



# **IOCB General Assembly 2025**

Jan Konvalinka

13 January 2025

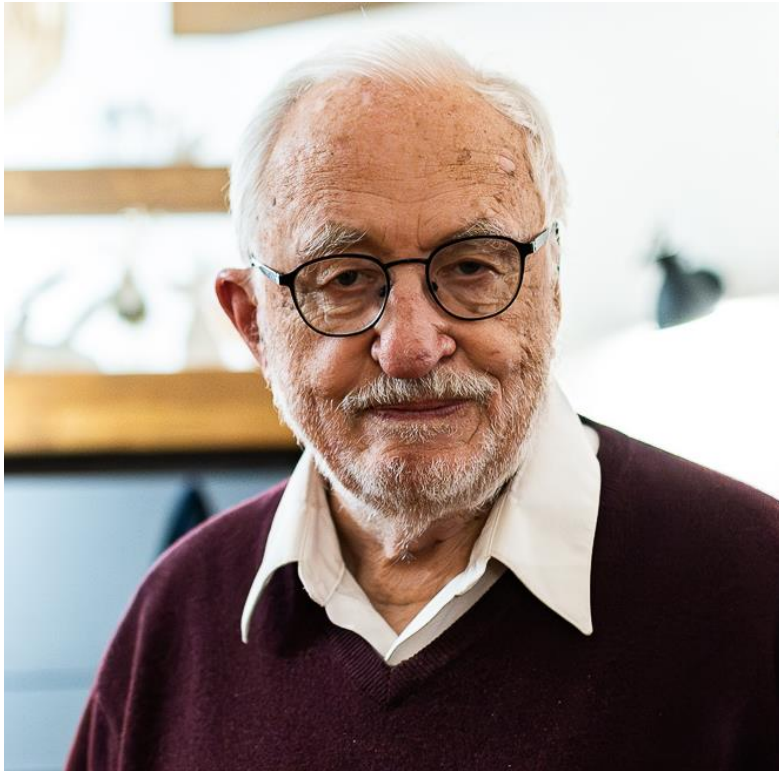
# Program

- Organizational changes
- IOCB Boston
- Financial situation
- Publications 2024 and new grants
- Awards
- Updates from HR
- Building K construction
- Miscellanea
- Updates from IOCB Board
- Discussion



