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The twentieth conference in the series of the Czech structural biology "Discussions" enables a retrospect to realize a few key changes in this field of science in the Czech Republic. The annual Discussions initiated by Bohdan Schneider in 2002 have become an important meeting point for the Czech and Slovak structural biologists, contributing not only to the growth of the individual laboratories and working groups active in the field but also later contributing to the formation of the important underlying infrastructure for structural biology. The rural environment of Nové Hradky in South Bohemia together with the unmistakably charming atmosphere of the Castle have been empowering the meetings to secure a pleasant environment for scientific exchange, new friendships, and maturation of students and young scientists. Many of the then-students from the first years of the Discussions have become esteemed researchers in the field, also with the contribution of these annual get-togethers.

The Discussions' organization throughout the years relied on support from many organizations and institutes of the Academy of Sciences, including the Czech and Slovak Crystallographic Association, University of South Bohemia, Institute of Biotechnology, later also the Czech Society for Structural Biology, Masaryk University, and the Council of Scientific Societies of the Czech Academy of Sciences. The history of the Discussions meetings is accessible online on <https://cssb.structbio.org/>.

Nowadays, the structural biology community has many successful research teams and can rely on a well-established and maintained infrastructure providing not only instrumentation but also expertise and service-level access to the latest techniques, as available (not only) in the Czech Infrastructure for Integrative Structural Biology. Thanks to the developments in the community more than fifteen years ago, a tight connection to the European infrastructure for structural biology Instruct has been established, amongst others by establishing the Czech Society for Structural Biology in 2010. Since 2011 the Discussions have been mainly organized by CSSB and since 2018 also connected with the User meeting of CIISB and supported by the infrastructure. Since 2016 the Prizes of CSSB for outstanding talks and poster presentations have been awarded to 28 students and the last year's Discussions have seen the first winner of the Prize for the best PhD thesis in structural biology.

Once again, accept our invitation to science, relaxation, and fun in Nové Hradky.

Jan Dohnálek
Chairman of the Czech Society for Structural Biology

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