

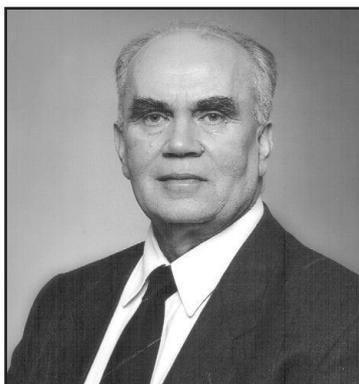
IN MEMORIAM

## PROFESSOR DR BOGOSAV SOLDATOVIĆ

01 April 1934 – 15 July 2012

Each life begins with the first breath and ends with memory. Professor Bogosav Soldatović was born on 4 April 1934 in the village of Mojković near Zavlaka, Serbia. He attended primary and secondary school in Zavlaka and Loznica, and in 1953 he enrolled into the Veterinary Faculty. On completion of his studies, he lived and worked for a while in Switzerland. His scientific career began in 1962 as an assistant at the Institute for Biological Research in Belgrade where he finished his doctoral dissertation. He then joined the Veterinary Faculty in Belgrade as an associate professor in the Biology Department. He became a full professor in 1984. In addition to his work in the Biology Department at the Veterinary Faculty, he organized and taught genetics at other faculties – the Faculties of Pharmacy in Belgrade and Agronomics in Čačak. Along with graduate studies, he participated in postgraduate courses at the Veterinary Faculty in the fields of genetics and veterinary statistics at the Natural Sciences and Medical Faculties of the University of Belgrade, as well as faculties of the universities in Zagreb, Podgorica, Sarajevo, Novi Sad, Greece and Germany.

During his rich scientific and teaching career he supervised 62 doctoral and masters programs in the country and abroad, selflessly passing on his knowledge and experience to younger generations. He will be remembered for his valuable contributions as Head of the Biology Department, Director of the Institute of Morphology and Physiology, his twice-held position as vice-dean and one mandate as dean of the Veterinary Faculty of the University of Belgrade. He also chaired or participated in the work of the Scientific Council of medical faculties of the University of



Belgrade. He was President of the Society of Serbian Geneticists. In 1999, he was elected to be a full member of the Academy of Veterinary Medicine of the Serbian Veterinary Society.

Thanks to his contributions to the field of genetics, Professor Soldatović collaborated with many scientific institutions at home and abroad, and he initiated and participated in the founding and work of a number of cytogenetic laboratories in various universities in Yugoslavia, Greece, the Czech Republic and Germany. As a man of experience and with ideas in the fields of biology and genetics, he took part in the work and management of 16 local and international scientific projects. He published his findings in over 400 scientific papers in international and local journals with high citation indexes. He was the author of three national and one international monograph, as well as numerous student textbooks in the field of genetics.

Driven by curiosity, Professor Soldatović searched for answers in areas of genetics and cytogenetics where many had given up the search. As a pioneer in its investigation and with extraordinary persistence, he introduced modern cytogenetic techniques to the former Yugoslavia. In the 1960s, when in most textbooks an incorrect number of human chromosomes was given and the criteria for their identification was just being established, his research into the karyotypic polymorphism of the species *Spalax leucodon* contributed greatly to this field. Thanks to his tireless work and the educating of the young, his efforts in the period 1971 to 2000 resulted in a series of publications on phylogenetic relations and the

evolution of the karyotypes of various fish and mammals. A particularly interesting field in the cytogenetic research carried out by Professor Soldatović is the link between increased environmental pollution with mutagenic agents and the resulting changes in chromosomes, confirmed by following these effects through cytogenetic analysis of the karyotype. Much of the research done by Professor Soldatović and his collaborators showed that pesticides, as well as certain medications, have genotoxic and mutagenic effects; this is of great importance to medicine, veterinary science and pharmacy as it proves that in addition to environmental pollutants, medications can increase the “genetic risk” of unforeseen consequences in offspring and future generations.

Professor Soldatović was the recipient of many national and international awards for his work, among which were the October Award of the City of Belgrade and the Humboldt Foundation Award.

Always open to new ideas from the young, Professor Soldatović had great patience and enthusiasm for new research, and he shared his experience selflessly with us, his colleagues. Those who knew him recognized the breadth of his horizon and the greatness of his heart. He was a professor who taught us,

a friend who listened to and supported us, and above all, a man who was there to provide help whenever needed.

Professor Soldatović continued in his teaching and research after his retirement. He came to the Faculty and took part in planning projects, scientific reports and different teaching and research activities. He was always ready to advise us, his colleagues, but also to help young people and associates in solving their personal and professional problems. Those who knew him will remember him for his extraordinary energy and his desire to use his time for work and discussions from which many ideas were born and whose realization continues.

We know that words cannot adequately describe a soul and that biographical facts will not uncover the essence of a man. The desire, feeling and attitude Professor Soldatović had towards life, work and for those he knew cannot be portrayed, but they shape the memory of this great man that will stay in our hearts forever.

Board of the Department of Biology  
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