

Nekrolog Necrology

Prof. dr. sc. Mladen Petrovečki 1960. – 2016.

30. kolovoza 2016. umro je u 57. godini prof. dr. sc. Mladen Petrovečki. Rođen je u Zagrebu gdje završava V. gimnaziju te se 1979. upisuje na Medicinski fakultet. Dan prije 25. rođendana stječe zvanje doktora medicine. Daljnje školovanje, usavršavanje i radno iskustvo ispisuju stranice i stranice životopisa kojemu se možemo samo diviti, a zapravo ponajviše govori o osobi koja nikada nije izgubila elan i predanosti radu sve do svojega kraja.

Profesor Petrovečki bio je posvećen kako kliničkom, tako i akademskom radu. Kao doktor medicine, specijalist laboratorijske imunologije, godinama je radio u Kliničkom zavodu za laboratorijsku dijagnostiku Kliničke bolnice „Dubrava“ u Zagrebu. Autor je i suautor mnogih izvornih znanstvenih i stručnih radova te nastavnih tekstova iz svojega specijalističkog područja - laboratorijske imunologije. Ipak, oni koji su ga upoznali u akademskom okružju sigurno su uočili njegovu strast prema brojevima, podatcima i njihovu usustavljenju. Mladen Petrovečki stekao je 2011. status redovitog profesora medicinske informatike u trajnom zvanju pri Katedri za medicinsku informatiku Medicinskog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Rijeci, čiji je bio i pročelnik. Studentima preddiplomskih i diplomskih te poslijediplomskih doktorskih i specijalističkih studija zagrebačkoga Farmaceutsko-biokemijskog fakulteta i Stomatološkog fakulteta, te medicinskih fakulteta u Rijeci, Splitu i Osijeku, profesor Petrovečki predavao je biostatistiku, medicinsku informatiku te metodologiju znanstveno-istraživačkih radova i zdravstvenih informacijskih sustava. Najiskrenije se pitam otkud je profesor Petrovečki crpio svoj nepresušni radni zanos. S jednakom je zainteresiranošću govorio i o svojem recenzentskom i uredničkom radu; kao statistički urednik i savjetnik radio je u časopisima Croatian Medical Journal, Medix, Biochemia Medica, a godinama je bio i nezamjenjiv član uredništva našega ASCRO-a. Smatram da o njegovoj stručnosti dovoljno govori podatak da je od 2008. bio recenzent za statistiku prestižnoga časopisa Lancet.

Pravi nekrolozi ne trpe patetiku, preuveličavanje pokojnikovih vrlina i izričit naglasak na odnosu autora i onoga o kojemu se piše i kojega se prisjeća. Ipak, unatoč tim uvriježenim pravilima ovaj je tekst emotivno obojen zbog snažnog dojma koji je profesor Petrovečki ostavio na mene. Imala sam ga priliku, zapravo, usudila bih se reći privilegij, upoznati tek prije nekoliko mjeseci – u ožujku 2016. na nastavi poslijediplomskog dokorskog studija iz kolegija Biostatistika. U medicinskim strukama rijetki su oni koji vole i razumiju brojeve. Od onoga što se ne razumije, najčešće se zazire pa je sasvim jasno zašto statistika nikada nije bila na vrhu popisa omiljenih kolegija studenata medicine i stomatologije. U učiteljsko umijeće profesora Petrovečkog nisam dvojila ni prije nego što sam dobila priliku slušati ga za katedrom. Nije to samo zato što se njegova predavanja, među rijetkima, nisu utapala u moru prosječnosti, nego jer su mu izlaganja i one najsanjivije i najnezainteresiranije uvlačila u razgovor i raspravu s jednostavnim ciljem – da slušači razumiju, shvate, nauče i primjene. Svojim se znanjem nije zavjetao i pravio važan, ali se također nije libio podijeliti ga sa svima. Boljka mnogih akademskih nastavnika jest svojevrsta lijenost u zapisivanju toga znanja i uobličavanje u nastavne sadržaje, tekstove i knjige te njihova predaja studentima i kolegama. Profesor Petrovečki je, baš naprotiv, uložio velik trud da neke od logično najizazovnijih kolegija na prirodno-medicinskim fakultetima studentima približi kroz niz razumljivih nastavnih tekstova, udžbenika i, sukladno sveprisutnoj informatizaciji, sadržajima na internetu. Svojim je radom iz dana u dan potvrđivao da nije znanje – znanje znati, već je znanje – znanje dati/prenijeti. Sretna sam jer njegov predani akademski rad sa studentima i susretljivost prema kolegama zalutalima u labirintu statističkih nepoznanica nisu prošli nezapaženi.

