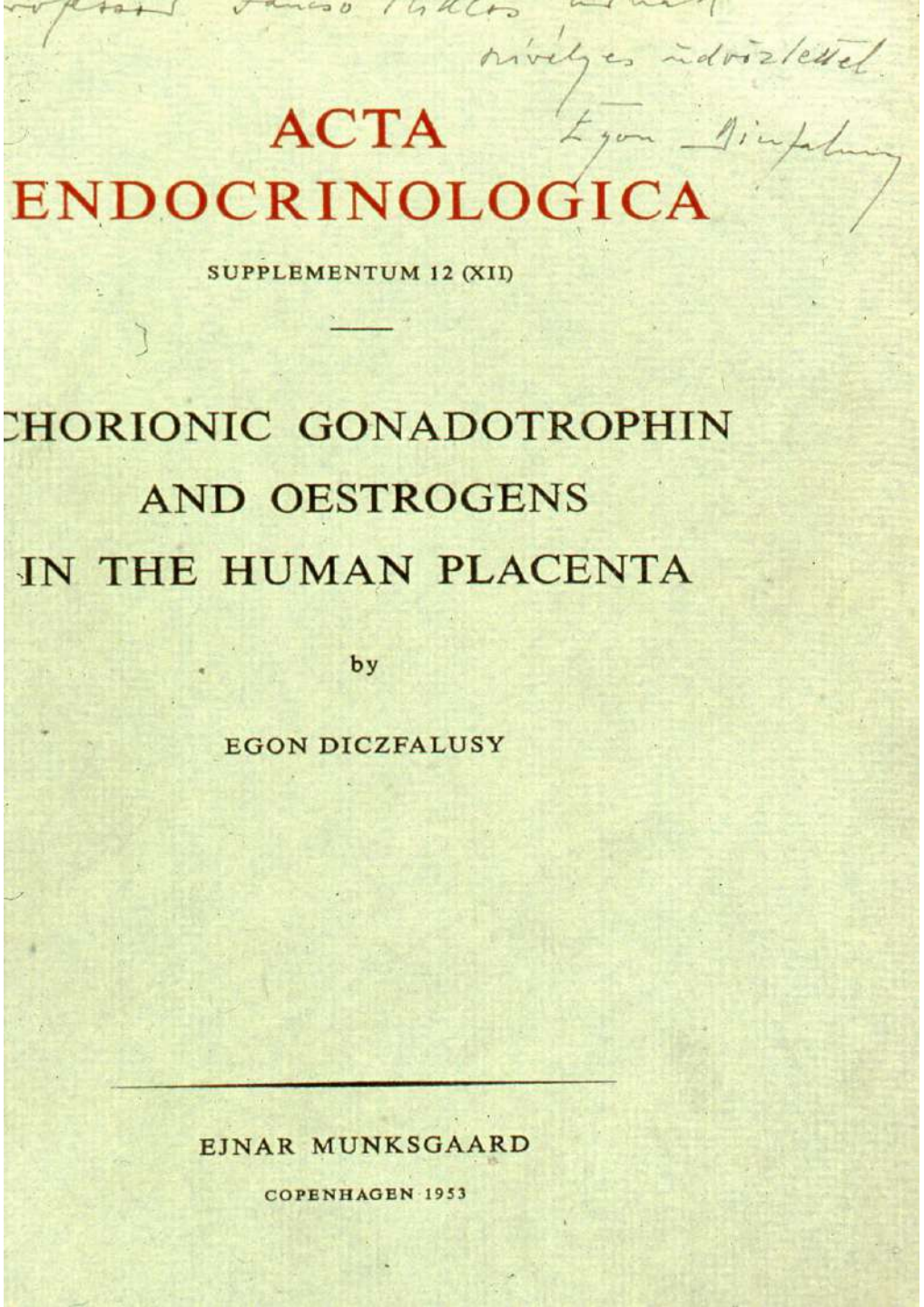
L. CLAESSON, E. DICZFALUSY, N.-Å. HILLARP and B. HÖGBERG

The Formation Mechanism of Oestrogenic Hormones. III. Lipids of the Pregnant Rabbit Ovary and their Changes at Gonadotropic Stimulation

