

MENDEL FORUM 2015

Eva Matalová/Centrum Mendelianum

Mendel Forum 2015 was organized as a jubilee event to commemorate 150 years since the lecture Experiments with Plant Hybrids presented by Mendel in Brno. Mendel Forum was the top part of the programme frame “Mendel’s Year of Attractive Education” (April 2014 – March 2015, Folia Mendeliana 2014/1) prepared by the Mendel Team of Centrum Mendelianum. Thanks to the project Mendel’s Interactive School of Genetics, participation at all events was free of charge. An abstract book Mendel Forum 2015 was issued under ISBN 978-80-263-0894-2.

As the very special occasion Mendel Forum was designed in the way of several activities offering programme for experts, students, as well as public and was divided into 3 key events.

- Sunday with J. G. Mendel (in Czech, PM also in English)/February 8, 2015
 - Weekend with J. G. Mendel (in English)/March 6-8, 2015
 - Week with J. G. Mendel (in Czech)/March 6-12, 2015
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Sunday with J. G. Mendel/February 8, 2015

A Sunday with JGM was held to mark exactly 150 years after the first part of Mendel’s lecture which started the history of genetics.

School where Mendel published his work

The morning programme was focused at presentation of Mendel and his discovery directly in the place where his work with plant hybrids was read at the regular meeting of the Nature Research Society (*Naturforschender Verein*). At that time, the *Naturforschender Verein* was based at the technical school (*Oberrealschule*) in the Jánská Street in Brno where Mendel also lectured physics and natural sciences. On February 8, 2015, 10 am was this school first open for the public at the occasion of a new exhibition opening in presence of members from scientific, cultural, politic, public as well as medial life. As a bonus of this unique event, the class book with original Mendel’s comments and signatures was presented. After commented view of the exhibition, participants were guided through the building where is now a school of trade.

Mendel’s Dwarf

Afternoon of February 8, 2015 was dedicated to popularization of Mendel. Directly in the meeting hall of the Agriculture Society, in the new Mendelianum, discussion with Simon Mawer took place. Simon Mawer is the author of the book *Planting Seeds of Genetics* but also of a novel *Mendel’s Dwarf*. The latter title often assigned as a genetic thriller is based on attractive connection of Mendel and his world with recent molecular genetics. The link is

provided via a fictive ancestor of Mendel's sister Theresia who works in molecular genetics and suffers from a genetic disease. Author's introduction as well as a vivid discussion with the audience was simultaneously translated into Czech.

Weekend with J. G. Mendel/March 6-8, 2015

Weekend with J. G. Mendel was organized particularly for experts, students, teachers and international audience at the occasion of the second part of Mendel's lecture 150 years ago (March 8, 2015). The highlight of this event was the talk by Prof. Jan Klein, a long-time co-worker of the Mendelianum and the chair of Centrum Mendelianum advisory board, author of the book: *Solitude of a Humble Genius: Gregor Johann Mendel* (Volume 1 published by Springer, Berlin, 2013). The grand finale of Mendel Forum 2015/Weekend with JGM was inauguration of Centrum Mendelianum as a unique base for research, education, propagation and popularization of Mendel's scientific and cultural legacy directly in the former premises of his Scientific society (*see Centrum Mendelianum contribution in this issue*).

Mendel Forum 2015/Weekend with JGM – programme/oral presentations

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2015

3 pm

- Round Table Mendel Discussion (*Mendel Team Members*)

4 pm

- Mendel's plants (I. Kubištová)
Commented opening of a new exhibition

5 pm

Get together

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2015

9 – 9:30 am

Conference registration

9:30 – 10 am

- Mendel – a multifaceted personality and a scientist in the controversy (A. Matalová, Centrum Mendelianum, Brno, Mendel Medal Lecture)

10 – 10:30 am

- Mendel and Darwin (J. Sekerák, Mendelianum, Moravian Museum, Brno)

10:30 – 11 am

Coffee break, discussion

11:00 – 11:45 am

- N. Vavilov and T. Lysenko: Initial support and final tragedy. Who is responsible? (V. Soyfer, George Mason University, USA)

11:45 – 12:15 am

- N. I. Vavilov, J. G. Mendel and J. Lužný (P. Salaš/A. Salašová, Mendel University, Brno)

12:15 – 1:30 pm

Lunch, poster exhibition viewing

1:30 – 2 pm

- Mendel and his scientific colleagues in Brno (A. Matalová, Centrum Mendelianum, Brno)

2 – 2:30 pm

- When time was ripe: On the “re-discovery” of Gregor Mendel’s work (J. Vollmann/H. Grausgruber, BOKU, Austria)

2:30 – 3 pm

- Mendelian genetics: an historical perspective and a glimpse into the future (C. M. Laukaitis, University of Arizona, USA)

3 – 3:30 pm

Coffee break, discussion

3:30 – 3:50 pm

- Ending the Mendel-Fisher controversy (D.J. Fairbanks/B. Palais, A.D. Fairbanks, Utah Valley University, USA)