Valja na kraju reći i to da znanje koje je profesor Petrovečki tako nesebično dijelio s nama nije bilo samo ono statističko, teorijsko. U njegovim bi se riječima krišom našla i pokoja životna mudrost, briga za mladog čovjeka prerušena u kakav zaključak, šalu ili savjet. Njegova je metoda podučavanja gradila i izgradila ne samo nebrojene izvrsne studente, istraživače i liječnike, nego je posijala sjeme izvrsnosti za buduće generacije predavača koji su u njemu mogli naći uzor i inspiraciju.

Na tome mu od srca hvala.



Professor Mladen Petrovečki 1960. – 2016.

Professor Mladen Petrovečki DM, PhD died on August 30th this year, aged 56. He was born in Zagreb where he graduated from high school in 1979 and enrolled the School of Medicine. Graduating a day before his 25th birthday, he embarked on a career that filled pages and pages of his curriculum vitae and that can only amaze us. They speak of a person that has not lost his vigour and dedication to the very end.

Professor Petrovečki was dedicated to clinical and academic work. As a doctor of medicine, laboratory immunology specialist, he worked at the Clinical department of Laboratory Diagnostics at the Clinical Hospital Center Dubrava in Zagreb. He authored and co-authored numerous scientific articles, professional papers and educational publications from his field of laboratory immunology. Those that had the luck to meet him in the academic environment surely recognized his passion towards numbers, data and their systematization. Mladen Petrovečki was confirmed in 2011 as full professor of medical informatics at the Department of Medical Informatics School of Medicine University of Rijeka, where he was also head of the department. Graduate and postgraduate students of School of Pharmacy and Biochemistry and School of Dental Medicine in Zagreb, as well as students of Schools of Medicine in Rijeka, Split and Osijek, attended Professor Petrovečki's lectures in Biostatistics, Medical informatics, Methodology of scientific research and Health information systems. I wonder sincerely where he found his inexhaustible working zeal. His passion was equal when speaking either about his reviewing work, or editorial work. For a number of years he was the statistical editor in Croatian Medical Journal, Medix, Biochemia Medica, as well as an irreplaceable member of the editorial board of Acta Stomatologica Croatica. His competence was finally confirmed when he was elected statistical reviewer in Lancet in 2008.

Necrologies are no place for pathetic, for exaggeration of deceased's virtues and stories that the author shared with the deceased. Nevertheless, this text is emotionally marked due to the strong impression Professor Petrovečki made on me. I had the privilege of meeting him just months before his death, in March this year, as a student in his postgraduate course Biostatistics. There are few people in medical profession that love numbers. What one does not understand, one usually avoids so it is quite logical that medical statistics are not in the top five classes among medical and dental students. I had no doubts in teaching abilities of Professor Petrovečki even before he started his lecture. It is not that his lectures stand out among the mediocrity, his lectures draw even the sleepest and the most disinterested into the discussion with a simple cause – so that listeners understand, comprehend, learn, and use. He was never boastful, he did not show off, but he never hesitated to share. Usual flaw of many academics is their laziness to put their teachings on paper and create publications and textbooks. Professor Petrovečki went the extra mile to bring some of the most complicated mathematical topics closer by publishing his lectures, textbooks and internet content. His work showed that the knowledge is not to be known, but to be given. I am happy that his dedication towards colleagues and students lost in the labyrinth of statistical unknown did not remain unrecognized.

It must be said that the knowledge Professor Petrovečki so selflessly shared with us never was only statistical, theoretical. His lectures hid some life coaching, his caring for young people (usually masked in a conclusion, joke, or advice). His method of teaching made numerous excellent students, researchers and doctors and has sown the seed of excellence for future generations of lecturers that had made him their inspiration and role model.

I thank him for that from my heart.

Larisa Musić