

IN MEMORIAM

DR. SLOBODAN ŽIVKOVIĆ
(1925-2006)

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Dr. Slobodan Živković passed away in November of 2006 after a prolonged illness. He was born on December 11, 1925 in Belgrade, where he received his education. After graduating from the University of Belgrade's Science Faculty with a major in biology, he began a career in research at the Oncological Institute of the Faculty of Medicine, where he first encountered chromosomes, remaining involved with them in various ways until the end of his scientific career. In 1966 he defended his doctoral dissertation ("Functional and Cytogenic Characteristics of the Bp-S-9 Trans-



plantable Tumor of Rats") at the Faculty of Science. After transferring to the Siniša Stanković Institute for Biological Research in 1966, he briefly took up human cytogenetics, but soon initiated research on mammalian chromosomes that was pioneering at that time in our country. In an atmosphere of enthusiasm to which he contributed greatly, Dr. Živković succeeded in launching and developing research in animal cytogenetics. Together with taxonomists (especially Dr. Boris Petrov), he was able to raise this field to a higher level of biological significance. Through 115 scientific and 56 expert papers published in international and domestic journals, Slobodan Živković depicted the chromosome structure of many species of Serbian mammals. Especially well received were his studies on the cytotaxonomy of voles and game animals. Many of these papers are cited even today. The paper "Chromosome complement of European wild pig — *Sus scrofa* L." was cited almost a hundred times in the foreign literature. As a person always ready for scientific cooperation, he also developed research on fish chromosomes in collaboration with ichthyologists.

Dr. Slobodan Živković contributed significantly to the development of biology in our country. He was Chair-

man of the Serbian Biological Society during the period from 1972 to 1974 and achieved good cooperation with scientists from Russia, Czechoslovakia, France, and Germany. In the nineties of the last century, Dr. Živković served as Chairman of the COMECON Committee for the Organization of International Symposia. In addition to this, he was coordinator of cooperation between the Institute for Biological Research and the Institute of Developmental Biology of the USSR Academy of Sciences. He was also a member of the American So-

ciety for the Advancement of Science and the German Mammalogical Society.

He served two terms as Chairman of the Oncological Institute's Collegial Managing Board, was a member of that body of the Siniša Stanković Institute for Biological Research in Belgrade from 1978 to 1980, and served as its Chairman from 1982 to 1984. He was also a member of the Scientific Collegium of the University of Belgrade. For many years he successfully directed the Genetics Division of the Institute for Biological Research.

An outstanding teacher, Dr. Živković took part in the post-graduate training of students of genetics at the University of Belgrade's Science Faculty and for many years served as Associate Professor of Genetics at the Science Faculty of Priština University. As adviser to many graduate students working on their master's and doctoral theses, he guided many of today's scientists in their efforts to discover the secrets of chromosomes. He willingly delivered lectures to wider audiences in an attempt to bring them closer to the problems of genetics research.

Dr. Slobodan Živković (or "Joe", as we all called him) was a true biologist by nature. He loved hunting and

fishing, which satisfied his need to be outdoors and in the company of unassuming people. He left his friends with many pleasant memories of companionship and of the numerous stories and anecdotes that he related so vividly. He had the rare gift of deeply understanding the problems of his associates and offered them discrete assist-

ance when it was most needed. All of us who had the honor of spending part of our working life with Dr. Živković will hold him in the pleasantest of memories.

Dr. Mladen Vujošević