

I thank the organizers of this meeting for giving me this opportunity to say a few words of my personal reminiscence of Vaclav, who was my university classmate, friend and collaborator, then briefly recollect Vaclav scientific career and finally emphasize what I consider his legacy.

We met for the first time back in 1968 in the third grade at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University, where we specialized in nuclear and particle physics. I, together with Petr Závada and Petr Reimer, started at Charles university, but Vaclav came from the then Faculty of Technical and Nuclear physics of Czech Technical university. Some of the lecturers were from this faculty and part of the lectures were held in Brehova street, where Vaclav found a second home institution forty years later.

The first one was Institute of Physics, where we started as PhD students, then called aspirants in 1972 and joined the group led by Vlada Šimák, which worked on antiproton proton collisions at 5.7 GeV measuring, reconstructing and analysing pictures taken at CERN by 2m hydrogen bubble chamber, which Vlada brought to Prague.

Around middle of 70ties Vlada arranged for entry of Czech and Slovak physicists into an experiment at Serpuchov accelerator, which studied pbarp collisions at then highest energies 22,4 GeV using H bubble chamber Ludmila. The Collaboration included groups from Prague, Dubna, Moscow, Helsinki, Alma-ta and Košice. Vaclav started in Prague, but then joined the Ludmila group in Dubna. He worked on this experiment until its completion in late 80ties.

Around middle of 80ties he also joined Dubna group involved preparation of DELPHI experiment, one of four experiment for LEP storage ring then in construction at CERN. At about the same time this group was joined by Jan Řídký and later by Miloš Lokajíček and Rupert Leitner.

This was electronic experiment and thus quite different kind of work. In Dubna, Václav worked calibration of Hadron Calorimeter and pattern recognition in this calorimeter and coauthored all DELPHI publications, which started in 1989 with the publication on the mass and width of Z.

DELPHI was instrumental in our accession to CERN in 1992 as Czechoslovakia and then again in 1993 as Czech Republic. Since 1993 both Prague teams involved in DELPHI operated as independent groups and have developed their own ways of contributing to DELPHI. After return to Prague via two years at INFN in Rome Vaclav continued working on hadron calorimeter but also started working on DELPHI strip tracker. This was the turning point of his further career.

This was connected with ATLAS experiment at LHC. After its approval in 1994 two big international Collaborations, ATLAS and CMS, formed and Prague physicists at Charles and Technical universities and IoP decided to join ATLAS. We had to secure funding and identify areas where we could significantly contribute. All three institutions decided in their own ways to contribute to inner tracker part of ATLAS. In IoP Vaclav built essentially from scratch well equipped laboratory for semiconductor detectors, attracted number of students and focused on the pixel subdetector. He co-authored ATLAS TDR in 1994 as well as in TDR for ATLAS pixel detector in 1998.

At that time Vaclav completed his reorientation from data processing and analysis to detector development. He also developed interest in wider applications of pixel detectors beyond particle physics, in particular in medical imaging, which marked the last decade of his work. At about the time LHC went into regular operation, Vaclav with colleagues from the Faculty of Nuclear Science and Physical Engineering of TU applied for and got a grant of Technological Agency within the programme of so called **Centres of Competence**, which aimed at close collaboration of academic institutions with industrial partners. Because of lack of space for this significantly extended activity at Slovanka, he accepted offer from FJFI and built his second laboratory at Břehová street and thus after 40 years returned to the place where he started his career.

The mission of this laboratory, called **Centre of Applied Physics and Advanced Detection Systems** is to transfer technologies originating from the basics research into the practical applications. It combines development of detectors for particle physics experiments like ATLAS, PHENIX, ALICE and STAR at CERN and BNL and participation in projects like CALICE for ILC with their applications in dosimetry, defectoscopy and medicine.

I consider this kind of activities crucial for securing the future of our field in general and in our country in particular. Vaclav clearly enjoyed working on applications and with young people. We mourn death, but I know there are several young postdocs in his lab who will take it over and continue on his legacy.

May I ask you for a moment of silence in his memory.