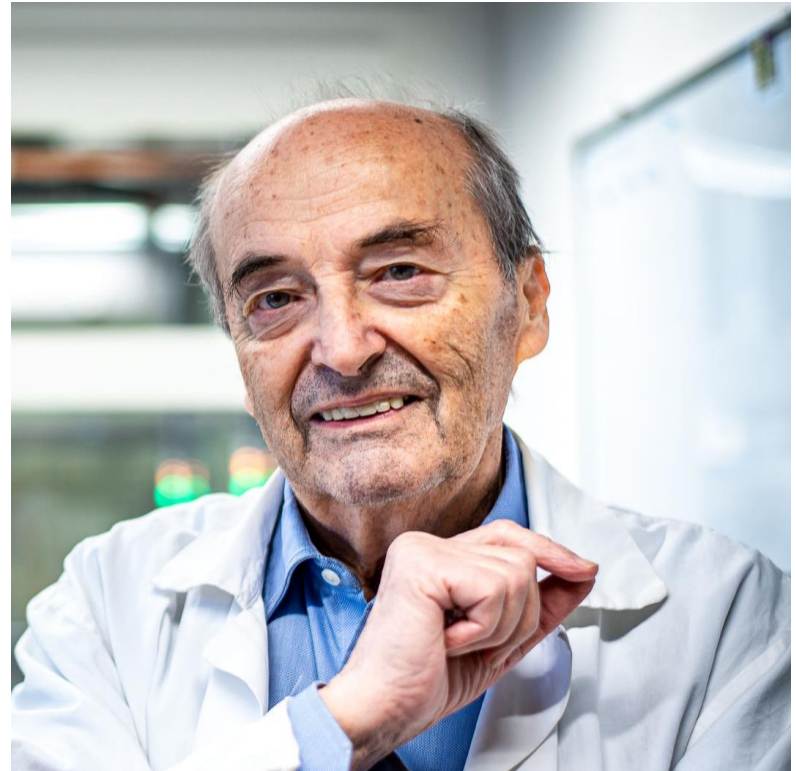
# Josef Michl

1939–2024



# Alexander Kasal

1934–2024



# **Organizational changes**

# Organizational changes

## Changes in Research Groups

- Termination of Josef Michl Senior Group
- Termination of Sebastian Zoll Junior Group
- Gradual termination of Eva Kudová Junior Group (until the end of 2026)
- Establishment of Václav Veverka Senior Group (Chromatin Structural Biology)
- Promotion of Hana Cahová Junior Group to Senior Group
- Promotion of Zuzana Kečkéšová Junior Group to Senior Group
- Promotion of Tomáš Slanina Junior Group to Senior Group



# Organizational changes

## New Joint Laboratories

- **Mattia Morandi:** “Membrane Structures Dynamics”  
IOCB & International Institute of Molecular Mechanism and Machines,  
Polish Academy of Sciences (since November 2024)



IOCB  
PRAGUE



IMol

- **Jakub Abramson:** “Cellular Biology”  
IOCB & Faculty of Science, Charles University (since January 2025)



IOCB  
PRAGUE



Faculty of Science  
Charles University



# Organizational changes

## Changes in services

- Establishment of Core Facility “Proteomics” → “Mass Spectrometry of Biopolymers” (*Karel Harant*)
- Establishment of Targeted Research Group “Computational Chemistry for Drug Design” (*Jan Řezáč*)
- Research-Service Group “Virology” (*Jan Weber*) → change to a Core Facility
- Research-Service Group “Drug Discovery” (*Pavel Majer*) → change to a Targeted Research Group
- Transfer of “Waste Management” to Technical Division of TEA



# IOCB Boston



# IOCB Boston

- The establishment of IOCB Boston (the US branch of IOCB) was approved by the Supervisory Board
  - IOCB Boston was granted the status of a non-profit organization in the US
  - Located at 840 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, Boston
  - Now hosts the group of David Sabatini
- 
- IOCB contributes approximately USD 1 million per year to the rental of the property
  - Research is funded by USD 5 million per year from private sources (Pershing Square Foundation and Jewish Communal Fund)



# Opening of IOCB Boston

- Probably the first Czech scientific institution in the United States
- IOCB Boston's grand opening took place on 18 October 2024
- The laboratory opened on 19 October 2024
- [www.iocbboston.org](http://www.iocbboston.org)



# IOCB Boston – outlook



- currently used by David Sabatini Group
- 2 more groups are planned in the future
- an opportunity for anyone (within and outside of IOCB) whose outstanding idea is approved and recommended by the IOCB International Advisory Board
  - ✓ will receive proper funding for 12 months + 1 lab space + 2 office spaces + assistance in raising their own local funding (public or private)
  - ✓ If the project receives local funding, it will get up to 6 places in the laboratory and in the office
- 1 place is also available for IOCB TECH or visitors from the CAS and Charles University



# **Financial situation**

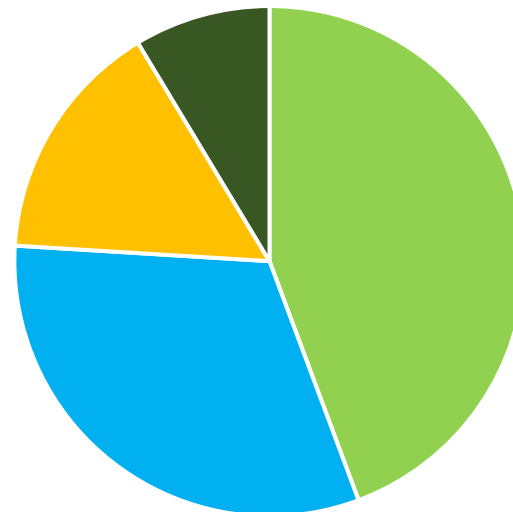
# Financial position

(as of 30. 9. 2024)