Stockholm 1948 · P. A. Norstedt & Söner

29. XII. 1948

Egon Diczfalusy doctorate Thesis



ACTA
ENDOCRINOLOGICA

SUPPLEMENTUM 12 (XII)

CHORIONIC GONADOTROPHIN
AND OESTROGENS
IN THE HUMAN PLACENTA

by

EGON DICZFALUSY

EJNAR MUNKSGAARD

COPENHAGEN 1953

His first main international achievement

The Swedish press reports on a $ 500'000 grant to E. Diczfalusy by the Ford Foundation

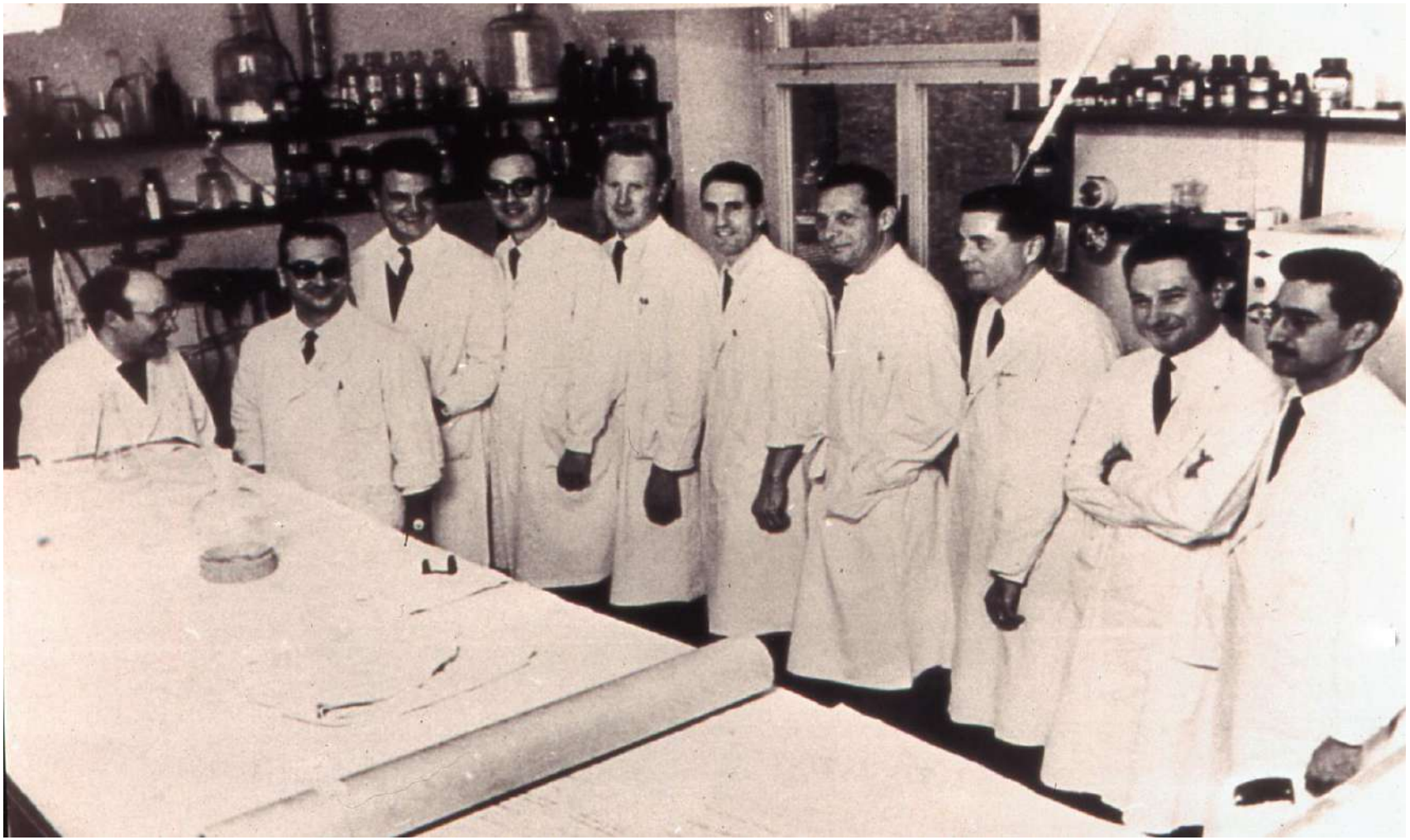
gjort mycket vackra insatser inom den gynekologiska endokrinologien. Han har haft förmånen att få förlägga sina forskningar snart sagt var han velat i världen, och det är mycket glädjande för institutet att han valt att stanna här. Det är också mycket flott av Ford Foundation att låta anslaget gå till Sverige.

