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– Journal of Reproductive Medicine and Endocrinology –

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Foreword

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Egon Diczfalusy was born in Miskolc/Hungary on September 19th, 1920. He completed his medical studies at the University of Szeged/Hungary in 1944. From 1947 on he worked at the Karolinska University Hospital in Stockholm/Sweden. As a scientist, he discovered the fetoplacental unit, and showed that the steroidogenesis in pregnancy reflects the close interaction between the maternal and fetal metabolism within the placenta. More than 200 Fellows from around the world have conducted research with him and still form a closely linked network.

Later, he became chairman of the “Special Programme of Research in Human Reproduction,” of the WHO/Geneva/Switzerland, one of the oldest and best known research programs of the World Health Organisation. During his tenure at WHO, he helped to build international research networks and focused on the new development of new agents for birth control, but also for the treatment of infertility in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and South America. In addition to numerous honorary doctorates, hundreds of lectures and publications he has written the following books:

- Endocrine Mechanisms in Fertility Regulation: Comprehensive Endocrinology (1983)
- The demographic revolution (1999)
- Oestrogene beim Menschen (2012)

Egon Diczfalusy has always been a dedicated idealist who has supported the framework of humanitarian actions, scientists and scientific institutions in developing countries for the last 35 years.

He established

“THE EGON AND ANN DICZFALUSY FOUNDATION”
dedicated to:

Empathy, Science, Hope

For him medicine is

Medicine anchora salutis

The umbrella organization of reproductive biology and medicine (DVR e.V.) in Germany congratulates a pioneer of reproductive medicine – Professor Egon Diczfalusy – to his 95th birthday and wishes him good health and vitality to witness the continuation of his foundation and its activities in the future.
Established in Szeged (Hungary) in 2007.

Why was the Foundation established in Szeged? Professor Egon Diczfalusy was born in 1920 in Hungary. He spent his youth in Szeged and his Alma Mater was the University of Szeged. Therefore, it was natural for him to choose the city of his youth as the seat of the Foundation.

Egon Diczfalusy became known worldwide for his outstanding achievement in the field of reproductive endocrinology. Until his retirement he headed the Reproductive Endocrinology Laboratory of the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden. This laboratory became part of the Swedish Medical Research council and was selected as a Research and Training centre of the World Health Organisation.

Egon Diczfalusy is a dedicated humanitarian and an idealist who spent 40 years of his life helping scientists and scientific institutions all over the Developing World.

Because of his background and of his generosity he decided that he also had to support his Alma Mater: He encouraged clinicians and researchers of the Szeged University to open themselves to the world and helped establishing scientific exchanges and collaboration in the Balkan countries. His initial aim was to establish links between researchers from more developed countries like Italy, Sweden, Germany and the USA with countries like Romania and Serbia.

To coronate this work, in 2007, he established The Egon and Ann Diczfalusy Foundation for the support of research in Reproductive Health. The Foundation is dedicated to maintain the legacy of Professor Egon Diczfalusy and his wife Ann.

Egon Diczfalusy is the scientist who discovered and characterised the feto-placental unit, demonstrating for the first time that steroidogenesis in pregnancy is the consequence of a close interaction between the maternal and fetal organism, via the placenta.
He also played a key role in the development of United Nations Interagency Programme under the leadership of the World Health Organisation, The Special Programme of Research in Human Reproduction.

A major part of his contribution consisted in leading the establishment of international networks of research devoted to the development of new fertility regulating agents and to combating the plight of infertility.

**Purpose of the Foundation**

- Supporting scientific work conducted in the field of reproductive health, recognising scientific results achieved so far.
- Launching new research programmes.
- Supporting the exchange of junior scientists.
- Promoting and supporting lectures and publications on the subject of reproductive health, and organising scientific events.
- Granting yearly the Diczfalusy Award, to acknowledge the scientific work carried out by a basic or a clinical scientist and her/his life-time scientific achievements.
- Presenting, also on a yearly basis, the Diczfalusy Medal to a researcher under the age of 40, working in the above-mentioned field.