## Expenses

■ Personnel costs:	570 mil. CZK
■ Material, energy, services:	407 mil. CZK
■ Depreciation:	198 mil. CZK
■ Other expenses:	111 mil. CZK

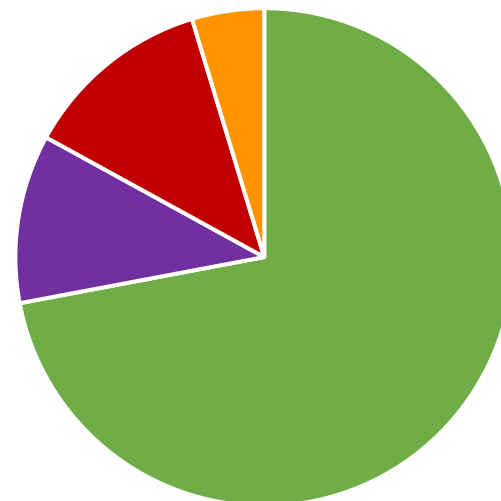
Expenses 2024 (mil. Kč)



## Revenues

■ Sales-Royalty Payments:	3 044 mil. CZK
■ Financial revenues:	463 mil. CZK
■ Operating subsidies:	521 mil. CZK
■ Other revenues:	198 mil. CZK

Revenues 2024 (mil. Kč)



# Royalty payments

## from Gilead Sciences

- 2022: 141 mil. USD = 3.31 bil. Kč
- 2023: 150 mil. USD = 3.33 bil. Kč
- 2024: 130 mil. USD = 3.04 bil. Kč (for 1Q-3Q/2024)
- 2025: 120 mil. USD = 2.6 bil. Kč (estimated)

The last royalty payment to IOCB will be made in Q3 2025.

### Since 2026:

It will be necessary to use the reserve fund to achieve a balanced budget (a legal obligation). The main revenue components of the Institute's budget will be:

1. State subsidies
2. Funding from grant agencies
3. Income from financial assets



# Long term investing of IOCB income

- The goal: long term financial security of IOCB operations
- Portfolio of investment distributed among 4 (in the future 5) investment companies
- The majority of income is still in the state bonds
- Expected annual profit approx. 6%
- Investment committee including J. Konvalinka, J. Cairola, J. Polman, P. Kysilka, J. Švejnar