Doc. Diczfalusy är född 1920, föreståndare för hormonlaboratoriet vid Karolinska sjukhuset och bosatt i Rönninge. Han blev dr. med. 1944 och med. dr. 1953. Samma år blev han också docent i Stockholm.

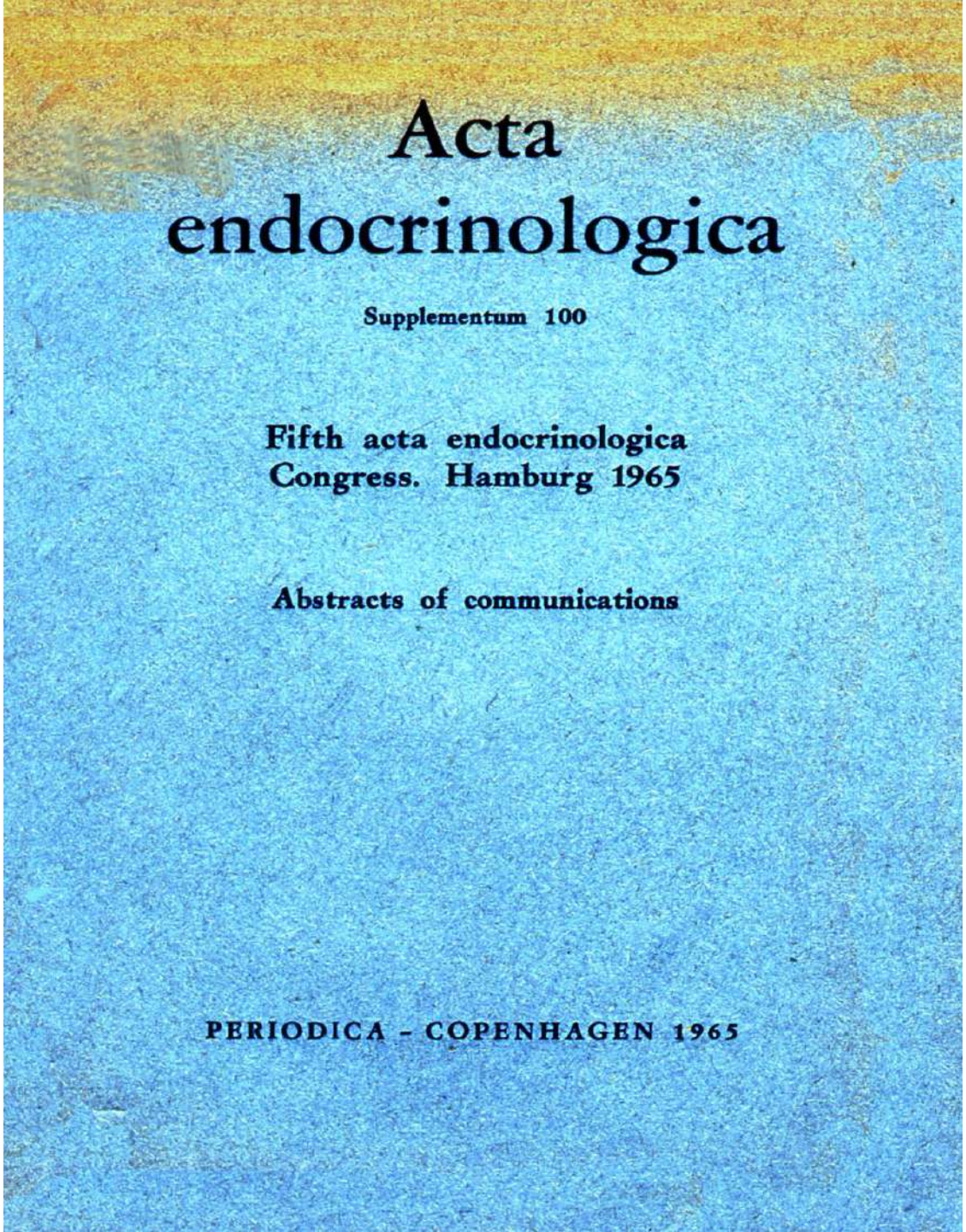
Enligt Ford Foundations ordinarie kommuniké skall penningarna användas till "forskningar i den mänskliga fortplantningens endokrinologi, för utrustning av laboratorier och för anställning av forskningspersonal".

