

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF BIORHEOLOGY  
PLENARY SESSIONS DEDICATED TO THE  
MEMORY OF AHARON KATCHALSKY

Amphithéâtre A, Université Claude-Bernard, Lyon, France, 5 September 1972

THE PRESIDENT'S OPENING ADDRESS

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*Mr. Honorary President, Ladies and Gentlemen*

I SHOULD like to thank Professor CIER, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Université Claude-Bernard for having kindly consented to be the Honorary President\* of this our I. International Congress here at Lyon.

Today's three Plenary Sessions are honoring the memory of AHARON KATZIR-KATCHALSKY, so are three communications from Professors Kamiya, Oka and Tamamushi. To our great regret Professors KAMIYA and TAMAMUSHI cannot be here with us today. There is a total of 15 lectures which will be dedicated to AHARON KATCHALSKY. They will be published in *Biorheology*, the official journal of our Society.

As you know, AHARON KATCHALSKY was one of the Editors of *Biorheology* since the founding of our journal 10 years ago. GEORGE SCOTT BLAIR and I have, therefore, designated the September 1972 issue of *Biorheology* as the "Katchalsky Memorial Issue". It contains two obituaries written by us on our dear friend Aharon.

There is no event which shocked and moved us deeper than the news of the death of Aharon. The life of this wonderful person ended in the most despicable way, as expressed in the telegram which I received from his secretary at the Weizmann Institute. It reads: "We most bitterly regret to inform you that Professor Aharon Katchalsky was murdered at Lydda airport by assassins working on behalf of Arab terrorists. Ruth Goldstein, Secretary, Polymer Department."

In my capacities as President of our Society and of this our First Congress I decided to devote today's Plenary Sessions, at which Aharon expected to be one of the speakers, to his memory and I asked Professor ALEX SILBERBERG, one of his closest associates in the Polymer Department of the Weizmann Institute of Science, to give the Memorial Address. Soon after I heard of the great tragedy, I conveyed this decision telegraphically to Professor SILBERBERG and to the Weizmann Institute of Science. The President of the International Union of Pure and Applied Biophysics, Professor J. C. KENDREW, made this known in his address at the opening ceremonies of the IV. International Biophysics Congress on 7 August at Moscow. It appears that our Plenary Sessions today are the first of a series of events in countries other than Israel which are memorials to AHARON KATZIR-KATCHALSKY, who, in the French meaning of the word, was a true savant.

\* Professor Marcel Bessis, who was also Honorary President, was unable to participate in the Congress.

May I ask you to stand up and honor in silence our friend and colleague AHARON KATZIR-KATCHALSKY.

(SILENCE)

Thank you very much.

Please be seated.

Professor SILBERBERG will now give the Memorial Address.