

Miroslav Broul Prize

As part of the StudKon student conference, a competition for the best presentation will be held in two categories – a talk and a poster.

The basic rules for both types of presentations are listed in the instructions for authors. The lecture is limited to 15 minutes, with an additional 5 minutes reserved for related discussion. Poster presentations will be part of the afternoon program. All presentations and discussions will be in English.

The presentations will be evaluated by a committee consisting of members of the doctoral councils and other conference guests including academics, researchers and experts. The three best participants will receive prizes in the form of extraordinary scholarships of 10, 7.5 and 5 thousand CZK. The scientific level, originality, the presenter's own contribution and their ability to engage with the audience and discuss substantively will be evaluated. The committee takes into account the student's year of study, so both students before the end of their studies, presenting the comprehensive results of their work, and first-year students presenting an ambitious project with a clear vision, can succeed.

For students in lower years, a presentation on the thesis topic is expected. The relevance, ambition, and feasibility of the goals, chosen methodologies, and work schedule are assessed. The outlook of the work must be supplemented with at least preliminary results.

Students in advanced years are expected to present their own results and the conclusions they draw. The achievement of partial and overall goals and the method of solving the identified problems are assessed.

Talk and poster must have the usual components of a scientific presentation: the state of knowledge, finding a gap in it, at least one testable hypothesis and a clear statement of what progress has been achieved. Students' own contributions should be recognized.

Evaluation criteria:

- **Scientific level** – relevance of the topic in the national and global context, originality and ambition of the work, hypotheses and proposed methods and procedures for solutions.
- **Student's own contribution** – enthusiasm for the work, ability to present one's own results in a factual manner and realistically estimate their impacts, ability to analyze the achieved results and draw relevant conclusions or proposed solutions from them.
- **Formal skills** – speaking and presentation skills, mastery of the technical and visual aspects of the presentation, including the language level and the length of the lecture.
- **Discussion** – demonstration of knowledge of the topic, ability to raise questions and respond to them, defense of any arguments and highlighting the strengths of one's work.

Who was Miroslav Broul



Before coming to Ústí nad Labem University, Miroslav Broul worked for more than twenty years at the Research Institute of Inorganic Chemistry in Ústí nad Labem where he was one of the members of the famous Ústí nad Labem School of Industrial Crystallization. In many laboratories, we can still find his (together with J. Nývlt and O. Söhnel) Tables of Solubility of Inorganic Compounds in Water. Abroad, his textbook Solubility in Inorganic Two-component Systems is well-known. In the 1980s, he focused on the research of rare-earth

element separation. In 1992, he moved to the Department of Chemistry at Pedagogical Faculty in the newly formed J. E. Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem. However, he never severed friendly relations with his previous workplace. His works on ion chromatography date from that time. In addition to research, he also focused on transforming teaching in the new conditions at the Department of Chemistry.

Miroslav Broul was a great person and colleague; he was very intelligent, sensible, and also nice, hardworking, and friendly, with a wonderful, non-

aggressive sense of humor. Wherever he appeared, he spread "positive vibrations" around him. He devoted himself to caring for his family and never complained when he went home from work to be "mom/dad". He always spoke very nicely about his wife and son, Marek. He was the mastermind behind many funny situations he "perpetrated" with a completely stony face, so it was often difficult to believe they were humor rather than reality. He often told "someone else's" stories or humorous experiences, but those of us who knew him suspected that "he himself had fingers in it". It was great to work with him and there was always something to learn from him.

His time at the university was ultimately very short - during the summer holidays in 1993, he suddenly succumbed to an insidious illness. Even during it, he was very strong and did not stop working and joking. Perhaps that is why many people still remember him as a decent person who was always ready to help colleagues and students. His last message from the hospital included a request that we take care of his graduates. Because decent people should not be forgotten, we decided to call the award for the best student presentation the Miroslav Broul Award*.

P. Janoš a Z. Kolská

* We thank Miroslav Broul's son, MUDr. Marek Broul, for providing information and photographs, and for consenting to the use of his father's name.