

Celebrating the 80th Birthday of Professor emerita Mirjana Metikoš-Huković

(full professor at the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology, University of Zagreb)

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I first met Prof. *emerita* Mirjana Metikoš-Huković a long time ago, when she started working as a young person at the Faculty of Technology (today, Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology) in Zagreb, where she started her graduate education and her scientific work in the Department of Electrochemistry. At that time, we did not meet very often because our work interests were quite different, and we worked in two different parts of the city. At that time, the funding for research in the country, as well as at the Faculty of Technology, was poor. The equipment was old and unsuitable for competitive research in modern chemistry of that time. Very often professors, their assistants and students constructed „hand-made“ equipment and laboratory wears. In spite of that, Prof. Metikoš-Huković, as a young university assistant, worked very diligently on both education of students and on her Master of Science degree and subsequently on her PhD degree, both in the field of electrochemistry. After graduating, her career advanced from the level of assistant professor, to the level of associate professor, then full professor with re-appointment, and then permanent full professor, and after retirement she was awarded a status of *professor emerita* in 2007. Her professional career has been characterized by hard work and a lot of personal sacrifices.

First, I noticed Prof. Metikoš-Huković involvement at Faculty Board meetings, where she was always actively involved in discussions by presenting reasonable facts. Later, we had the opportunity to work together with students in the undergraduate course „Chemical Technological Laboratory“, where Prof. Metikoš-Huković was the course co-ordinator who mentored students and organized meetings with students and lecturers. We also worked together on a committee within the Agency for Science and Higher Educations,

Ministry of Science, Education and Sport, where we worked on the promotion of candidates to their higher academic ranks. During all the above work, I became familiar with Mirjana and her personality.

Later we worked together on the introduction of the „Bologna process“ system into the undergraduate and graduate program at the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology. During her long professorship career, the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology has gone through a lot of curriculum program reforms. The last one (the Bologna process), was the introduction of a new “Applied Chemistry” program into the undergraduate curriculum, which was (and still is) very important for students that are continuing their postgraduate studies in the field of chemistry. For several years, Prof. Metikoš-Huković successfully chaired the Doctoral Studies Council for the field of Engineering Chemistry at the Faculty of Chemical Engineering.

As co-ordinator of the doctoral program in Engineering Chemistry, Prof. Metikoš-Huković promoted the initiative for the introduction of the Applied Chemistry program into the undergraduate curriculum, to align both the undergraduate and graduate programs, based on the Bologna Process recommendations, with traditions and progress of science in the areas of chemistry, materials engineering and environment protection. Introduction of the two programs into the curriculum contributed to overcoming the differences between two programs at the Faculty of Engineering and Technology that existed at the time: natural sciences (chemistry) and engineering sciences (materials engineering).

Prof. Metikoš-Huković's work on the National Academic Committee for Natural Sciences, related to the establishment of the still-applied criteria for the promotion

to academic ranks, should be emphasized, as well as her leading role in approving and introducing the Applied Chemistry program into the undergraduate curriculum at the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology, which is very important for chemists working at the Faculty. In fact, the Faculty has been recognized for long time for its success in research in the area of applied sciences (development of antiviral and anticancer drugs, composite ceramic and polymer materials, corrosion prevention, water treatment processes).

Beside her successful and recognized contribution to the development of undergraduate and graduate programs at the Faculty of Chemical Engineering, I have always been impressed by her scientific achievements. Prof. emerita Mirjana Metikoš-Huković is an internationally recognized scientist. Her contribution to the promotion and advancement

of science in Croatia is significant. She has published a few professional books, 130 Current Contents indexed scientific papers, over 50 papers in other journals, and many other scientific and technical contributions. Her scientific papers have about three thousand citations and she remains the mostly-cited scientist at the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology. After retirement, she continued to do research and report her findings in scientific papers.

At the end of this editorial, I can say that Mirjana's „passion” for science continues to these days. I am deeply honoured to congratulate my colleague and friend Prof emerita Mirjana Metikoš-Huković on her 80th birthday and to wish her good health.

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