Ford Foundation har tidigare utdelat stora anslag, som syftar till en lösning av världens befolkningsfråga (family planning). Anslaget till Karolinska institutet kan sägas gälla medicin i sociologiens tjänst. Vad doc. Diczfalusy sysslar med är grundforskning bakom "family planning". Med sina läroböcker inom hormonologien, de hormonpreparat

Foreign scientists at the Hormone Laboratory in 1975



The first meeting at which I presented a paper with Egon



5th Acta Endocrinologica Congress
Abstract No. 13

Acta endocr. (Kbh.)
Suppl. 100 (1965) 45

METABOLISM OF TESTOSTERONE AND ANDROSTENEDIONE IN THE HUMAN FOETUS

S. Mancuso, S. Dell'Acqua, G. Benagiano, N. Wiqvist & E. Diczfalusy

The Hormone Laboratory, Department of Women's Diseases,
Karolinska sjukhuset, Stockholm 60, Sweden

Reprint from
Research on Steroids
Transactions of the Second Meeting of the International
Study Group for Steroid Hormones
Rome, December 1965

Oestriol Metabolism in Midpregnancy

E. Diczfalusy and G. Benagiano [1]

Hormone Laboratory, Department of Women's Diseases,
Karolinska Sjukhuset, Stockholm, Sweden

KAROLINSKA SYMPOSIA
on Research Methods
in Reproductive
Endocrinology

ORGANIZED BY

Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm

WITH THE COLLABORATION AND SUPPORT OF

The World Health Organization

AND WITH A GRANT FROM

The Ford Foundation
New York

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

E. Diczfalusy, Sweden (Chairman)
E. Baulieu, France
J. Férin, Belgium
P. Hubinont, Belgium
B. Lunenfeld, Israel
L. Martini, Italy
K. J. Ryan, U.S.A.

