

IN MEMORIAM

ACADEMICIAN VLADIMIR PANTIĆ
(1921-2006)

UDC 929 Pantić V. : 616.15

Retired Professor Vladimir Pantić of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Belgrade passed away on May 19, 2006. In addition to being a full professor, he was also a regular member of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

Vladimir Pantić was born in the village of Medjulužje near Mladenovac on April 5, 1921. An outstanding pupil in school, he registered in 1940 at the Agriculture-Forestry Faculty, but had to discontinue his studies during World War II. Toward the end of the war, he joined the army and served in its Veterinary-Medical Corps from 1944 to 1946. In 1946 he registered at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, from which he graduated in 1950 and earned his Ph.D. in 1954 while serving as a research assistant.

As a young and promising cytologist, he went abroad for advanced training at the Department of Anatomy of London University's Royal College, the Carolinian Institute of Stockholm in 1958, and the University of Göteborg in 1962. Somewhat later, he spent time at the medical schools of several American universities. He founded the Laboratory of Electron Microscopy and Department of Cytology and Embryology in Belgrade, as well as the Laboratory of Electron Microscopy in Zemun. As far as his academic career is concerned, he was appointed Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine 1957, Associate Professor in 1963, and Full Professor in 1972, when he was also named Visiting Professor by the National Academy of Sciences of the USA for a term of two years. Prior to that, he was elected Corresponding Member of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts in 1971, and in 1981 was granted the title of Regular Member of the Academy. For a period of 12 years, Professor Pantić was



Secretary of the Academy's Natural Sciences Division and its Presidency, in which he performed a number of other functions and duties as well.

The research areas in which he worked were very diverse, but included the most modern directions in biological science, in which Professor Pantić often played a pioneering role. He started out with cytological and biochemical research on the effects of radiation. Later he investigated the role of hormones and their influence on differentiation and cytological properties of certain organs; the role of steroid hormones in regulation of growth, reproduction, and behavior of animals; cytological aspects of the response of neuroendocrine cells to stressogenic stimuli; effects of genetic program modulators on differentiation of neuroendocrine cells; etc.

All of these fundamental problems at the same time had their practical aspects, and for numerous discoveries (cited in the world literature as well as domestic publications) Professor Pantić received our highest awards and citations: the Republic of Serbia's Seventh of July Award for Science in 1960; the City of Belgrade's 20th of October Award for Biomedical Sciences in 1975; and the AVNOJ Yugoslav Award for Biomedical Sciences in 1984. In addition to this, he received the Medal with Gold Wreath for Labor in 1965 and was awarded the Medal for Service to the Nation 25 years ago (in 1981).

Professor Pantić was a founder of the Belgrade school of cell biology, i.e., modern cytology, and acted as advisor to more than a hundred recipients of master's and doctoral degrees. He received citations for outstanding work from Kolarev Open University, the Faculties of Veterinary Medicine and Stomatology in Belgrade, Belgrade University's Center for Multidisciplinary

Studies, the INEP, the IBISS, the Belgrade Agricultural Combine, the Faculty of Medicine in Niš, the Science Faculty of the University of Skoplje (FYROM), and the Society of Veterinarians of Rome (Italy).

He was Chairman of the Serbian Biological Society from 1966 to 1968; Chairman of the Society of Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians of Yugoslavia from 1994 to 1998; Chairman of the Society of Anatomists, Histologists, and Embryologists of Serbia from 1975 to 1978; Chairman of the Serbian Society for the Advancement of Electron Microscopy from 1979 to 1982; and Chairman of the Council on Biomedical Research of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts in 1981. In addition to this, Professor Pantić took part in and

chaired numerous congresses and received many honorary degrees. He represented our country as a member of many international societies. For example, he was a member of the Executive Council and Vice-Chairman of the International Foundation for the Advancement of Biochemical Endocrinology from 1975 to 1989; Honorary Chairman of the European Society for the Advancement of Comparative Endocrinology; an honorary member of the Italian Society of Anatomists; etc.

Academician Pantić was buried on May 24, 2006 in the section of the New Cemetery in Belgrade reserved for meritorious citizens.

Academician Dragoslav Marinković