3:50 – 4:10 pm

Mendel and bioinformatics (P. Ošmera, University of Technology, Brno)

4:10 – 4:30 pm

From domestication to Mendel or from Mendel to domestication? (P. Hořín, University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Brno)

4:30 - 5 pm

Coffee break, discussion

5 pm

Mendel's footsteps in Brno (E. Matalová, Centrum Mendelianum, Brno)

A walk through Mendel's Brno

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2015

9 – 9:30 am

150 years ago ... Brno in Mendel's time (P. Kroupa, National Heritage Institute, Brno)

9:30 – 10:30 am

Echoes of March 8, 1865 (J. Klein, Pennsylvania State University, USA)

10:30 – 11 am

Coffee break, discussion

11 am - onwards

Inauguration of Centrum Mendelianum

*Greeting Addresses (M. Reissner et al., Moravian Museum, partners and supporters)

*Concept of the Centre (E. Matalová)

*Solitude of a Humble Genius (J. Klein)

On a new expert book about Mendel

Guided tours in the Centre, exhibition viewing, discussion

Mendel Forum 2015/Weekend with JGM – programme/oral presentations

Section: MENDEL SOCIETIES AND TRADITION

- Gregor Mendel Genetic Society, Czech Republic (Doškař J, Šmarda J, Institute of Experimental Biology, Faculty of Science, Masaryk University, Brno, CR)
- Gregor Mendel Gesellschaft Wien (Schmidt J, , Institute für Pflanzenbau und Pflanzenzüchtung IPP, Vienna, Austria)
- The Japan Mendel Society (Nagata T, Kawano S, Department of Integrated Bioscience, The University of Tokyo, Japan)
- Mendeleum – more than 100 years of tradition (Martínek J, Jelínek M, Mendeleum, Mendel University, Lednice, CR)

Section: MENDEL AND GENETICS AT UNIVERSITIES IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

- Genetics at the Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Science (Holá D, Zadražil S, Department of Genetics and Microbiology, Faculty of Science, Charles University, Prague, CR)
- Mendel and the Palacký University in Olomouc (Fellnerová I, Matalová A, Faculty of Science, Palacký University Olomouc; Mendelianum, Moravian Museum Brno, CR)
- Teaching Genetics at the Faculty of Science of Masaryk University (MU)/J. E. Purkyně University (UJEP)(Relichová J, Šmarda J, Department of Experimental Biology, Faculty of Science MU, Brno, CR)
- Mendel, Genetics and Mendel University (Urban T, Department of Animal Morphology, Physiology and Genetics, Faculty of Agronomy, Mendel University, Brno, CR)

Section: MENDEL AND COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS

- International Conference on Soft Computing MENDEL (Matoušek R, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Brno University of Technology, Brno, CR)
- Mendel Forum (Matalová E, Matalová A, Mendelianum, Moravian Museum; Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics, CAS, v.v.i., Brno, CR)
- MendelNet (Cerkal R, Faculty of Agronomy, Mendel University, Brno, CR)
- Simon Mawer – Mendel's Dwarf (Janečková E, Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics, CAS, v.v.i., Brno, CR)

Section: MENDEL – MEMORIES AND NEWS

- Jaroslav Kříženecký – the founder of Mendelianum (Sekerák J, Mendelianum, Moravian Museum, Brno, CR)
- 50 years since Mendelianum opening (Daňková J, Mendelianum, Moravian Museum, Brno, CR)
- Mendel, Vavilov and Brno – new book and movie (Salaš P, Salašová A, Faculty of Horticulture Mendel University in Brno, CR)
- Solitude of a Humble Genius – Gregor Johann Mendel: Volume 1 (Klein J, Klein N, University of Pennsylvania, USA)

Section: MISCELLANEOUS

- Completing Mendel's Unfinished Experiments (Sato A, Department of Anatomy and Cytology, School of Dental Medicine, Tsurumi University, Japan)
- A new Center for Applied Genetics and Genomics, University of Arizona (Karn R. C., College of Medicine, University of Arizona, USA)

Section: PEAS FOR MENDEL

- Students drawings to the 150th anniversary of Mendel's discovery

Week with J. G. Mendel

The week with J. G. Mendel was organized particularly for students and general public. The week started on March 6, covered the following weekend and finished at March 12 when Gregor celebrates his name day in the CR. The week included lectures, exhibitions, guided tours and practical work in Mendel's as well as modern laboratory.

March 6, 2015

Mendel's Plants – introduction, commented exhibition viewing

March 7, 2015

J. G. Mendel and Brno – introduction, guided tour in the Mendelianum and Mendel's Brno

March 8, 2015

Inauguration of Centrum Mendelianum

March 9, 2015

Mendel and his discovery - interactive programme in the Mendelianum (am – schools, pm – public)

March 10, 2015

Mendel and genetic information - interactive programme in the Mendelianum (am – schools, pm – public)

March 11, 2015

Mendel and his ideas in current context - interactive programme in the Mendelianum (am – schools, pm – public)

March 12, 2015

Mendel: permanent challenge - interactive programme in the Mendelianum (am – schools, pm – public)