The Contraceptive Revolution

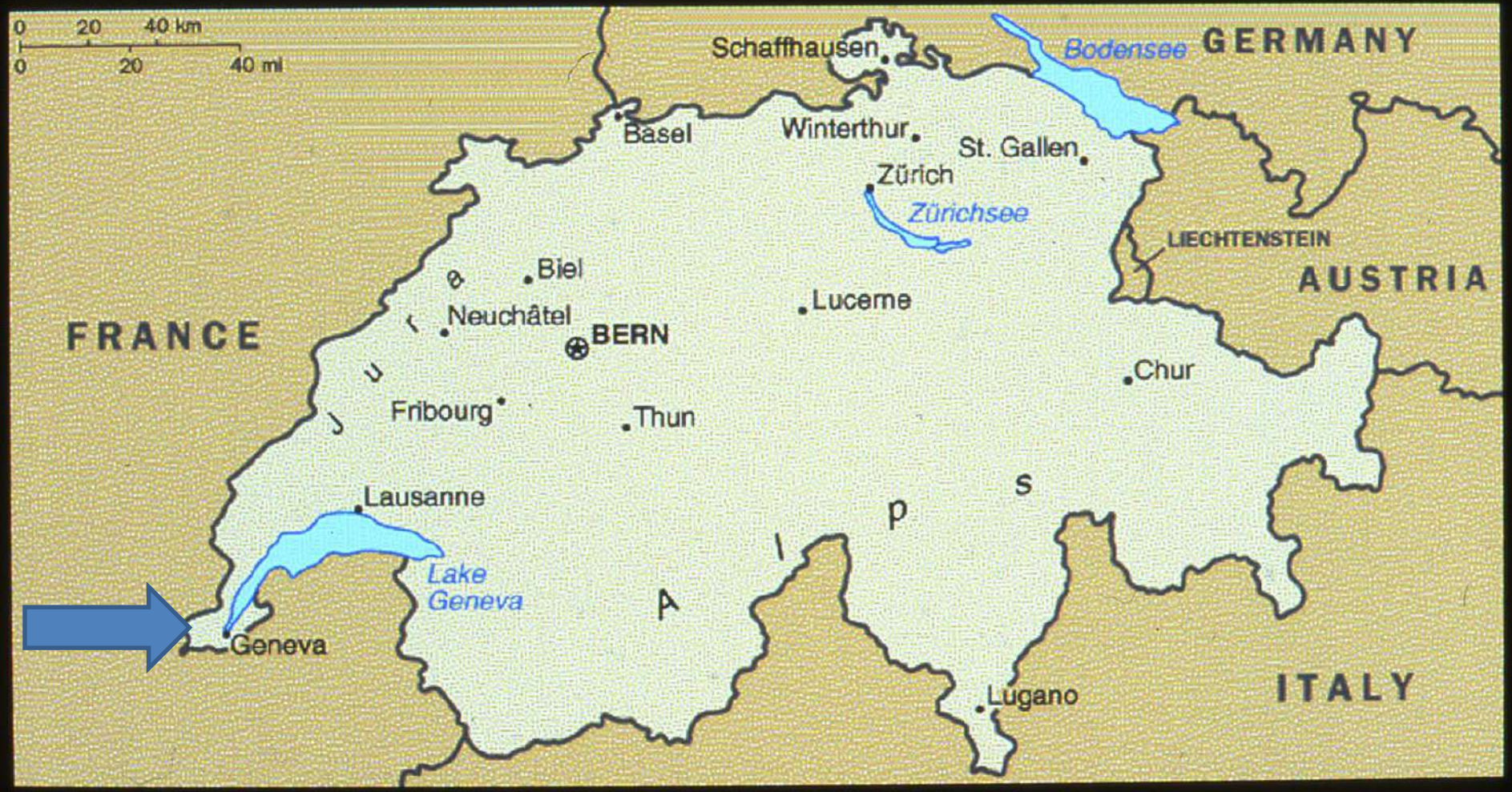
An Era of Scientific and Social Development

Egon Diczfalusy

The end and the beginning of an era:

Are you going to the Population Council because you will get a better salary, or because you like better the type of research they do there, or because you will be able to do better politicking there?

EGON'S THIRD LIFE



A modern interpretation of history is said to be based on the analysis of the history of ideas. The history of the second part of the 20th century represents an entirely new departure in this respect: for the first time in the history of mankind the policies emerging from World Conferences organised by the various Specialised Agencies of the United Nations broadened views and perceptions.

Egon Diczfalusy 1990

Research on Human Reproduction

L. Kovács and B. A. Resch

Research on Human Reproduction

25 years of achievement with the WHO Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction

