

EDITORIAL

Obituary - Vladimír Zvarík*Tibor Kvačkaj*

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Vladimír Zvarík was not only a professional colleague but, above all, my lifelong friend. It was with deep sorrow that I received the news of his passing.

Many years ago, as the Head of the Department of Metal Forming and guarantor of the Material Forming study program, I invited him to serve as a member of the State Commission, and he accepted the offer. His esteemed reputation as an expert with extensive industrial experience greatly contributed to the Commission's quality and reinforced the rigor of university examinations for graduates.

I also had the privilege of recommending him to the Dean of the Faculty of Metallurgy at the Technical University of Košice, Prof. Ing. Ivan Imriš, DrSc., for appointment as a member of the Faculty's Scientific Council—a proposal that was mutually accepted.

As a representative in scientific and pedagogical committees, Ing. Vladimír Zvarík was a rational and critical thinker with a forward-looking perspective. His integrity and communication skills played a crucial role in securing the Scientific Council's approval of my proposal to establish the international scientific journal *Acta Metallurgica Slovaca*. Without his strong advocacy and well-reasoned support, the vote on this initiative would have been far more contentious. Beyond verbal support, but also economic support from the metallurgists of *Železiarne Podbrezová, a.s.* in the position of the headquarters, allowed the journal to progress from a national position to an internationally recognized scientific platform.

From the journal's inception until its most recent issue, Ing. Vladimír Zvarík was a respected figure serving as an Honorary Editorial Member. During the 30th anniversary celebrations of *Acta Metallurgica Slovaca*, held from November 2 to 5, 2024, at the Hotel Stupka-Tále, we had planned to honour his contribution to the journal with a commemorative plaque.

Dear friend Vlado, though you are no longer with us, allow me to dedicate this plaque to you as a final farewell—not only in recognition of your invaluable support for the journal but also for supporting the university education and our friendship.

prof. Ing. Tibor Kvačkaj, DrSc.