

Jan Kopecky, MD, PhD

Phone: ++420-241 062 554

Fax: ++420-241 062 599

E-Mail: kopecky@biomed.cas.cz

Address: Department of Adipose Tissue Biology, Institute of Physiology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Videnska 1083, Prague 4, Czech Republic



Jan Kopecky (born 1951) graduated at the Medical School of the Charles University, Prague, where he also received his PhD in Biochemistry. Starting from studies on the mechanism of mitochondrial energy conversion, namely the function of mitochondrial ATP synthase (also in collaboration with Lars Ernster, University of Stockholm), the main focus switched on thermogenesis in brown fat and on the perinatal development of this tissue. These studies were performed at the Institute of Physiology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (Prague, laboratories of Z. Drahota and J. Houstek) and also abroad (collaborations with B. Cannon at the Wenner-Gren Institute, Stockholm, and J. Himms-Hagen at the University of Ottawa). In collaboration with L. P. Kozak (at the Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, ME, USA), a transgenic mouse model was developed (*JCI*, 1995) indicating that decreased efficiency of energy conversion in white adipose tissue could reduce obesity; also brown-fat specific promoter of the gene for mitochondrial uncoupling protein 1 was identified in mice. Since 1992, JK serves as a Head of the Department of Adipose Tissue Biology at the Institute of Physiology (Prague). Current projects are focused on the characterization of mechanisms enabling beneficial effects of lipids of marine origin obesity and associated disorders, both in mice models and in human patients. Special focus is on lasting effects of nutritional lipids administered during perinatal period on energy metabolism, including the muscle non-shivering thermogenesis. JK was an International Research Scholar of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (1995-2000), served as a co-president of the 13th European Congress on Obesity (2004), and participated at several internationally funded projects, including grants from the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, the Wellcome Trust, and EU (EXGENESIS, EARNEST, and BIOCLAIMS – ongoing).