

IN MEMORIAM

Ljiljana Vučković-Dekić (1943 – 2019)



It was a morning of November 2019 when a most distressing news was destined to shock all the Journal of BUON staff and beyond. Ljiljana Vučković-Dekić, our most beloved Ljiljana, had passed away. A physician, immunologist, doctor of medical sciences, scientific advisor and holder of numerous titles, this wonderful and outstanding lady has made an immense contribution to the profession, research, science, but also to the emergence and advancement of our Journal of BUON.

Ljiljana Vučković-Dekić was born in Tekija, Serbia, former Yugoslavia. She acquired the MD Degree, MS Degree and PhD Degree at the University of Belgrade Medical School in 1967, 1975, and 1980, respectively. Her first job was as a Research Assistant, Institute for Medical Research, Belgrade.

However, she spent most of her scientific career as a Research Professor at the Institute of Oncology and Radiology of Serbia. Cancer immunology was her main research interest. As the head of the Research Department at the Institute of Oncology and Radiology of Serbia, she was the author of the first document “Good Scientific Practice” in Serbia, which is invaluable for our science since it has set the code of ethics for scientific research work.

She was a member of numerous international and local professional associations and very active in the Serbian Medical Society, and as an objective analyst and tireless researcher, she was the author of 11 monographs and over 120 published scientific papers (62 papers in international and 64 in national journals). She was a member of the editorial board in 8 domestic and foreign Journals.

As a lecturer she pursued the idea that students should outperform their teachers, she was the creator of visionary lectures that were delivered for decades. Through the “Communication in Science” cycle, she taught young researchers how to write, publish and evaluate their work, and in more than 30 texts she gave clear guidance to her colleagues on how to demonstrate and present research findings. With the cycle “Ethics of Scientific Research” she familiarized young researchers with the types of fraud in science and with the cycle “Methodology of Scientific Research” she provided the space for biostatistics.

She developed the concept and became one of the founders of the Balkan Union of Oncology



(BUON) and of the international Journal of the Balkan Union of Oncology, JBUON - now Journal of Biomedical Updates in Oncology- maintaining its earlier historical abbreviation - in which she performed the function of a deputy editor-in-chief until her death. As a tireless enthusiast, she initiated and managed numerous activities that helped JBUON's advancement.

Due to her achievements in her long and rich career, the Academy of Medical Sciences presented her the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016.

In addition to the profession, this outstanding lady had numerous unique qualities. She was a fa-

vourite in any company of people as always smiling, charming and joking, as a passionate reader and connoisseur of books, theatre, film and fine arts, history, classical music, culinary arts, flowers and gardening, as a tireless traveller and connoisseur of many parts of Serbia and the world.

Ljiljana Vučković-Dekić was a great researcher, scientist, editor and humanist who gave us many beauties by her existence, richness of human qualities, wonderful character, ideas, thoughts and works. She will always be immensely appreciated for being there, for being ours. May she have eternal glory till the end of time!

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Nasos Athanasiou, Siniša Radulović, Dusica Gavrilović,
JBUON