

PREFACE

This sixth volume of the *Candid Science* series is its concluding volume. Once again, we included interviews with scientists from all three major areas of the scope of the series, biomedical sciences, chemistry, and physics, and the entries follow loosely this order. Our usual procedure of recording of interviews and the follow-up work have been described in prefaces of previous volumes. Each of us contributed roughly half of the interviews, with István focusing mostly on the biomedical sciences and Magdi on physics, and there were four joint interviews as well.

When one of us (IH) started this interviews project back in 1994, it was not envisioned to become so big. Eventually, Magdi joined in, and after well over two hundred interviews we can look back to the past decade with good feelings. These feelings include gratitude toward our interviewees; not only did they graciously share their experience and thoughts with us, but acted as patient teachers in many fields that we had been unfamiliar with.

Many people keep asking me about the inception of the project, which, again, has been described in previous volumes, and many have suggested that I should include an interview by someone with me. I must admit that I played with this idea, but decided against it because we have followed rather strict criteria for selecting interviewees, and it would have been imprudent to include ourselves among them. What I would like to suggest instead is a book that I wrote about my encounters with famous scientists, including a considerable amount of autobiographical material: I. Hargittai, *Our Lives: Encounters of a Scientist*, Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest, 2004. This book is

in English (for a review, see, *Nature*, November 15, 2004) and its German version will have been published by the time the present volume appears.

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István Hargittai