



Laudatio – Professor Richard M. Scheffler

There is no doubt that Professor Richard M. Scheffler is a top world health economist. He serves as a distinguished Professor of Health Economics and Public Policy at the School of Public Health and the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the head of the Global Center for Health Economics and Public Policy there. He has edited and written twelve books and published over 200 papers. He has repeatedly served as a consultant for the World Health Organization, the World Bank and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Even with his manifold professional engagements, he has always paid attention to what has been happening in the former socialist block in Central and Eastern Europe. As early as 1990, he consulted on the transformation of the Czech health care system with a local group of experts. In a way, he was a godfather of the newly born young baby of Charles University - its Faculty of Social Sciences. He was a Fulbright Visiting Professor there in 1993, delivering a course comparing Czech and American health care reform. His attention to what has been happening in his field of interest – first in the Czech Republic, after that in Slovakia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Albania, Moldova and Serbia – has been transformed into three rounds of research training programs, funded by the National Institutes of Health, Fogarty International Center between 2001 and 2015. These programs put together top American health care scholars and practitioners with talented post-doctoral researchers from the region. Among other outcomes, the programs produced several books and many articles. Let me mention at least one of them, the book “*Mental Health Care Reform in the Czech and Slovak Republics, 1989 to the Present*”, co-edited by Professors Richard Scheffler and Martin Potůček and published in 2008.

Our Alma Mater, Charles University in Prague, awarded Professor Richard Scheffler a Silver Medal for his contribution to mutual collaboration as early as in 2007. I am proud to announce, that, thanks to his endless energy and support for international scientific and educational collaboration, the university has decided to award Professor Scheffler a Commemorative Gold Medal in 2015.