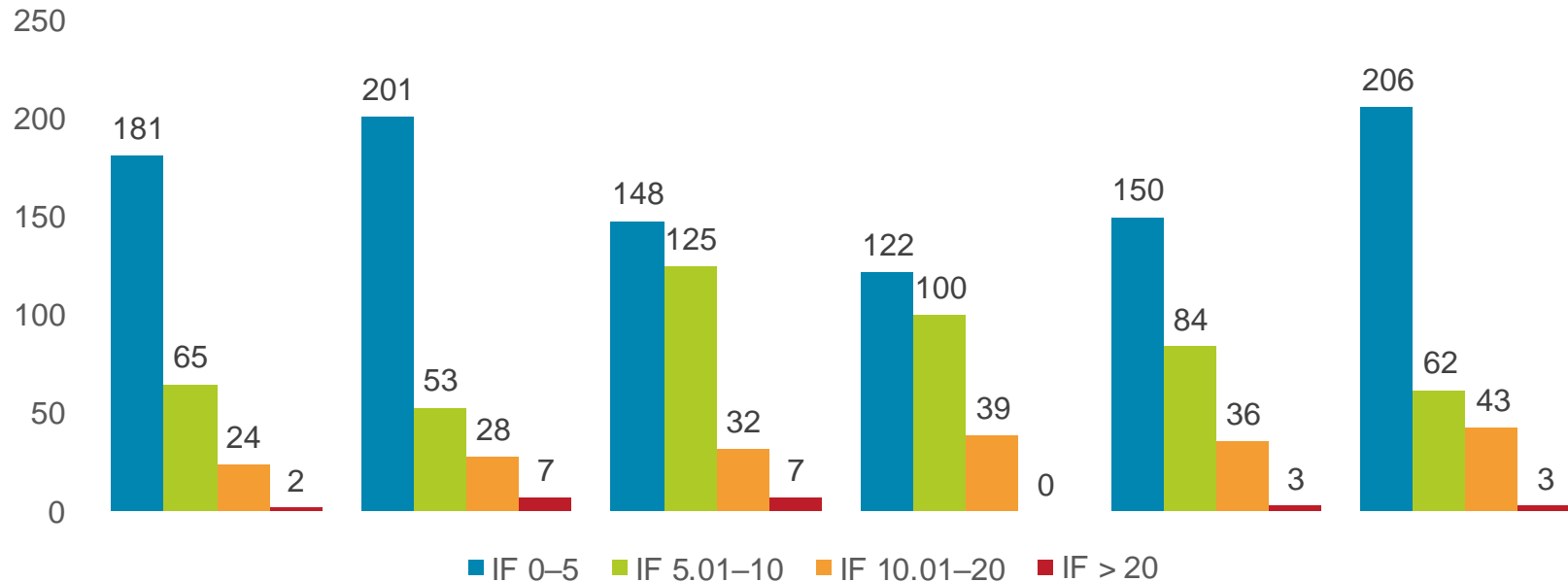


# Publications and grants



# Publications with IF (2024)

Year	IF 0–5	IF 5.01–10	IF 10.01–20	IF > 20	Total
2019	181	65	24	2	272
2020	201	53	28	7	289
2021	148	125	32	7	312
2022	122	100	39	0	261
2023	150	84	36	3	273
2024	206	62	43	3	314



# New ERC grants



## 1 ERC Starting Grant

**Paulo Paioti:** „AtropShape: Catalytic Atroposelective Synthesis for Revealing Elusive Bioactive Conformations and Shapes“

## 1 ERC Consolidator Grant

**Tomáš Pluskal:** „Terpencode: Decoding the Biochemistry of Terpene Synthases“

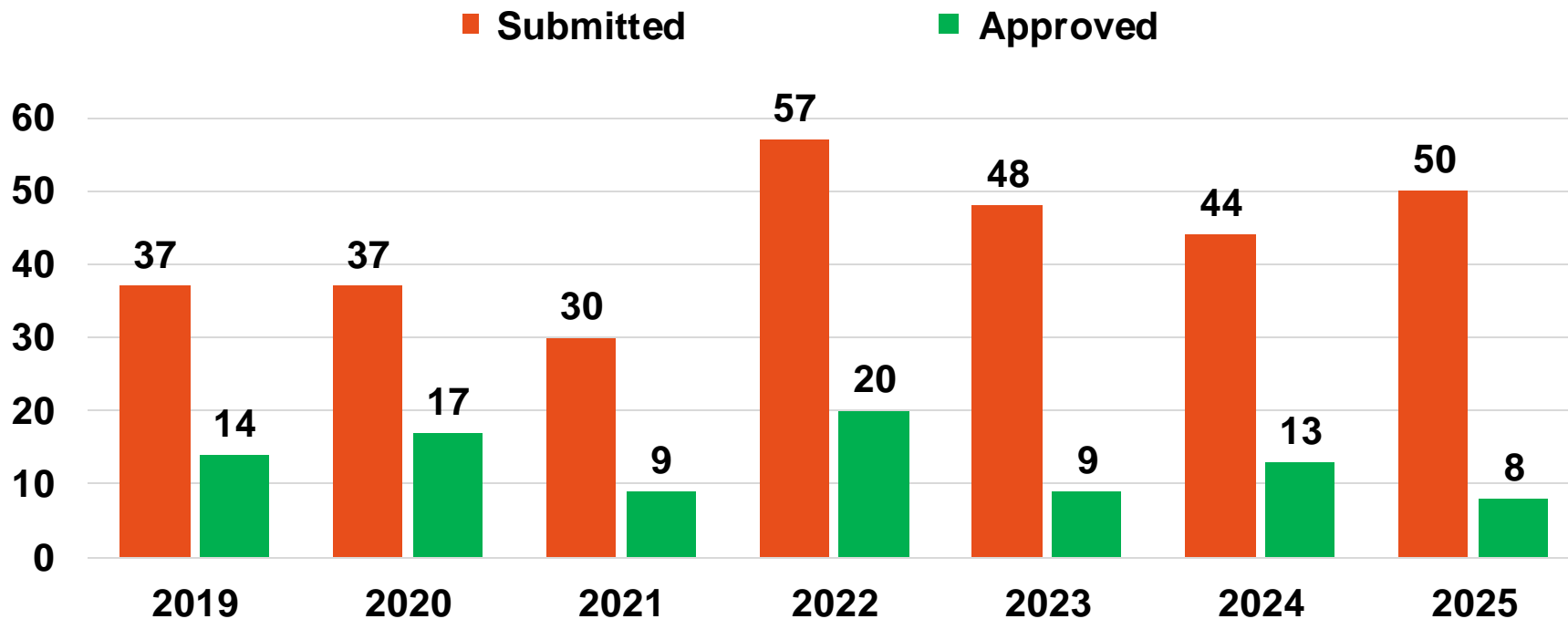
In total, IOCB has currently **6 active ERC grants**:

- **1 Advanced** (Pavel Jungwirth)
- **1 Consolidator** (Tomáš Pluskal)
- **3 Starting** (Hana Cahová, Tomáš Slanina, Paulo Paioti)
- **1 Proof of Concept** (Milan Vrábel)

- **David Sabatini:** „Understand the physiological roles of nutrient-sensing by the mTORC1 pathway *in vivo*“
- **Václav Veverka:** „Disentangling transient interactions in transcription elongation“

# IOCB Success Rate

in GA ČR grants (standard projects)



## IOCB success rate and overall success rate in GA ČR grants

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
IOCB	38 %	46 %	30 %	35 %	19 %	30 %	16 %
GA ČR	32 %	25 %	17 %	16 %	19 %	15 %	18 %*

\*estimated



# Selected awards

# Selected awards 2024

- **Ivo Starý** received prestigious *Premium Academiae 2024* award. He was also elected first vice-president and a future president of the Learned Society.
- **Erik Andris, Jana Škerlová** and **Daniel Bím** received *Otto Wichterle Award 2024* for exceptionally high quality and promising scientists up to 35 years of age.
- The Learned Society awarded **David Dunlop** *Jiřina Michlová Award* for PhD students.
- **Zuzana Kečkéšová** was selected to the *NextGen Stars* program in oncology research for the year 2025. This prestigious program of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) reflects the great potential, originality, and creativity of emerging scientists in the field of cancer research.
- **Tomáš Slanina** with his colleagues **David Dunlop** and **Lucie Ludvíková** received '*Werner von Siemens Award*' for the year 2023 in Most Significant Result of Basic Research category. **Michal Šimek** took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Best PhD Thesis category.



# Selected awards 2024

- **David Dunlop** received *2<sup>nd</sup> Jean-Marie Lehn Award* in Chemistry and **Ondřej Groborz** *1<sup>st</sup> Sanofi Award* in Pharmacy awarded by French Embassy
- **Barbara Česneková** and **Marie Snopková** received a *Certificate of appreciation of the CAS* recognizing particularly meritorious professional, organizational, administrative and technical staff.
- **Eva Bednářová** was awarded *Alfred Bader Prize* in organic chemistry for young chemists up to 35 years of age.
- On the proposal of the Minister for Science, Research and Innovation Marek Ženíšek, **Martin Fusek** was appointed a member of the R&D Council.
- **Kateřina Pražáková** was awarded *Josef Hlávka Award*.
- **Radim Nencka** and his team received an *Honorary Mention of the Minister of Health* for medical research and development for his project “Development of new therapeutics against tick-borne encephalitis virus and other flaviviruses”.



