

In memoriam

**Professor Vesna Rajković, PhD
(1970-2015)**



Dr. Vesna Rajković, associate professor of Histology and Embryology, Department of Biology and Ecology, Faculty of Science, University of Novi Sad, passed away on Feb. 25th, 2015, following a 2-year battle with cancer. She was 44.

Professor Vesna Rajković received her B.Sc. in Biology in 1995 from the University of Novi Sad, and M.Sc in Veterinary Medicine in 1999 from the University of Belgrade. She subsequently received her PhD from the Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad. Her professional career was entirely at the University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Sciences, in the Department of Biology and Ecology, where she served as assistant (1995-2008), assistant professor (2008-2013) and associate professor (2013-2015). She began working in the Laboratory for Histology and Embryology at the Department of Biology and Ecology, Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad as a graduate student: almost at the very beginning of the establishment of this laboratory. There she began to develop her long-term research work on histo-physiological changes of the thyroid gland under the influence of different stressors. After graduating, she continued Master studies at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, and completed her M.Sc thesis in 1999, entitled "Morpho-physiological properties of rat thyroid gland exposed to pulsed electromagnetic field" Her doctoral thesis entitled, "The effect of extremely low frequency electromagnetic fields on the thyroid gland and skin of rats," was successfully defended at the Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad in 2008. Part of the experimental work for her doctoral thesis was conducted at the Department of Neuroscience, Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, with whom she developed long-term fruitful collaborations. Professor Vesna Rajković was widely regarded as an outstanding histologist and lecturer, with great interest and passion for research and

teaching. The main field of her investigation was structural and ultrastructural changes in the thyroid gland under the influence of electromagnetic fields, atrazine, acrylamide, etc.; where she made major contributions. She published over 50 research articles during her career, served as a reviewer for many international scientific journals and was deeply involved in numerous scientific projects.

During her career she also served as lecturer for a number of courses, including: Cytology and Histology, Histology and Embryology and Preparation of Animal Cells and Tissues. Also, she made significant contributions to the introduction of two new courses in the Biology curriculum at the Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad: Preparation of Animal Cells and Tissues, and Laboratory Methods and Practical Skills. In addition she served as mentor for many master and diploma thesis projects. She co-authored a laboratory textbook „Laboratory Techniques in Histology” in 2014, and a monography „Bioelectromagnetism“ in 2010.

Although at first she sometimes presented a discreet and reserved personality, Professor Vesna Rajković was in reality a very gentle and caring person who left a deep mark on her colleagues and the numerous students she taught and mentored across her 20-year career. Her passing is an irreparable loss for which it will take time even to begin to assimilate. She will be sorely missed in the Laboratory for Histology and Embryology at the Department of Biology and Ecology, but her work will live on in the minds and hearts of many.

Dr. Milica Matavulj

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