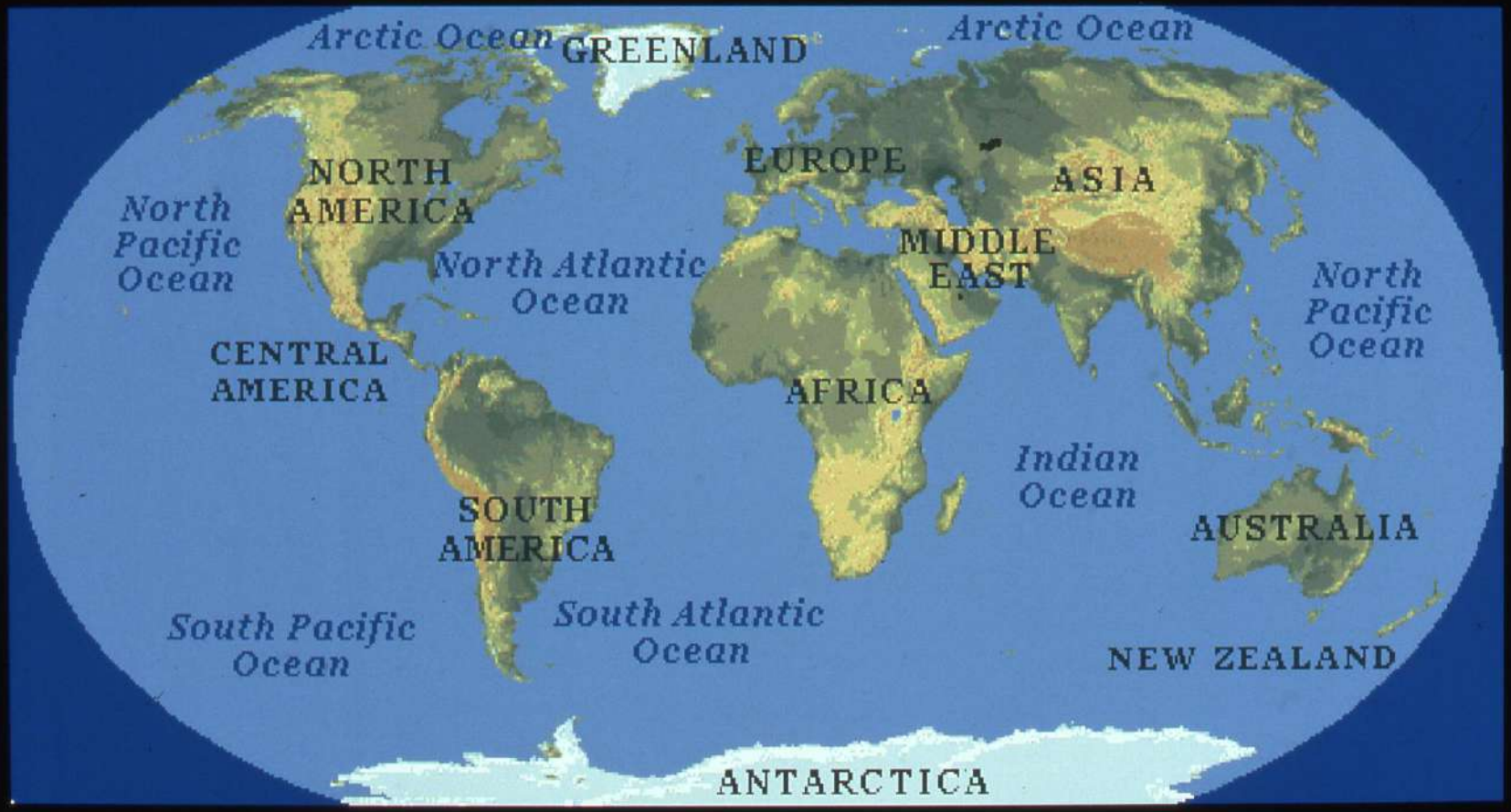
a Symposium to celebrate the 25th anniversary of WHO-HRP and its Collaborating Centres

Edited by L. Kovács and B.A. Resch

Proceedings of a Symposium organised jointly by the UNDP/UNFPA/World Bank/WHO Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction,
Geneva, Switzerland
and
WHO Collaborating Centre for Research in Human Reproduction,
Szeged, Hungary

13-14 October, 1997, Szeged, Hungary

EGON'S FOURTH LIFE



International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics 58 (1997) 177–188

International Journal of
GYNECOLOGY
& OBSTETRICS

Women and the third and fourth age

E. Diczfalusy*, G. Benagiano

UNDP / UNFPA / WHO / WORLD BANK Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction, Geneva, Switzerland

I myself represent the future. Yes, you heard right, I said the future. I represent the future of the past! As Paul Valéry puts it: *"Are you not the future of all memories stored within you? The future of the past"* .

Egon Diczfalusy, 2006

“The wind of new realities is blowing with increasing strength. It is up to us to decide whether we prefer protective windscreens or new types of windmills.”