# **Employees and wages**



# HR Updates

(as of 31. 12. 2024)

## Personnel stats

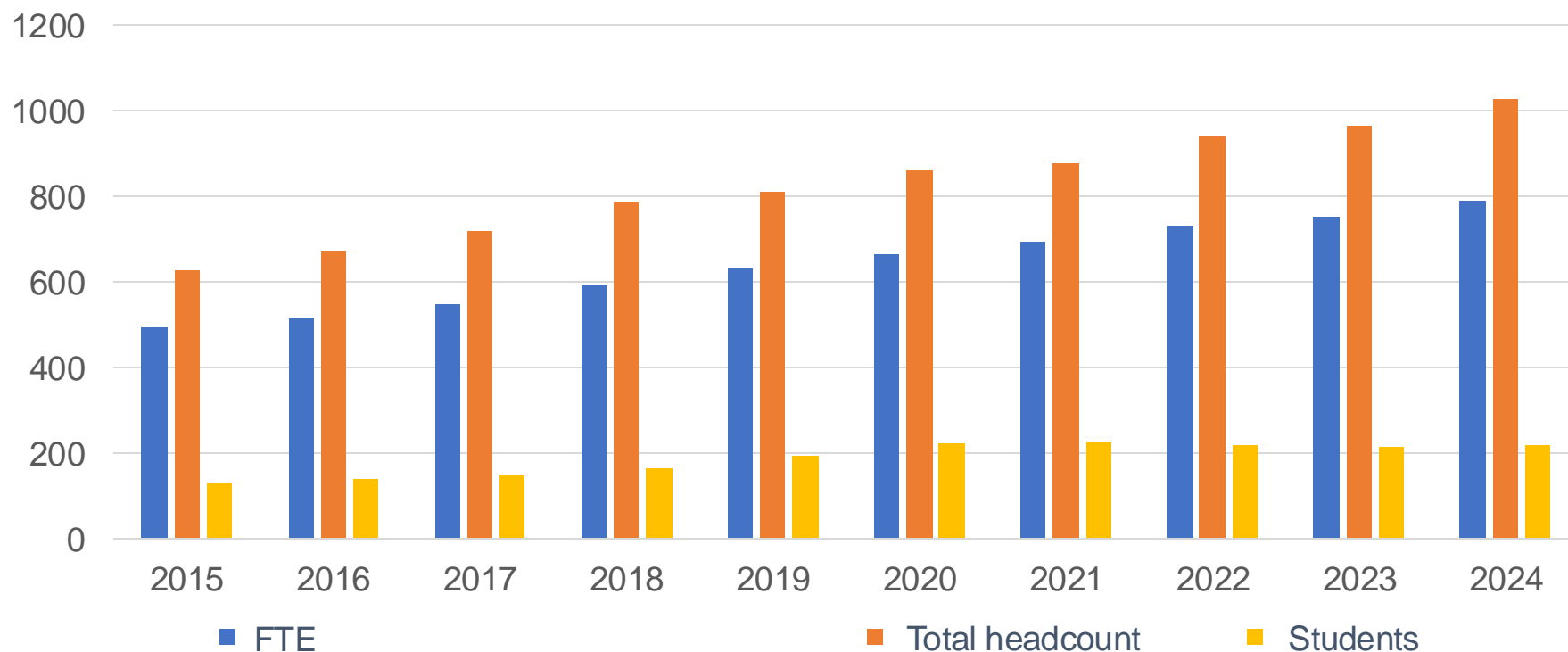
- Total 1 027 employees (789 FTE), out of which 274 researchers and 220 PhD students
- 526 men (51%), 501 women (49%)
- 35% scientific positions V3-V8 (predominantly men), 65% non-scientific positions O + V1-V2 (predominantly women)
- 29 employees on maternal or parental leave and 7 on unpaid leave
- 13 disabled employees
- 59% employees – 40 years old or less, (32% under 30 years)
- 25% employees are foreigners
- 78% employees are university degree holders



