

Professor Helena Illnerová

Born in Prague (Czech Republic) in 1937.

In 1961, Helena Illnerová graduated in chemistry (with a specialisation in biochemistry) from the Faculty of Science at Charles University in Prague. The same year, she began graduate studies at the Institute of Physiology of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (since 1993, the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, ASCR) where she has worked since that time. In 1966 she defended a CSc. (PhD) thesis on the topic "Production of Urea in the Rat Liver During Ontogenesis". In 1967, she earned the degree of RNDr. (rerum naturalium doctor). In 1990, she received a DrSc. degree for a doctoral thesis entitled "Regulation of Circadian Rhythms in the Rat Pineal Gland". Helena Illnerová lectures also at the Faculty of Science of Charles University. In 1989, she became a member of the Chamber of Elected Representatives of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, and since 1993 she has been a member of the Academy Assembly of the ASCR. Since 1993 she was a member of the Academy Council of the ASCR in the position of a Vice-President. Since March 2001 till March 2005 Helena Illnerová was President of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. Her main research interest is the time-keeping programme of mammals, including man, and the synchronisation of the circadian biological clock with the 24-hour-day and with seasons of the year. She has published more than 100 primary papers, one monography and many chapters in books. She is a member of the Advisory Council of the Society for the Research of Biological Rhythms in the U.S.A., the Czech Learned Society, the European Academy of Sciences and Arts (Salzburg) and the European Academy of Sciences (Brussels). She has been invited to lecture or to chair sessions at numerous international conferences and symposia, e.g., repeatedly at Gordon Conferences. Currently she is a member of Scientific Councils of ASCR, of Charles University in Prague and three of its faculties, of the Masaryk University in Brno and of the Institute of Physiology of the ASCR. In the years 2001-2007, she was a member of the European Research Advisory Board (EURAB). At present, she is President of the Committee for Scientific Integrity of the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic.

Professor Helena Illnerová was awarded by the Medal of Merit of the Czech Republic, Second Grade, by the Award of the Ministry of Education of the Czech Republic, First Grade and by the Golden Medal of the Charles University in Prague.