“The demographic revolution and our common future. Too many grandparents for too few grandchildren: quo vadimus?”

by Egon Diczfalusy

Awarding of a Degree *Honoris Causa* by the University of Edinburgh

The Prince Mahidol Prize

EGONS FIFTH LIFE:
“ED Phone Home”

Return to the future: Szeged

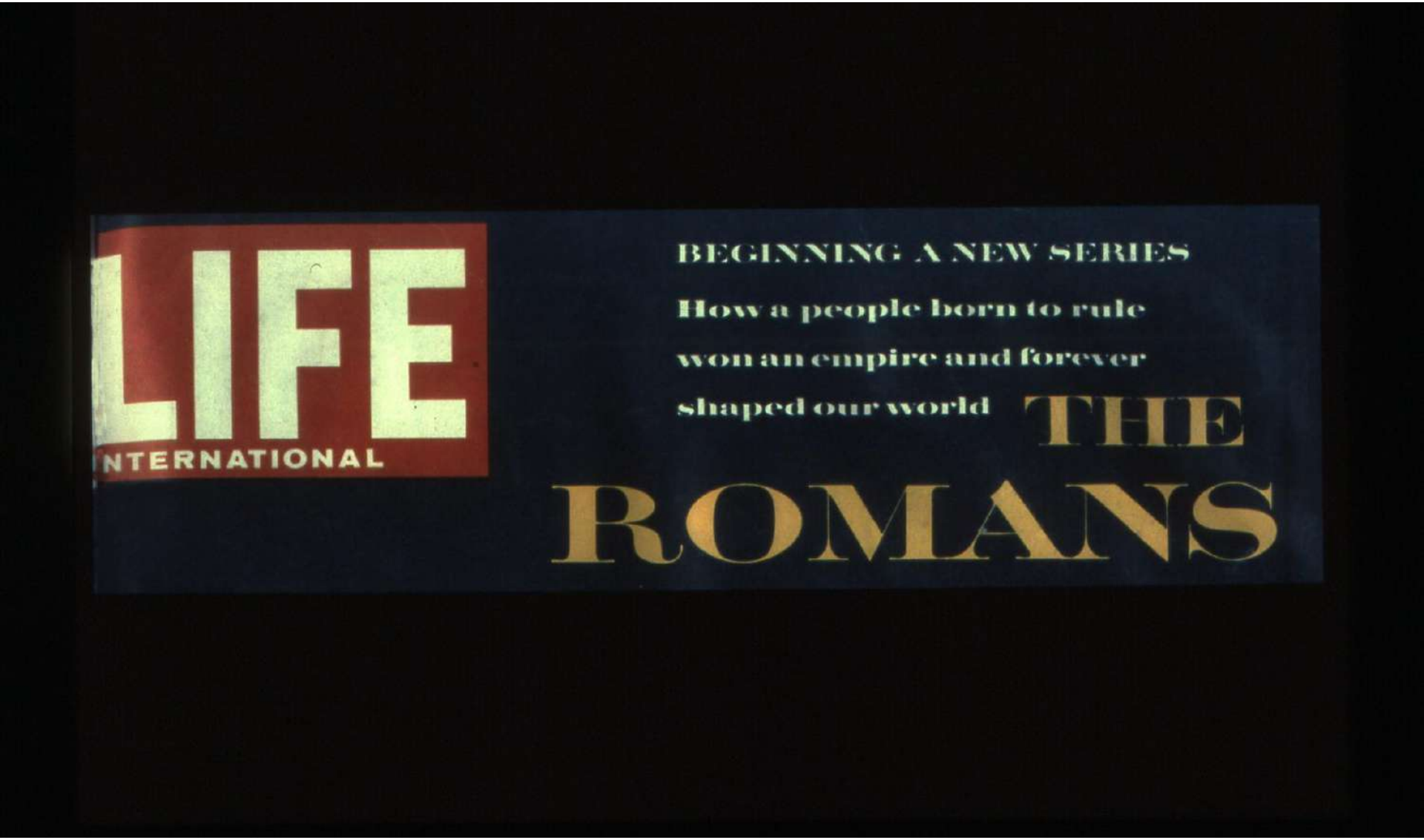

Prof. Diczfalusy Egon

for
supporting research in reproductive health

Empathy, Science, Hope **Medicina anchora salutis**

Announcing the establishment of the Egon and Ann Diczfalusy Foundation for the Support of Scientific Work conducted in the field of Reproductive Health

