

## Professor Anđelko Wolf, MD, PhD

*(Slavonski Šamac, February 22, 1922 – Zagreb, November 7, 2007)*



In the early autumn, we had to accept the sad truth that Professor Anđelko Wolf, MD, PhD, doyen of the Croatian dermatology and venereology, our dear friend, teacher and noble man, departed this life.

Anđelko Wolf, born in 1922 in Slavonski Šamac, Croatia, was specialist in epidemiology, bacteriology, dermatology and venereology, retired head of University Department of Dermatology and Venereology, Rijeka University Hospital Center, member of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Croatia since 1983.

He graduated from the Zagreb University School of Medicine, served residency in epidemiology and bacteriology, then also in dermatology and venereology in Zagreb in 1958; received training in Lyon, France. In 1965, awarded training scholarship at Professor Thiers' department of dermatology and allergology in Lyon, France. Upon foundation of the School of Medicine in Rijeka, he was appointed assistant on the subject of dermatology/venereology, then professor, and in 1981 scientific advisor. In 1966, he was appointed vice-head, and in 1977 head of the University Department of Dermatology and Venereology, Rijeka University Hospital Center and School of Medicine, which position he held until retirement. In 1972, Professor Wolf defended his doctoral dissertation entitled "The role of light in the development of pathologic events in the skin" at Rijeka School of Medicine.

Professor Anđelko Wolf educated about thirty generations of physicians through undergraduate studies and a dozen generations of postgraduate students at medical schools in Rijeka, Zagreb and Trieste; he was supervisor to three doctoral dissertations, five MS theses, and a number of graduation theses. He also held the position of vice-dean at Rijeka School of Medicine.

His scientific and professional activities covered entire dermatology and venereology, with special reference to the fields of allergology, mycology, photobiology, occupational skin diseases, genodermatoses, and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. He took active part in numerous congresses, symposia and conventions (e.g., in Naples, Graz, Trieste and Sophia). With his research into the effect of light on pathologic skin events he contributed greatly to the science of dermatology. He was principal investigator in

the research project entitled "Occupational dermatoses in the Primorje-Istria region". Another field of his scientific interest were genodermatoses, on which he published a paper together with Professor Dušan Jakac in the journals *Hautarzt* in 1975 and in *Acta Dermatovenerologica Iugoslavica* in 1983. Based on his port town studies, Professor Wolf also contributed to the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. He published 70 scientific and professional papers in Croatian and international periodicals, about 300 short popular articles on health education, chapters in textbooks, and course materials. He mimeographed the course material entitled *Mycology* for postgraduate students, and wrote course materials in the textbooks *Dermatology and venereology* by D. Jakac *et al.* (1981) and *The skin and sexually transmitted diseases* by A. Kansky *et al.* (1982). Professor Wolf was editor of the journal *Bilten* (Rijeka), *Proceedings of the 7<sup>th</sup> Yugoslav Congress of Dermatology and Venereology in Opatija*, *Memorial on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rijeka School of Medicine*, and *Educatio medica* (Rijeka). He was member of Section IX of the Society of Naval Medicine, and held a number of invited lectures at their congresses, as well as at *Reunion de Lyon de la Societe Francaise de Dermatologie*, *International Society of Tropical Dermatology*, etc. He was

member of the Croatian Medical Association since 1947; founder and chairperson of the Section of Dermatology and Venereology, Rijeka Chapter; and chairperson of the Zagreb Section of Dermatology and Venereology. He was secretary of the former Yugoslav Association of Dermatology and Venereology; member of the Croatian Society of Allergology and Immunology; and member of the Franjo Kogoj Award Committee.

Professor Anđelko Wolf was awarded numerous recognitions, scrolls and diplomas. In 2005, on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rijeka University School of Medicine, he was awarded a plaque and scroll for the extraordinary personal contribution to the establishment, development, quality and identity upgrading of the Rijeka School of Medicine.

It is sad and hard to talk about friends that have departed forever. Our friend and teacher left silently, just as he lived. We were honored by knowing him and now can only express our gratitude to him. May his memory live forever.

*"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends".* (Martin Luther King Jr)

Prof. Jasna Lipozenčić, MD, PhD