



## Pavel Šiffel

† 12<sup>th</sup> July 2003

*With feelings of deep pain, we regret to inform that our colleague and friend, RNDr. Pavel Šiffel, Ph.D. passed away. The tragic deaths of Pavel and his wife Gulja have brought enormous grief to friends and colleagues, while their children and parents must endure the deepest pain and mourning.*

*Pavel was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1954 in Žamberk (North Bohemia). After his graduation from the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of the Charles University in Prague in 1979, he continued with Ph.D. study at the Institute of Experimental Botany under the guidance of RNDr. Zdeněk Šesták, DrSc. who focussed Pavel's broad interest to biophysics of photosynthesis. Pavel's one-year stay at the A. N. Bach's Institute of Biochemistry in Moscow as a student of professor A.A. Krasnovkii left significant imprints in his professional knowledge and skills. In 1985, when he moved to České Budějovice (South Bohemia), he started to build laboratory oriented on biophysics of photosynthesis. He was a founder and became a head of the Department of Photosynthesis of the Institute of Plant Molecular Biology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.*

*Pavel was the leader in photosynthesis research. This enthusiastic and highly creative man had a surplus of ideas that he always generously shared with everyone. He was an extraordinary member of the department. His work in the biophysics of photosynthesis reveals the special gift of Pavel's creativity in both written scientific papers, and in the arrangement and "hardware" in his laboratories. Sorrowfully, generations of new ideas, construction of new unique instruments, and thorough supervision of his students have been terminated by his unexpected death. Pavel's first concern was always in the merit of a problem, and in the effort to solve it. He never compromised this priority for the sake of his own career advancement or prestige. Photosynthesis research in the Czech Republic, and throughout the world has lost a remarkable mind whose gifts and wisdom will promote the study of photosynthesis beyond his death. We have lost a reliable friend and extremely helpful person.*

*We will miss you both, Gulja and Pavel!*

*On behalf of Pavel's colleagues,*

J. ŠANTRŮČEK (České Budějovice)