

IN MEMORIAM

**PROF. DR. TATJANA ŠKURINA**  
(1914-2008)

UDC 929 Škurina T. : 618

The daughter of a professor and a housewife, Tatjana Škurina was born on 17 November 1914 in St. Petersburg, Russia. After the October Revolution, she emigrated with her family to the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (Yugoslavia). She completed her elementary education in Aleksinac in 1924, graduated from high school in Bela Crkva in 1932, and that same year enrolled at the University of Belgrade's Faculty of Medicine, from which she graduated in 1938.



Head of the Operative Department with Operation Theaters. Professor Škurina worked mainly in the field of operative gynecology and obstetrics and was one of our best operators, capable of successfully performing the most complicated operations.

Within the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, she was appointed to the post of graduate assistant in 1951, assistant professor in 1956, associate professor in 1965, and full professor in 1972. Not only as a graduate assistant, but also as an assistant professor, associate professor, and full professor, Dr. Škurina was constantly involved in the practical training of medical students. In addition to teaching regular students, she delivered lectures to doctors engaged in specialization studies, post-graduate students, and gynecologists in innovative courses organized by the Council on Public Health of the Republic of Serbia and Institute for Protection of the Nation's Youth. For many years she supervised and organized professional meetings at the Gynecological-Obstetrics Clinic. She was a long-time member and vice-chairman of the Commission for Administration of Gynecological-Obstetrics Specialist Examinations. The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Serbia appointed her Supervisor of the Gynecological-Obstetrics Service in Serbia.

Upon completing a one-year internship, Dr. Škurina began the course of specialization in gynecology and obstetrics at the Gynecological-Obstetrics Department of the General State Hospital in Belgrade, from which she was released as a volunteer doctor in 1941. Thereafter she continued her specialist's training at the Gynecological-Obstetrics and Surgical Department of the Railway Hospital in the Belgrade suburb of Dedinje, likewise in the capacity of a volunteer doctor.

Because she contracted tuberculosis of the lungs at the end of 1943, Dr. Škurina discontinued her specialization studies, which she resumed only in 1947 at the Gynecological-Obstetrics Department of the General State Hospital. She passed her specialist's examination in 1948, earned her master's degree in 1955, and spent time studying at medical institutions in Paris (1954) and Prague (1956). After dissolution of the General State Hospital, she moved on to the Gynecological-Obstetrics Clinic, where she worked as a department chief until her retirement. For more than 20 years she headed various departments of the Clinic, spending the longest period of time as

Professor Škurina was one of the translators of the textbook "Obstetrics" by Greenhill, and in the Yugoslav textbook "Childbirth" she wrote the chapter entitled "Eclampsia, preeclampsia, and shock in childbirth", which also appeared in the second and third editions of the textbook. In the fourth edition of this textbook, she authored the chapters "Early and late

gestation", "Eclampsia", "Blood diseases", "Diseases of the urinary tracts and pregnancy", and "Obesity and pregnancy". For a long time, she served as assistant to the book's editor-in-chief, Professor B. Milosevic.

She was the author or coauthor of more than 150 papers that appeared in domestic and foreign journals and anthologies of works presented at scientific meetings. Among them was a landmark paper entitled "Anesthesia in childbirth by Cesarean section" (1956), which was later published in updated and amplified form in French (apart from Serbian, Dr. Škurina spoke Russian and French fluently and had a working knowledge of German). In addition to this, she participated in congresses of gynecologists and obstetricians of Yugoslavia, as well as in congresses of urologists, oncologists, physiotherapists, and anesthesiologists in our country and abroad.

As a member of the staff of Belgrade University's Faculty of Medicine, she acted as advisor in the preparation of many sub-specialization, master's, and doctoral theses.

Professor Škurina was active in the Serbian Medical Society, especially its Gynecological-Obstetrics Section, in which she was elected a member of the managing committee. She presented many reports at meetings of the Section. She also delivered numerous lectures at meetings of branches of the Serbian Medical Society in many cities of Serbia. She took part in intersectional meetings organized by the Society with corresponding sections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Montenegro. In addition to this, she belonged to the Association of Gynecologists of Yugoslavia (AGOY) and the Balkan Union of Gynecologists and Obstetricians. She was also a

member of the editorial board of the journal Yugoslav Gynecology and Obstetrics.

She performed a number of responsible duties in the following capacities: member of the managing committee of the local branch of the Association of University Teachers; member of the Faculty of Medicine's Council on Postgraduate Study and Council on Scientific Research; member of the supervisory committee of the Gynecological-Obstetrics Section of the Serbian Medical Society; member of the Commission on Scientific Research in the Area of Surgery within the Federal Council for Coordination of Scientific Institutions; chairman of the Commission for Protection of Women's Health within the Health Protection Institute of Serbia; and member of various commissions and organs of the Gynecological-Obstetrics Clinic.

Professor Škurina received numerous forms of acknowledgment: a medallion from the Faculty of Medicine (1970) for outstanding services and work in development and advancement of the Faculty; an honorary diploma from the Council of Medical Societies of Yugoslavia (1970); a statement of gratitude from the Serbian Medical Society on the centennial of its founding (1972); a statement of gratitude for long-time cooperation and contribution to development of the Medical Institute in Titograd (now Podgorica) (1974); a medallion from the Serbian Medical Society (1975); and the Red Banner Medal of Labor (1975).

She retired in 1978 and thereafter resided in Belgrade.

Dr. Dragoljub Pantović  
Dr. Miomir Krstić