

IN MEMORIAM

**DR. NEVENKA STOJANOVIĆ
(1946-2006)**

UDC 929 Stojanović N. : 616.15

Research Professor and Director of the Institute for Medical Research Dr. Nevenka Stojanović was an enthusiastic scientist and leading light in coordination of scientific efforts in biomedicine. In her original way, she realized the importance of the main aspects of scientific work of interest for the functioning of an institution.

Doctor Stojanović had a brilliant career in the scientific field of her interest and as the manager of a scientific institution. She graduated from the University of Belgrade's Science Faculty and served as Assistant at the Vinča Institute of Nuclear Sciences from 1969, after which she earned her MS degree. From 1974, she was employed at the Institute for Medical Research as Research Assistant in the Laboratory of Cell Kinetics headed by Professor Srdjan Hajduković.

Doctor Stojanović developed an enthusiastic and innovative approach in research on granulopoiesis, to which she made a substantial contribution. Her original research in the field resulted in her Ph. D. thesis in 1981. On the basis of her successful research, she was appointed Assistant Research Professor in 1981 and in practice led the Laboratory of Cell Kinetics and projects on regulation of granulopoiesis.

Her innovative approach introduced new research methods in the field of experimental hematology not used in practice up to that time in our country. As a result of original experimental research, the presence of a new potential regulator of granulopoiesis was described in sera of rats with sterile inflammation. Original papers published in international journals contributed to the acceptance of two international projects. In that period Dr. Stojanović was Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Clinical Physiology in Ulm, the Brookhaven National Laboratory, and the Gustav Roussy INSERM Institute. Owing to successful work in the field of experimental hematology, Dr. Stojanović was appointed Associate Professor in 1985 and Research Professor in 1991.

In 1991, a new research group in hematology was



formed at the Institute for Medical Research that consolidated work of the previously existing laboratories devoted predominantly to research on erythropoiesis and granulopoiesis. The group was primarily involved in projects dealing with hematopoietic stem cells and regulation of hematopoiesis in a more comprehensive way than was done by the previous two separate groups. Doctor Stojanović led the research program of the new group.

Doctor Stojanović was a member of a number of scientific societies, including the International Society for Experimental Hematology, the American Society for Gene Therapy, the European Federation for Biotechnology, the Balkan Union of Oncologists, the Serbian Physiological Society, the Hematology Society, and the Society for Biochemical Engineering. She was a member of the national editorial board of the Archives of Oncology and the scientific board of the Bulletin of Hematology. Doctor Stojanović was the main promoter of the idea of formation of a Center of Excellence in Biomedicine in our country. The initial organizational activities were accomplished while she was still active, but further work was made possible only recently by stipulations incorporated in new legislation pertaining to scientific work. Unfortunately, her dream was not fulfilled during her lifetime.

Doctor Stojanović's solid scientific grounding was the basis of her engagement as Lecturer in Post-Graduate Hematology at the Medical Faculty in Belgrade (1983-2000), Lecturer in Experimental Hematology at the Science Faculty in Belgrade (1984-1989), and Assistant Professor until 1997. She took an active part in promoting the rules of good scientific practice. Her efforts resulted in the formulation of an ethical codex of science including principles and fundamental rules for scientific work. She was the first Ombudsman for Scientific Work at the National Institute of Oncology and Radiology in Belgrade.

Doctor Stojanović was appointed Acting Director of

the Institute for Medical Research in 1993 and served as its Director from 1997 up to her premature death. She led the institute during a period that was complicated and difficult for practical work. In that period, projects with the pharmaceutical and food industries were realized owing to Dr. Stojanović's managing abilities and ideas. These projects were not only scientifically important, but also ensured a more secure position of the institute and a practical basis for cooperation of scientific institutions and industry. Doctor Stojanović was accordingly included by

the Ministry of Science and Technology of Serbia in the team responsible for creating the Strategy of Technological Development, in addition to which she served as a consultant for USAID programs.

The career of Dr. Stojanović was guided by permanent values. She was a person with a talent for interpersonal communication and negotiation of different interests of importance for the successful work and position of the institute. We all miss her not only as a colleague, but as a friend as well.

Prof. Dr. Pavle Milenković