

**Commemorative of the Dean at the ceremony organized to the memory of Ildikó Kozma
SemmelweisUniversity – András Pető Faculty
8 March 2021**

Dear Mourning Family!

Dear Mourning Friends and Colleagues!

Gyuláné Kozma (Ildikó Székely) has been associated with conductive pedagogy since her childhood, as her mother (Ily Székely) worked at the National Institute of Motor Therapy as one of the most faithful assistants of Pető András, as a close colleague of him. Ildikó Kozma worked as an employee of the Educational Training and Educational Institute for the Disabled and of its successor institutions from June 1967 to March 2006 – throughout 39 years.

Ildikó Kozma was also one of the first students of the four-year educational training course started in September 1968. Those times the Educational Training Institute provided training to its own employees, thus it was the number of open work positions that determined the headcount of the classes. At the end of the training between 1968 and 1972, there were 24 students taking their state exams, and it was Gyuláné Kozma and Dezsóné Horváth who were granted a degree with a special honour. There were many among the new conductors who intended to obtain a university level diploma. As the number of places was restricted, this was not a general option for everyone, but Ildikó Kozma was accepted to a 3-year-long supplementary pedagogical training at the Faculty of Humanities. Subsequently she completed various psychological and social-psychological executive trainings. She was already a General Director when she finished her doctoral studies at Keele University, Department of Education (Stoke on Trent, UK, PhD Research Study) between 1995 and 2000.

When the so-called “Methodology Group” was founded in 1973, Gyuláné Kozma became the leader of this group as the youngest out of 19 group leaders, who developed the high quality standard for practical training, and who pursued a part of her practical training under the guidance of Ferencné Székely as leading conductor. In 1973 she was awarded the prize called Higher Education Merit Medal. In December 1973 the study of Gyuláné Kozma and her group submitted to the Student Science Study Group was awarded a special prize, which was followed by another special prize awarded to a film, created by the same group, at the Miskolc Film Festival. From the 1970’s, the method of conductive pedagogy gained more and more international attention. Several people visited the institute from abroad and many families brought their children with disability to Budapest to let the expertise help of the conductors improve their quality of life.

Besides the European countries, visitors also arrived from more distant countries to get acquainted with the work done in the Institute. The Japanese even intended to adopt the complete conductive educational system. The Spastic Society conference, held in 1972 in Oxford, where the film *Diplegia* was presented, had a special effect. In this film, the work of a group of 35 persons was introduced by Ildikó Kozma as a young group leader. After presenting the film and a lecture, a real surge of questions were addressed to the participants and conductive pedagogy fell in the focus of interest.

In 1985 the Educational Training Institute moved from Villányi Road to the new building at Kútvölgyi Road. This time Ildikó Kozma was already a Deputy to Dr. Mária Hári, who was the Director General. As years passed by, there was an ever increasing demand for the Pető Institute to become an International Pető Institute. To this end, the existing capacities needed to be extended. As the amount demanded for the implementation of developments was expected to arrive partly from foreign grants, the Council of Ministers decided in 1988 in favour of founding the International Pető Fund. From 1989 Ildikó Kozma became a member of the board in this fund. A coordination committee was founded for the establishment of the new institution, in which committee Ildikó Kozma was invited by the deputy prime minister of the time as an expert. The plans considered establishing a complex on a 4-5 hectare area at the border of Budapest and Üröm, including even dwelling houses for the conductors. Finally, this area was ruled out as falling on the route of the planned M0 motorway ring. In December 1988, with the financial aid of the International Pető Fund, the International Pető Association was created with the aim of popularizing the conductive training method along with research activities. Ildikó Kozma was one of the founders of this Association.

Ildikó Kozma started her work as a trainer in 1974. From this year she became the leader for the conductive education practice of students in the I-IV. Classes. From 1977 she was a lecturer in various subjects of Conductive Pedagogy and Education Science (Conductive practices and complex program planning, Educational Theory, Pedagogical Research Methodology, Symptomatology).

From July 1985 she directed the student trainings in the training institutions as a Deputy Director General, worked out a new curriculum for the education of conductor-educators and developed the international training network. Furthermore, she established the possibility of cooperative education with foreign institutions of higher education. She achieved significant results in the field of developing the training and upskilling of conductor-educator students in Hungary and abroad.

As of 1 September 1989, the Institute became an independent educational institution, a college, and thus it became an institution of higher education. The Act of 1990 on Higher Education declared the institute as an individual, foundational college.

After the retirement of Dr. Mária Hári in 1994, upon the proposal of the College Council, Ildikó Kozma was appointed as Director General. Under her conduct, the institution realized several developments.

In 1998, the building complex at Villányi road was reconstructed and extended from funds by the British Government. In 2000, as the result of a model experiment, the nursery school groups operated on the principle of reverse integration were established, and in 2004, as a continuation, the “Opportunity Group” form was established in the schools. These groups facilitate nursery school and school education and training of physically disabled and typical development children together. Between 2003 and 2006, along with the conductor-teacher faculty, the training of conductor-nursery pedagogic training was launched.

From the 1970's lectures by Ildikó Kozma on conductive education and conductor training were frequent at various scientific conferences. She gave lectures at conferences of psychotherapists, child neurologists, health visitors, rehabilitation experts, pediatricians, psychiatrists.

Since 1984, Pető Institute has organized international courses for foreign experts and other interested parties twice a year, and in 1990 it organized the first Conductive Pedagogy World Conference. At this conference, Ildikó Kozma was one of the lecturers, she spoke of the special content, structure and quality of conductor training. At the subsequent Conductive Pedagogy World Conferences she continued to be active, as an organizer as well as a lecturer.

Her scientific articles were published in Hungarian and in English. She wrote several studies on the method of conductive education as well as on its application and on the training of conductors. Her studies published with dr. Erzsébet Balogh as co-author detailed the medical approach of the conductive education and its application in various age groups. She was the author of several textbooks used in higher education, these are still in use by conductor students in the course of their studies.

Dear Mourning Community!

We say farewell to her with honour and gratefulness, we preserve her memory with dignity. We keep on serving conductive pedagogy the way Ildikó Kozma would require us to do.

We wish she rests in peace, love and honour, our memories with her shall never fade away.

Dr. Andrea Zsebe
Dean, SE PAK