

IN MEMORIAM

Vojislav Petrović, academician (1925-2007)



Vojislav M. Petrović was born at Mala Kamenica, near Negotin, on January 2, 1925. His parents were teachers. He finished the Grammar school in Negotin in 1943, and then he took an active part in National-liberation war against the enemies. After the war, he started biology studies at the Faculty of Mathematics and Science in Belgrade, and he graduated in 1952. He started to work as a trainee teacher at The Normal school and at the Grammar school at Negotin. At the beginning of 1956, he was elected member of the staff at the Physiology Department at the Faculty of Mathematics and Science, Belgrade. Advised by professors Ivan Đaja and Stefan Đelineo, he centered his work on endocrinology studies and completed his doctorate dissertation "Endocrinal

factors of thermoregulation and thermal adaptation" at The Faculty of Mathematics and Science, Belgrade University

Remarkable results in his doctorate dissertation attracted the attention of Andre Mayer foundation and The French Academy of Science and he was awarded a scholarship and invited to join the research in the Laboratory for pharmacology at the College de France, and in the endocrinology laboratory of the Museum of Nature in Paris. After this period, he worked for a short period at the Institute of Physiology of the Faculty of Medicine in Strasbourg. He became a lecturer in Comparative physiology. The Canadian National Council for Scientific Research invited him, and he, together with his Canadian colleagues, worked, as a visiting scientist in the Biology Laboratory in Ottawa on the research in endocrinology and thermal adaptation. He was elected part-time professor in 1968, and the head of the department for Comparative and ecological physiology at The Faculty of Mathematics and Science in 1971. He was elected full-time professor in 1974.

He helped the foundation of The Institute for Biological Research in Belgrade, and soon he became the leader of the Endocrinology and Metabolism Laboratory. In the following decades, he worked at the Faculty of Mathematics and Science in Belgrade, the Faculty of Mathematics and Science in Kragujevac and The Institute for Biological Research in Belgrade and helped many young, capable and hardworking researchers become his co-operatives and eminent scientists in the fields he founded. Together with them, he published over 300 scientific works in top international journals (*Experientia*, *J. Endocrinol.*, *Am. J. Physiol.*, *Endocrinology*, *Gen. Comp. Endocrinol.*, *Europ. J. Physiol.*, *Free Rad. Biol. Med.*, *Physiol. Res.*, *JEPTO*), as well as a series of chapters in numerous books. He published a number of high-school and university course books.

Together with his scientific research, professor Petrović contributed its development by taking part in social life. He was appointed vice-dean of the Faculty of

Mathematics and Science in Belgrade in 1969, dean in 1971. He was elected the chief of the Department for biological sciences in 1973 and together with his colleague professors D. Kanazir and R. Anđus, contributed the foundation of the Molecular Biology and Physiology studies. He was appointed a corresponding member of SANU in 1974, was a vice-rector of Belgrade University (1975-1979) and rector (1981-1985). He was also a director of the Institute for Biological Research "Siniša Stanković" in Belgrade (1979-1981). He was admitted to the Bureau of European Association of Rectors (CRE) in Geneva *ad personam* (1984-1989), became a member of the Bureau of The Rector Conference of the Danube countries, and a member of the jury for academic education, a member of the Commission for Academic Education of the European Council in Strasbourg. For years, he was a president of the Educational Council of Serbia, and from 1986, a member of The State Committee for Science and Technology of SFRJ. He was a member of the management of Kolarac - a National University.

As a dean of the Faculty of Science and Mathematics in Belgrade, he contributed establishment of the department, later a Faculty of Mathematics and Science in Kragujevac, and there they formed groups for biology, chemistry, mathematics and physics. He held lectures in Comparative physiology for more than ten years, helped the graduates, and educated the staff patiently. He promoted researches in eco-physiology, eco-toxicology, endocrinology, oxidative stress, hydrobiology, and fishing, and the foundation of an aquarium in Kragujevac. He opposed the old-fashioned idea of founding a classical Faculty of Philosophy in Kragujevac, and helped to a great degree the development of the modern University.

In Serbian Academy of Science and Arts, he promoted new relationships in the scientific research. He was a member of the direction of the SANU, president of the Committee for biology in the Department for biology and chemistry, a member of inter-department committees for bio-medical research and eco-physiology, a member of Yugoslav Atherosclerosis Association (AIDS as well), and a member of Statute Committee. As a member of SANU, he conducted three big research projects together with the teams of researchers from the Faculty, The Institute of Biology in Belgrade and the Faculty of Mathematics and Science in Kragujevac.

He was awarded a few state and international acknowledgements: An Ordeal of Work with Gold Wreath (1976), an Ordeal of Work with Red Flag (1985), An Ordeal of the Republic of Mexico (1982) and the French Ordeal for the National Merit as a Legion Commander (1984).

Academician Vojislav Petrović was put in the following eminent international referential editions: The edition of the American bibliographic Institute (ABI- North Carolina) - Five Thousand Personalities of the World, the International Directory of Distinguished Leadership; The International Bibliographic Center IBC (The UK) for 1992 and 1993, under "International Who is Who of Intellectuals. The same referential center published the data about academician Petrović in edition: "International Men of Achievement" in 1993.

Academician Petrović worked hard until the last moment, but he did not make a synthesis of his scientific research. His students from Belgrade, Kragujevac, Novi Sad, Priština and Kosovska Mitrovica will do this, remembering his work, kindness, and his personality

Your memory may live, and thank you for everything, Mr. Petrović.

Radoslav V. Žikić