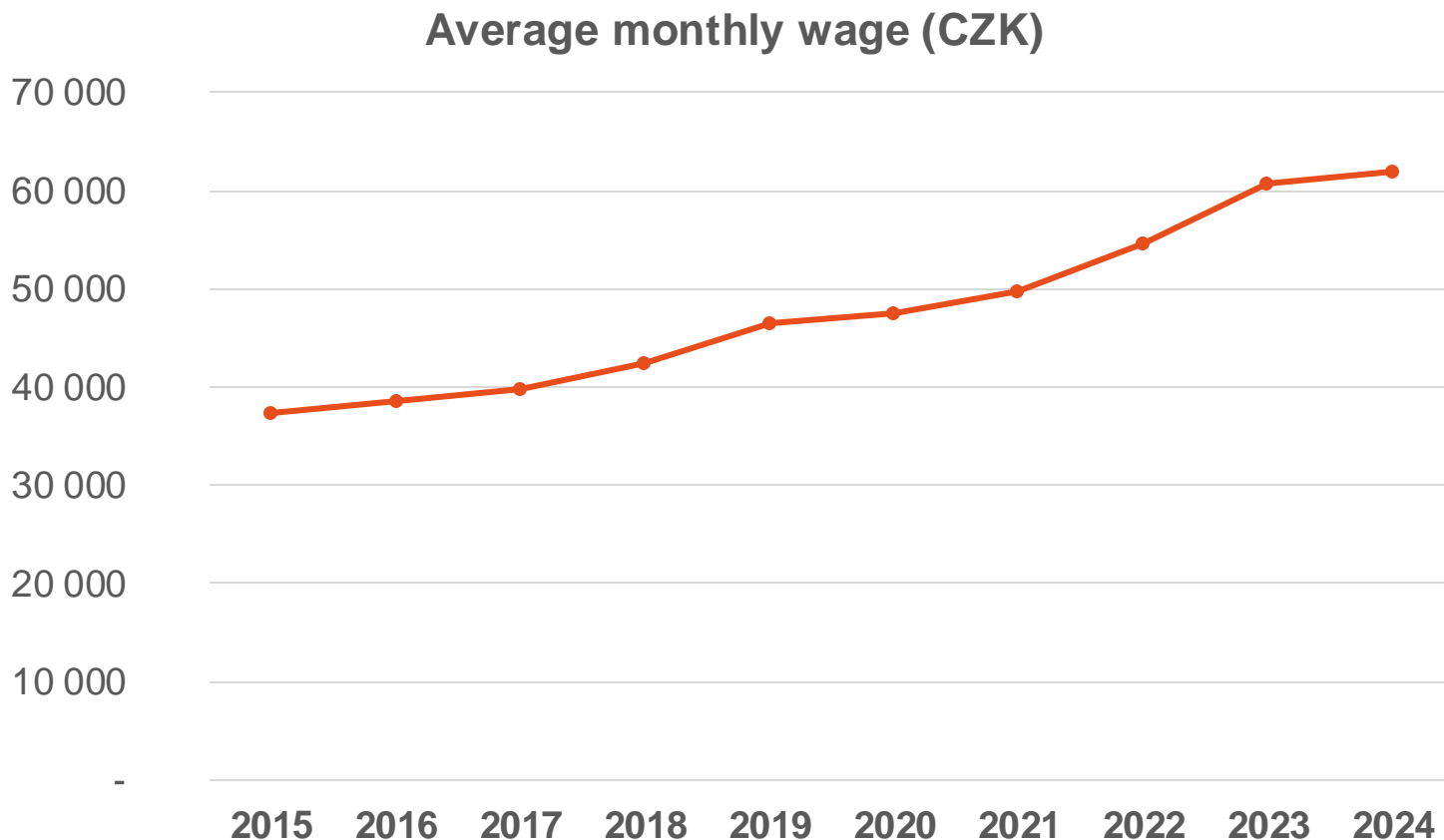
# Headcount

## and PhD students 2015–2024

Staff and students



# Wage development at IOCB



- Average monthly salary of IOCB employees in December 2024: **CZK 61,983**



# **Buildings and constructions**

# Opening of building K

- Building K approved
- Grand opening on 12 December 2024



# Cryo-EM Facility

- 300 kV microscope and 200 kV microscope have been delivered, pilot operation will start in March
- Cryo-EM Core Facility (Tomáš Kouba)



