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PRESS RELEASE

Prof. Pavel Hobza received Schrödinger medal for 2017

Prague, September 1, 2017 – Prof. Pavel Hobza from the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry of the Czech Academy of Sciences (IOCB Prague) received prestigious Schrödinger medal during the awarding ceremony at World Association of Theoretical and Computational Chemists (WATOC) congress in Munich on August 30, 2017. The WATOC Schrödinger medal is awarded each year to one outstanding theoretical and computational chemist.

Pavel Hobza works in the field of theoretical and computational chemistry. He was awarded Schrödinger medal for the year 2017 for his outstanding work on noncovalent interactions. His accomplishments are well known, particularly his discovery of an improper blue-shifting hydrogen bond. He also proved that stacking interactions governed by one type of noncovalent interactions, so called dispersion energies, are responsible for the DNA structure.

“Noncovalent interactions are responsible for many essential things, such as the structure and properties of water or structure and properties of biomacromolecules. For example, the double-helical structure of DNA, which is indispensable for transfer of the genetic information, exists solely due to noncovalent interactions,” says Pavel Hobza, who is the most cited Czech scientist. According to Thomson-Reuters he also belongs among world’s 1% of the most cited scientists in the field of chemistry in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

“Pavel Hobza received the highest possible appreciation from the World Association of Theoretical and Computational Chemists, the Schrödinger medal, for his pioneering studies of noncovalent interactions, which are essential in biosciences, chemistry and other disciplines,” commented his colleague, Professor Pavel Jungwirth (IOCB Prague) on the importance of Hobza’s work.

WATOC awards two types of medals each year: the Schrödinger medal to senior scientists, and the Dirac medal to scientists under the age of 40. Following Josef Michl (IOCB Prague) in 1992, Pavel Hobza is the second Czech Schrödinger medal laureate in history.

The Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry of the Czech Academy of Sciences / IOCB Prague (www.iocb.cz) is a leading scientific institution in the Czech Republic, recognized internationally. Its primary mission is basic research in the fields of chemical biology and medicinal chemistry, organic and material oriented chemistry, chemistry of natural compounds, biochemistry and molecular biology, physical chemistry, theoretical chemistry, and analytical chemistry. The Institute has a long tradition and expertise in medicinal chemistry and drug development together with the pharma industry. Antivirals discovered by Antonín Holý and developed further by Gilead Sciences revolutionized the treatment of AIDS and hepatitis B and have significantly improved lives of millions of people around the globe.

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