This year, the 9th Diczfalusy Award Lecture Symposium is taking place in Novi Sad, Serbia. Hopefully this conference will be as successful as the previous ones and give an excellent opportunity to young researchers and clinicians from 3-state-area to obtain updated scientific information on the hot topics in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. The congress in this autumn will be a unique one because we celebrate Professor Egon Diczfalusy’s 95th birthday.

This Conference is jointly organised with the newly established German-Serbian Gynaecologic Society and has a strong support from the Serbia-Montenegro Society of Gynaecology and Obstetrics. The Conference also enjoys full support from the University of Novi Sad and the Municipality of the city.

The multicultural atmosphere – Serbian, Hungarian, German, Romanian heritage – and the outstanding cultural life of Novi Sad and Vojvodina will provide an excellent milieu to strengthen the collaboration and friendship among young clinicians and researchers all over Europe.
Serving women since 1901
Headquartered in Hungary, Gedeon Richter Plc is a European specialty pharmaceutical company built on innovation. The company is more than 110 years old. In addition to pharmaceutical manufacturing, its activities include research and development, trade and marketing. Richter sells its products through its own marketing network in nearly 100 countries. The company’s sales revenue exceeded 1.1 billion euros in 2014, and 36% of this was provided by its comprehensive range of gynaecological products.

World-class hormonal contraception
Gedeon Richter has been manufacturing gynaecological products since it was founded in 1901. Recognising the promise of organotherapy, a new therapeutic modality emerging at the turn of the 20th century, the founder, pharmacist Gedeon Richter, used his own proprietary procedure for the commercial manufacture of the natural adrenaline-based hormonal preparation, Tono-gen supranale, which established his reputation. In 1902, Mr Richter formulated two additional preparations containing endocrine hormones: Tabletta Ovarii and Tabletta Thyreoideae. He later marketed his medications containing extracts of various endocrine glands under the brand name Hormogland. At the end of the 1930s, there were more than 60 Hormogland preparations on the market in addition to about 100 conventional organo-therapeutic medications. The technology for isolating estrone was of fundamental significance; the industrial production of the crystalline version of estrone began at the beginning of the 1930s. This milestone coincided with the start of the research and development phase of the production of semi-synthetic steroids aimed at synthesising progesterone and testosterone from cholesterol. The 1950s saw the production of the key compound in hormone synthesis, which was used to produce sex hormones (progesterone, estrone, and testosterone), non-steroidal anabolic agents and oral contraceptives.

Starting at the beginning of the 1960s, the company introduced modern production technologies including sterile fermentation technology. The new technology introduced in 1972 made it possible to produce new active substances like norgestrel, levonorgestrel and their derivatives. Steroid R&D carried out during this era resulted in the development of a revolutionary, combined hormonal contraceptive, which first appeared in 1966 under the name of Infecundin tablets. Gedeon Richter was the first company to market a contraceptive product of this kind in Eastern Europe. The second-generation combination product Bisecurin, containing lower levels of the active substances, was a sign of the company’s remarkable development. In 1981, the company was already using a closed production line for hormonal tablet manufacturing as the group of steroids and related products continued to gain ground in both production and marketing.

On the basis of valuable experience gained from manufacturing hormones, the company now has a world-class steroidal chemistry knowledge base. Thanks to the many developments, the company has one of the most extensive gynaecological portfolios, including the most advanced contraceptives, emergency contraceptives, hormone replacement and anti-infective agents. The product range, which serves the needs of all age groups, was expanded with a new preparation in 2012. Since then ulipristal, an innovative drug which has received reimbursement status in countless countries has been offering patients an unparalleled opportunity to treat uterine fibroids and even giving them a chance to avoid surgery.

The continuous geographical expansion of its gynaecological division (Western Europe, China and Latin America in addition to the traditional markets), its original research capacity and its century of manufacturing experience have made Richter a global player in gynaecological pharmaceutical products.

We are proud that in the past 114 years we have helped to treat millions of women and contributed to improving their quality of life.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to world-renowned expert in obstetrics and gynaecology, Prof. Egon Diczfalusy on the occasion of his 95th birthday. His commitment and professional achievements in the area of women’s health protection are exemplary.

Erik Bogsch
Managing Director
Gedeon Richter Plc.
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