

Prof. RNDr. Ing. LUBOMÍR KUBÁČEK, DrSc., Dr.h.c.
– NONAGENARIAN

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Mathematical Institute
Slovak Academy of Sciences

Age is a question of mind over matter.
If you don't mind, it does not matter!

Anonymous

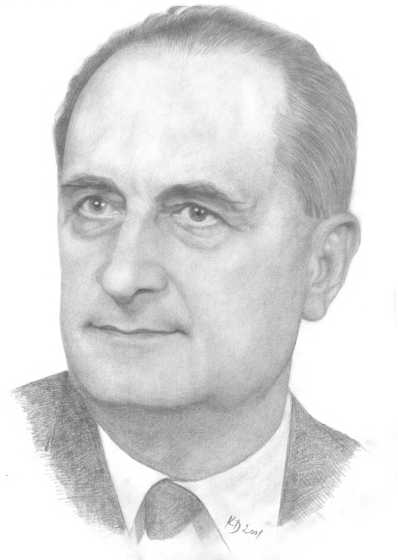
Dear Luboš, Dear Professor Kubáček!

In several days, on February 1, 2021, to be precise, you will celebrate a magnificent life anniversary, your 90th birthday. When you look back over the 90 years, we hope that your memories are warm and mostly happy. You are without any doubts considered the founder of the Slovak school of mathematical statistics.

We, your former students and co-workers, would like to take this opportunity to take together a journey over time. Let's look back through those years and recall just a few of your outstanding achievements.

You were born in Bratislava. After graduating in geodesy at the Faculty of Civil Engineering of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava in 1954, you started your work at the Geodetic Institute in Bratislava, where you stayed from 1954 until 1962. By your nature, you weren't entirely satisfied with your educational achievements, so you continued your studies and obtained two more degrees. This time both were from the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Comenius University, the first in mathematical analysis in 1957 and the second in probability & mathematical statistics in 1964.

In 1962 you joined the Institute of Theory of Measurement of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, where you stayed in different capacities, e.g., as the head of the Department of Theoretical Methods, until 1981. In the meantime, in 1980, you were awarded the degree of Doctor of Science. Your activities during those years went far beyond pure research. For example, in the '70s, together with Professor Andrej Pázman and Associate Professor Sylvia Pulmannová you founded the series of conferences whose name PROBASTAT became and still is famous all over the world. It was during those politically and socially not-easy years that you very successfully attracted young men and women interested in probability and statistics to work and study with you. It was during that time that the four of us, as well as many others, had the privilege to work with you and



to know you. We shall never forget the regular weekly “Wednesday seminars”, which attracted statisticians not only from Bratislava but also some who travelled from Brno and Žilina to be part of the growing “statistical school” in Slovakia. Over the years, some became quite senior, and some became distinguished statisticians and mathematicians, well established at home and abroad.

Starting in 1981, you became a senior researcher at the Mathematical Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, and eventually, from 1988-1991 you served as its director. In 1991, you were appointed full professor. In 1987 you became a Corresponding Member of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and in 1991 a Corresponding Member of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. You are an honorary member of the Learned Society of Slovakia, and in 2002 you were awarded the honorary degree Dr.h.c. of the Faculty of Civil Engineering of the Slovak University of Technology.

Your list of achievements does not end here. You were awarded a plethora of awards and medals, a selection of which we mention here,

- In 1975, the Prize of the Slovak Medical Society for the best scientific publication,
- Silver Honorary Aurel Stodola Plaque for merits in technical sciences,
- Memorial Medal of the anniversary of the Slovak University of Technology for significant merits in the development of the Slovak University of Technology,
- Honorable Mention by the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Comenius University for merits in the development of the Faculty, mathematical-physical sciences, and its education,
- Gold Honorary Plaque of Juraj Hronec for merits in mathematical sciences,
- Gold Plaque of Bernard Bolzano for merits in the development of mathematical sciences,
- Gold Medal of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Comenius University,
- Medal of the Slovak Academy of Sciences for merits in the development of science,
- Memorial Medal of the President of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic,
- Honorary Plaque of the chairman of the Slovak Office of Geodesy and Cartography for merits in the development of geodesy and cartography,
- in 2011, Gold Medal of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, for lifelong scientific achievements.

In 1995 you left Slovakia and became the head of the Department of Mathematical Analysis and Applied Mathematics of the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Palacky University in Olomouc in the Czech Republic. Your charisma, again, helped you to establish a statistical group from scratch. You supervised and co-supervised more than 18 doctoral students who eventually gained solid reputations, nationally and internationally. In 2013, you retired from Olomouc and moved back to Bratislava, where you enjoy the life and company of your wonderful dear family.

Luboš, your technical background, mathematical knowledge, and brilliant mathematical-technical skills result and transpire in your research papers. You keep finding open statistical problems motivated by concrete applications. You have a unique way of dissecting the problem, solving it, and formulating the abstract solution with far-reaching applications in a myriad of areas. In statistics, you are an expert in linear models and mixed linear models, whose applications reach into geodesy, geophysics, medical research, and measurement theory, to name a few areas. We do not know when was the last time you counted – you are the author and co-author of more than seven scientific books, 130 papers in mathematical and statistical journals, 90 papers dealing with applications, six lecture notes, 20 research reports and ten popularization articles. Your results have been cited in more than 450 scientific papers. It should be mentioned here that you had an important and faithful collaborator – your wife Ludmila (1934–2004), with whom you wrote a number of joint scientific works. The complete list of your publication activities until 2001 can be found in [1].

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By the occasion of your 90th birthday, we, all your former and current colleagues, students, friends, the entire Slovak and Czech mathematical community wish you good health, a lot of satisfaction and joy in your wonderful family and also many productive new ideas in finding open problems and a lot of energy in solving them.

Happy 90th Birthday, Professor Lubomír Kubáček!

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