IN MEMORIAM

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PROFESSOR DR. VOJISLAV M. PETROVIĆ

(1925-2007)

Born in Mala Kamenica (a small Serbian village near Negotin) in 1925, Academician Vojislav Petrović from his early youth, in addition to loving music and playing the violin, was interested in exploring and studying nature in the surrounding environment, in which activities he was supported and helped by his parents, well-educated and respected teachers. After graduation from the Science Faculty's Biology Department (1953), he taught for a short time in secondary schools in Negotin before being employed at his alma mater in Belgrade. Following successful defense of his Ph. D. thesis (1959) entitled "Endocrine Factor of Thermoregu-

lation and Thermal Adaptation", he was soon deeply involved in the scientific field of animal physiology, becoming a distinguished member of the famous "Belgrade School of Physiology".

Thanks to significant results obtained in working on his doctoral thesis, Academician V. Petrović spent one year in Paris (College de France, Laboratorie de Endocrinologie) as postdoctoral fellowship holder of the Andre Mayer Foundation and the French Academy of Sciences in Strasbourg. At the invitation of the Canadian National Research Council, he then spent the year 1967 in Canada as a visiting researcher, working on a joint project dealing with endocrinology and thermal regulation.

He was appointed assistant professor in 1960, associate professor in 1968, and full professor in 1974. At the University of Belgrade, he founded the Chair of Comparative Physiology and Ecophysiology within the Science Faculty's Department of Biological Sciences (currently the Faculty of Biology) and served as its head until retirement. In addition to this, he was a founder and head of the Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism (currently



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the Department of Physiology) of the Siniša Stanković Institute for Biological Research in Belgrade.

The major research area of Academician Petrović was the endocrine regulation of thermal adaptation, and he published over 300 scientific papers in the given field in renowned international or domestic journals, which were cited more than 300 times. The most significant papers, chosen only from among those published in the last two decades of his rich research career were as follows: Effect of acute and chronic exposure to cold on the endocrine system of laboratory animals (In: Progress

in Biometeorology, Eds. Swets and Zeitlinger, Amsterdam, 1976); Selective effect of noradrenaline on superoxide dismutase activity in the brown adipose tissue and liver of the rat (Experientia, 1981); Increase in superoxide dismutase activity induced by thyroid hormones in the brains of neonate and adult rats (Experientia, 1982); Effect of thyroid hormones on superoxide dismutase, tyrosine hydroxylase, and monoamine oxidase activity in the rat brain (In: Neuropeptides and Psychosomatic Processes, Eds. Endroczi et al., North Holland Publ. Comp. Hung. Acad. Sci. House, Budapest, 1983); Superoxide dismutase activity in the rat exposed to extreme environmental conditions (In: Adaptations to Terrestrial Environments, Eds. Margaris, Arianoutsou-Faraggiatki, and Reiter, Plenum Press, New York, 1983); Effect of cold stress on tyrosine hydroxylase and monoamine oxidase activity in the rat with provoked hyperthyroid status (In: Stress: the role of catecholamines and other neurotransmitters. Eds. Usdin, Kvetnansky, and Axelrod: Gordon and Breach Sci. Publishers, New York, 1984); Neuroendocrine control in thermal stress (In: Neuroendocrine Correlates of Stress, Eds. McKerns and Pantic, Plenum Press, London, 1985); Age-dependent resistance to the toxic effects of parquet in relation to superoxide dismutase activity in rat lung (Free Rad. Res. Comms., 1986); Copperzinc-containing and manganese-containing superoxide dismutase in the ground squirrel - Citellus citellus (Free Rad. Res. Comms., 1986); Effect of cold stress on catecholamine enzymes in the ground squirrel (Citellus citellus) in relation to the annual cycle (In: Stress: Neurochemical and Hormonal Mechanisms, Eds. Van Loon, Kvetnansky, Macarty, and Axelrod. Publ. Gordon and Breach Science Publishers SA, New York, 1989); Hormones and antioxidant defense (In: Anticarcinogenesis and Radiation Protection, 2, Eds. Nygaard and Upton, Plenum Press, New York, 1991); L'activitié des enzymes antioxidantes chez les sujetes exposes aux excersises musculaire et polution dans la region deficitaire en selenium (Arch. Int. Physiol. Biochem. Biophys., 1994); Selenium metabolism with special interest in Se-dependent glutathione peroxidase (Scientific meetings LXXVIII, Book 6, 1995); Seasonal changes in the antioxidative defense in ground squirrel - Citellus citellus: possible role of GSH-Px (JEPTO, 1998); Effect of cold exposure on serum DBH and interscapular brown adipose tissue MAO in hypothyroid T3- and T4-treated rats (Ann. New York Acad. Sci., 2004).

During the course of his productive scientific-research career he formed several successful research teams, at the Faculty of Biology and in the Siniša Stanković Institute for Biological Research in Belgrade, as well as at the Science Faculty in Kragujevac, whose researchers have become successful scientists. Together with his collaborators, he worked on the realization of several large scientific projects, among which were ones entitled Antioxidative Systems, Neuroendocrine Regulation, and Their Inter-Relationship under Conditions of Sustained Homeostasis and Adaptational Processes (SASA); Neuroendocrine Control of Biological Rhythms (SASA); Interaction of Sympathetic Nervous System and Hormones under Conditions of Altered Energy Homeostasis and Neurohumoral Regulation (Serbian Ministry of Science); Neurosecretion under Conditions of Sustained and Disturbed Homeostasis (Serbian Ministry of Science); etc.

Academician Vojislav Petrović was a highly respected professor whose lectures were eagerly attended by students. He published over 20 university textbooks (Comparative Physiology I – 1991 and Comparative Physiology II – 1993 in collaboration with R. Radojičić; Endocrinology, General and Comparative - 1997 in collaboration with G. Cvijić), high-school textbooks, and professional books.

Parallel with highly successful research and teaching, Academician Petrović was also highly committed to various social activities. He was vice dean (1969) and dean (1971) of the University of Belgrade's Science Faculty; served as head of the Science Faculty's Department of Biological Sciences (1973); and (together with Professor R. Andjus and Professor D. Kanazir) greatly contributed to establishing a new study group - Molecular Biology and Physiology - at this faculty.

In 1974 he was elected a corresponding member of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA); from 1975 to 1979, he was a vice-rector of Belgrade University; and from 1981 to 1985, he was its rector. Between the two latter appointments, he held the position of director of the Institute for Biological Research in Belgrade. He was a member of the Bureau of the European Standing Conference of Rectors (*ad personam*), a member of the Bureau of the Danube Rectors' Conference, a member of the Higher Education Commission of the European Council in Strasbourg, president of the Education Council of Serbia, and a member of the Federal Committee for Science and Technology of the former Yugoslavia.

Professor Petrović was elected a full member of SASA in 1986. He was a member of the Presidency of the Serbian Academy and president of its Biology Board within the Department of Chemical and Biological Sciences; a member of the Inter-Departmental Board for the Departments of Biomedicine and Ecophysiology; and a member of a number of domestic and foreign scientific societies.

Academician Petrović had enviable scientific and professional qualities, for which he was and remains esteemed and respected. He also possessed deeply ingrained and frank human qualities, for which he was loved by his closest collaborators. We shall remember the long and serious discussions we had with him, not only about science, but also on topics of music, history, politics, and common everyday problems, for which he always had understanding and encouragement. To his closest collaborators, Academician Petrović was and will always remain our 'Professor' as we called him.

Prof. Dr. Gordana Cvijić