



Palacký University
Olomouc

Selection of World Famous Alumni, Scientists and Honorary Doctors

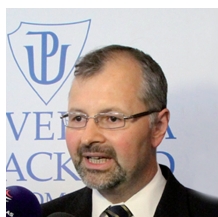
A large number of important and world-renowned experts graduated from Palacký University in Olomouc. Many international scientists received their doctor honoris causa degrees from Palacký University. They include the following personalities:

ALUMNI AND SCIENTISTS



GREGOR JOHANN MENDEL

This natural scientist, the founder of genetics, and the discoverer of the rules of heredity, studied at the Philosophical Faculty of Palacký University in Olomouc in the years 1840–1843. He entered the Augustinian St Thomas's Abbey in Brno in 1843 and later became the abbot of the monastery. He was interested in physics and mathematics, and thanks to the study of these disciplines, he realised the importance of mathematics and statistics in explaining natural processes.



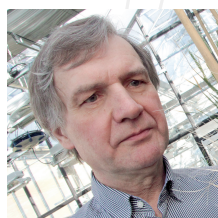
BOHDAN POMAHÁČ

A graduate in Medicine from the UP Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and a pioneer in the area of face transplants. He has been exploring the terra incognita of facial transplants since 2004; today the medical director of the Burn Center, in the Brigham and Women's Hospital Boston. His team has performed several unique transplant procedures during reconstructions of severely damaged human faces.



JIŘÍ BÁRTEK

Graduated from the UP Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Bártek is the most cited scientist of Czech origin today and one of the most important Czech scientists in the field of the biological research of the cell cycle in normal and tumour cells. He is currently Head of the Department of Cell Cycle and Cancer in the Danish Cancer Society, Copenhagen. He also participates in the scientific programme at the Institute of Molecular and Translational Medicine in Olomouc.



JAROSLAV DOLEŽEL

Doležel is Scientific Director of the Centre of the Region Haná for Biotechnological and Agricultural Research and the head of the research program Novel Materials and Methods for Plant Breeding. Since 1983 he has been working for the Institute of Experimental Botany at the Academy of Sciences. His scientific specialisation is plant gene structure and evolution, flow cytometry application to nucleus genome analysis, and genome mapping and sequencing of agriculturally important crops. He is the author of more than 150 scientific papers in impacted journals.



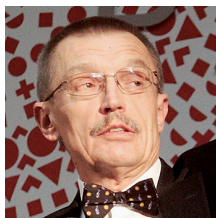
PAVEL HOBZA

Hobza is the most-cited scientist living in the Czech Republic and the discoverer of improper hydrogen bonding who received the most important Czech award for science, Czech Mind, in 2008 for this discovery. He is located mainly at the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry, the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague. He has been recently focussed on designing new drugs in silico. He is the author of more than 500 works, with over 28,000 citations. He has been introducing top Czech scientists to Olomouc students in the lecture course Contemporary Chemistry for ten years.



JINDŘICH ŠTREIT

A world-famous Czech social-documentary photographer, a pedagogue, and an alumnus of the UP Faculty of Education. His early work consisted of collections on the theme of the Roma; his main contribution is seen in the depiction of the village, privacy, and human relationships. He managed to capture the collectivised socialistic village of the "real socialism" era in the rather limited space of a few villages where he used to live in the 1980s, expressing the feeling of those times and adding a distinctive artistic statement upon human destiny.



EMIL VIKLICKÝ

Although he graduated from Mathematics at the UP Faculty of Science, he gained world reputation as a jazz composer and pianist. Besides recording studio albums with prominent jazz musicians (such as Joe Newman, pianist James Williams and one of the best guitar players today, Bill Frisell), and creating a synthesis of Moravian folk music and jazz, he has also composed contemporary classical music.

HONORARY DOCTORS



VÁCLAV HAVEL

Václav Havel was the former president of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic, a playwright and essayist, whose works have a strong philosophical character. He paid attention to language as the instrument of human knowledge and interpersonal communication and to the detrimental impact of deformation and abuse of the word. He was awarded the honorary degree also for a distinct ethical dimension pervading his work, in which he followed the best traditions of Czech philosophical thinking. Václav Havel is a symbol of a man who was exemplary in his generous and selfless effort to share and use his wisdom, education, and artistic skills not only to benefit his homeland but all of humanity. He passed away on December 18, 2011. Honorary doctorate degree was conferred on May 28, 1990.



SIMON WIESENTHAL

Simon Wiesenthal was a world-famous personality and a specialist in the area of law and its application in the extreme conditions of acts of war, in the fight for the human rights of nations, ethnicities, and races, and in the resistance against totalitarian injustice in all its forms and against the statute of limitations of the gravest war crimes. He located more than 1000 missing Nazi war criminals. Honorary doctorate degree was conferred on May 30, 1996.



GÖRAN SANDBERG

An important experimental biologist from Sweden and an expert in forest biotechnology research. His findings have been applied in the wood-processing and paper-making industries. He significantly participated in mapping the full genome sequence of black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*), the first tree species to be sequenced. Sandberg has more than two hundred publications and two dozen patents. He obtained the highest university honour for his long-term scientific cooperation with the Faculty of Science at Palacký University and his exceptional contribution in the development of its departments and workplaces. Honorary doctorate degree was conferred on March 26, 2014.



MICHAEL BECKERMAN

One of the most important musicologists today whose specialisation is the work of Leoš Janáček, but also Antonín Dvořák and Bohuslav Martinů. Beckerman is also a keen admirer of and expert on traditional Moravian folk music. He was granted an honorary doctorate degree at Palacký University for his development of musicology and contributions for Czech culture. This outstanding scientist, pedagogue, and artist has been systematically building a close relationship between Czech and American Music Studies since the 1970s. He has visited Olomouc repeatedly. Honorary doctorate degree was conferred on November 12, 2014.