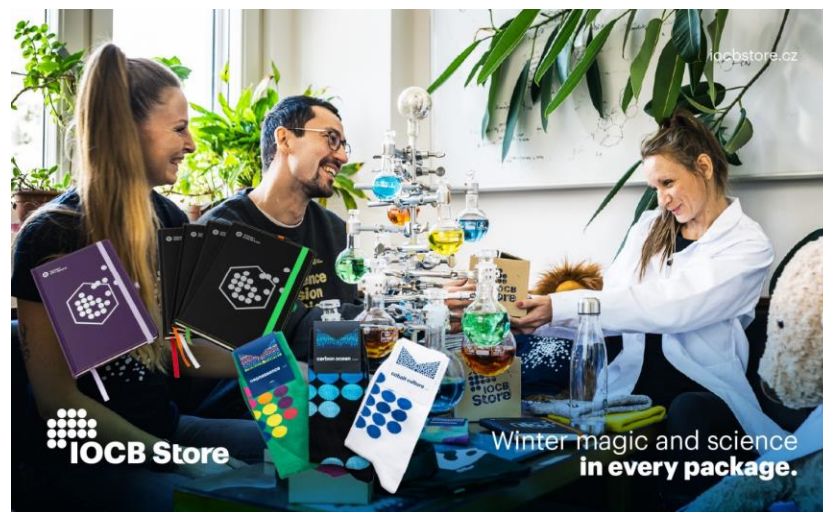
# Miscellanea



# IOCB on networks/on air

Follow, share, like...

- Facebook
  - Twitter
  - LinkedIn
  - Instagram
  - YouTube
  - Threads
- 
- podcast **CHEmic**: live podcast with Lenka Maletínská, Jaroslav Kuneš and Martin Haluzík (IKEM) on Tuesday 21. 1. in Lore Malastrana restaurant
  - New issue of the internal bulletin **The Bond** will be out in January





# IOCB Events

- 25/2 Tony Holý Lecture – **Prof. Morten Peter Meldal** (University of Copenhagen, Denmark): The INAIC reaction: An intramolecular click reaction
- 5/3 Invited Lecture – **Prof. Henrik Ottosson** (Uppsala University, Sweden): Excited State Aromaticity and Antiaromaticity: From Pitfalls to Scopes
- 15/4 Invited Lecture – **Prof. Cristina Alberini** (Center for Neural Science, New York University, USA): From bench to bedside: mechanisms of long-term memory inform the development of novel treatments for neurodevelopmental disorders and neurodegenerative diseases
- 13/5 Invited Lecture – **Prof. Nicolai Cramer** (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland): From [ ] to L\*
- 5–7/6 Science Fair
- 18–19/9 Visit of the International Advisory Board (IAB)
- 26/9 Researchers' Night
- 1/10 Invited Lecture – **Prof. Ülo Langel** (Stockholm University, Sweden): Cell-penetrating peptides and oligonucleotide delivery
- 18/11 Invited Lecture – **Prof. Jana Roithová** (Radboud University, Netherlands): Mass Spectrometry in Research of Chemical Reactions



# IOCB Board

# IOCB Board:

**Elected Members (2021–2026)**

## **Internal members:**



Pavlína M.  
Řezáčová



Martin  
Dračínský



Pavel  
Majer



Kvido  
Stříšovský



Michal  
Hocek



Pavel  
Jungwirth

## **External members:**



Radek  
Cibulka  
(UCT)



Jan  
Černý  
(Charles Uni.)



Petr  
Slavíček  
(UCT)

## **Secretary:**



Irena  
Valterová



# Highlights of Board activities in 2024

- Preparing program for IOCB retreat Valeč 2024 (& dealing with feedback)
- Nominating for prizes such as Otto Wichterle Award (successful 3x), etc.
- Overviewing investment plans as reviewed by Methodology Board
- Participating at the newly established forum of heads of institute's boards
- Helping with calls for computational chemistry junior group leader (ongoing negotiations) and head of core facility Mass spectroscopy of biopolymers (filled)
- Co-organizing Dream Chemistry Award (future Dream Biology Award?)
- Participating at the Data management work group
- Helping with evaluations of research-service groups
- Identifying potential candidates to the Academy Council



# Discussion