
The heart is a Rubik's Cube. Science Day 2009

New model of a Formula 1 car, white coats of students of medicine, experiments both chemical and physical, flicker of the monitors showing graphs and tables, discussions, attractive lectures from science and humanities, bodily organs made visible, the movingly powerless dentist's patient, all kinds of equipment and machines, but also the flowers arranged intricately in tall vases and the incredibly long flight of stairs in the main hall of the University of Economics in Prague all stand for the difficult path to scientific knowledge. We go stair by stair, step by step. It is a long journey without end that requires infinite patience.

This is the atmosphere that welcomed those who came to the annual Science Day event on November 27th. The third instalment was organized by five of the Prague's universities: Charles University, Czech Technical University in Prague, Institute of Chemical Technology, Czech University of Life Sciences and the University of Economics.

This year's stand of the Charles University played the education card. Instead of flashy experiments, it tried to attract the audience of high school students by demonstrating use of medical equipment. The three stands could be described in three sentences: "Assemble a human body without any help from anatomy books", "Exercise in some of the easier invasive treatment methods" and "Help a dentist manage to work his way through such a limited space like a man's mouth".

As prof. RNDr. Petr Volf, CSc., the vice-rector for scientific and creative activity, said, the main goal was to work with the audience's experience of doctors and the perception of their job. If that was the case, the presentation did a great job introducing it in an attractive and playful manner. While assembling human organs, students found out it to be an intricate Rubik's Cube puzzle in which barely anybody succeeded. While approaching the dental chair with an assortment of drills, the startled audience tended to shy away. Almost everyone was happy that it is not them but a dummy sitting there. Many people took advantage of the doctors and students of medicine who took care of the stand to spontaneously ask for an expert piece of advice on their ailments.

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