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 outstand-
ing lady has made an immense contribution to the
profession, research, science, but also to the emer-
gence and advancement of our Journal of BUON.

Ljiljana Vučkovic-Dekić was born in Tekija,
Serbia, former Yugoslavia. She acquired the MD
Degree, MS Degree and PhD Degree at the Univer-
sity 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 carrier
as a Research Professor at the Institute of Oncol-
ogy 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 ac-
tive in the Serbian Medical Society, and as an
objective analyst and tireless researcher, she was
the author of 11 monographs and over 120 pub-
lished 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 crea-
tor 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 find-
ings. With the cycle “Ethics of Scientific Research”
she familiarized young researchers with the types
of fraud in science and with the cycle “Methodol-
gy 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

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(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.

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

December 2019

Nasos Athanasiou, Siniša Radulović, Dusica Gavrilović, JBUON