



Professor Dr. MERCEDES WRISCHER
(1929–2012)

Professor Dr. Mercedes Wrischer was born on February 5, 1929, in Belgrade where her family was living temporarily. She finished German elementary school and the junior classes of high school there. After her family's return to Croatia she completed high school in Zagreb (1947), and then went on to read biology in the Biology Department of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in the University of Zagreb, where she received her degree (1952), doctorate (1962) and later habilitation (1973). From March 1, 1955, until her retirement in 1999 she worked at the Ruđer Bošković Institute in the Electron Microscopy Laboratory. Through the years, she advanced to the head of the laboratory. She also served as a teacher at the University of Zagreb. In 1965 she was awarded an Alexander von Humboldt scholarship, which enabled her to work for two years in Germany on University in Heidelberg and Freiburg i. B.

Professor Wrischer was one of the best known regional cell biologists, particularly appreciated for her experience in electron microscopy. She was among the pioneers in this field and, at first, spent much time establishing efficient laboratory techniques for the preparation of biological samples. Plastid morphology and physiology became her main field of work. In addition of her own projects, Professor Wrischer had widely collaborated with colleagues from a variety of disciplines, from colloidal chemistry to medical research, but most of all with biologists of all specialties. For many years, regional research on plant viruses was unthinkable without her help with electron micrographs. Professor Wrischer was the author or co-author more than 140 scientific papers.

For her engagement in research and education, Professor Wrischer received the Ruđer Bošković award for distinction in science, the Croatian Morning Star with the image of Ruđer Bošković, and the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts Award. She was also elected an Associate Member of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts.