

In memoriam

Professor Ljiljana Vapa, PhD
(1945–2022)



Professor Ljiljana Vapa was Full Professor of Genetics at Department of Biology and Ecology, Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad.

Prof. Dr. Ljiljana Vapa was born in 1945 in Zagreb. She finished elementary school “Žarko Zrenjanin” and grammar school “Jovan Jovanović Zmaj” in Novi Sad. She enrolled to undergraduate studies in Biology at Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad and obtained Bachelor of Science in Biology degree in 1968. Professor Ljiljana Vapa finished her Master studies in field of Plant Genetics and Breeding at Faculty of Agriculture, University of Novi Sad in 1975. In 1983 she successfully defended her PhD thesis titled “Polymorphism of wheat proteins (*Triticum aestivum* L.)” at Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad.

University career of Prof. Dr. Ljiljana Vapa started in 1970, when she obtained Teaching Assistant position at Faculty of Technology, University of Novi Sad, where she held practical lectures in course Biology for technological engineers. Recently after that, Prof. Dr. Ljiljana Vapa continued her work as Teaching Assistant in the field of Genetics at Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad. She was appointed as Assistant Professor in 1985 at Faculty of Sciences, and in 1991 obtained Associate Professor position. In 1996 Prof. Dr. Ljiljana Vapa obtained Full Professor position in the field of Genetics at Department of Biology and Ecology, Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad. Prof. Dr. Ljiljana Vapa taught obligatory and elective courses at undergraduate, master and PhD studies in the field of Genetics. In addition, she was engaged as professor of Human Genetics course for students of medicine and dental medicine at Faculty of Medicine and graduate courses at Faculty of Agriculture.

Prof. Dr. Ljiljana Vapa was a supervisor of numerous bachelor's, master's and PhD theses, giving extraordinary contribution in education and development of new generations of researchers, teachers and professors.

The research work of Prof. Dr. Ljiljana Vapa was focused on population genetics, exploring genetic variability of plant and animal populations. She was among pioneers who implemented and employed molecular markers in population genetics studies focused on plant breeding and conservation genetics of wild populations. Prof. Ljiljana Vapa successfully

established molecular genetics methods at Laboratory of Genetics, and developed her research group expanding research towards marker assisted selection, conservation genetics of animal populations, landscape genetics and phylogeography. Professor Ljiljana Vapa was principle investigator of international and national research projects, as well as researcher in numerous projects.

Prof. Dr. Ljiljana Vapa was author and co-author of 7 university textbooks, 13 monographs, 72 papers published in international journals, 116 papers published in national journals, and 151 abstracts presented at international and national conferences.

Prof. Dr. Ljiljana Vapa conducted research visits at highly ranked universities. She performed research visits at University of Uppsala, Sweden in 1970; University of California, Berkeley, USA (IAEA scholarship, 6 months) in 1981; University of California, Davis, USA and Texas A&M University College Station, USA (Fulbright Scholar, one year) in 1985.

During three mandates Prof. Dr. Ljiljana Vapa was a member of Committee of Biology at Ministry of Science, Technology and Development of Republic of Serbia. She served as project evaluator in the field of biology and technological development, and an expert for biology within Federal Ministry for Development, Science and Environment.

Prof. Dr. Ljiljana Vapa was a member of the University Senate of University of Novi Sad, a member of Committee for recognition of foreign diplomas of University of Novi Sad, and in several mandates a member of Academic Council of Faculty of Sciences and Council of Department of Biology and Ecology. She was head of the Chair of biochemistry, physiology, genetics and histology at Department of Biology and Ecology.

Prof. Dr. Ljiljana Vapa was actively involved in work of Republic Center for Young Talents as leader of Biology group at Center for talents in Novi Sad and Center for talents in Sremski Karlovci.

Prof. Dr. Ljiljana Vapa was a member of International Association for Cereal Science (ICC), International Union of Game Biologists, Serbian Genetics Society, Serbian Biological Society, Matica Srpska Department for Sciences and member of Editorial board of Review of Research, Faculty of Sciences

– Biology Series (today's *Biologia Serbica*).

For her achievements Prof. Dr. Ljiljana Vapa was awarded by Lifetime Achievement Award for professors and researchers in Vojvodina in 2010, when she retired.

Prof. Dr. Ljiljana Vapa was dedicated wife, mother and grandmother.

Prof. Dr. Ljiljana Vapa was highly respected professor and researcher. She established long term research cooperation among research groups within the Faculty of Sci-

ences, between national institutions and achieved fruitful international cooperation. Professor Ljiljana Vapa was an estimated leader in field of population genetics, and her vision inspired her students and research colleagues to expand borders and reach new horizons guided by her ideas, motivation and knowledge. The professional goals and influence of Prof. Dr. Ljiljana Vapa are deeply engraved in the research work of Laboratory of Genetics at Department of Biology and Ecology.

Dr. Mihajla Djan

University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Sciences,
Department of Biology and Ecology, Novi Sad, Serbia