E-mail: csucs@obgyn.szote.u-szeged.hu



Egon did not found an Empire, but he forever shaped our lives

Tristo è quel discepolo che non supera il suo maestro

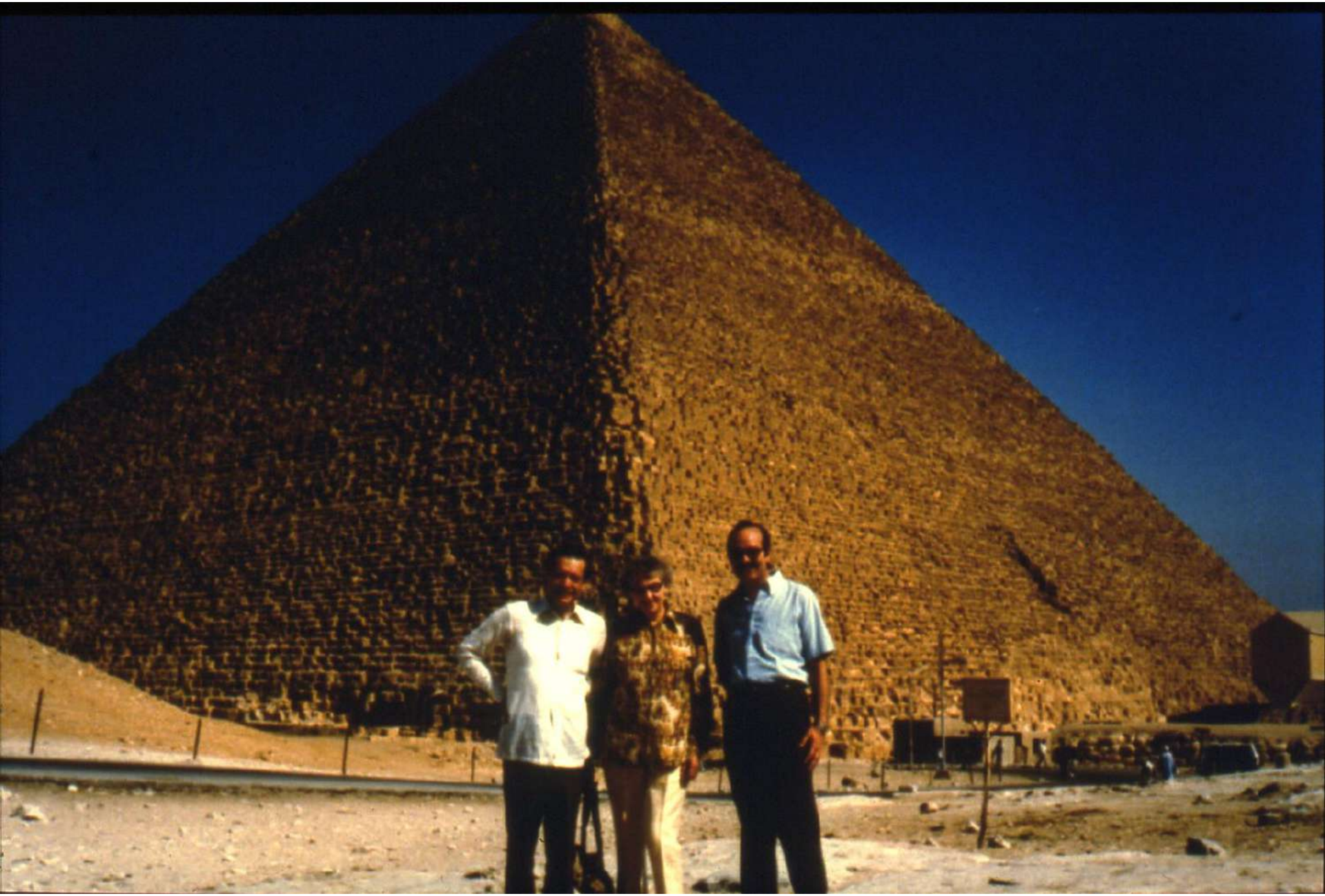
Unworthy is the disciple who does not overtake his master

Leonardo Da Vinci


Thank you for sharing these memories with me

The official story and the true (?) story

Egon Diczfalusy, professor emeritus
Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm
Sweden.




19


To Fino in Remembrance of things past and
a life-long friendship
Lörrach, 10 Dec. 1936
E