



## In memory of

Miloš Mraković

(1933 – 2003)

Almost a year has elapsed since our dear colleague, professor and friend, tenured professor of Systematic Kinesiology at the Faculty of Kinesiology, University of Zagreb, Miloš Mraković died in Zagreb after a long battle with cancer, leaving two daughters. This tribute is an attempt to pay respect not only to an excellent and admired teacher, eminent scholar and brilliant theoretician, but even more to a gentle, serene, vital man whose words and deeds will be kept in our memories. He represented an example of how a man should bring the intellectual, physical and emotional parts of his being into harmony. Out of such a balance emerged a personality destined to create, contribute and motivate.

Miloš Mraković was borne in 1933 in Vlahović, the Republic of Croatia. After completing high school, he attended the Higher School of Pedagogy (Teacher Training College), a three-year study course in geography, physical education and human science. He graduated in 1959. In the same year he enrolled in the four-year study of physical education at the newly established High School of Physical Culture (later the Faculty of PE) with the other students of the first generation. He graduated in 1963. A year later he got a tenure in Theory of Physical Culture at the same institution of higher education and enrolled in the first postgraduate study in physical education, organized at the School of Public Health “Andrija Štampar”, the Faculty of Medicine, University of Zagreb. He received

his MSc in 1966, by defending the MSc thesis “Influence of systematic engagement in physical exercise on primary social attitudes”. In 1967 he became an assistant professor in Systematic Kinesiology. He received his PhD in 1970 from the University of Zagreb for his dissertation “Physical exercise as a reduction factor of delinquency of minors” (publicly defended in 1966). In 1976 he became a full professor of Systematic Kinesiology at the Faculty of Physical Education, University of Zagreb.

Being one of the very first doctors of philosophy in the area of physical education, he established kinesiology as a science field and gave the initial impetus to its development. That and a comprehensive body of published works made him one of the most prominent scientists in the area of fundamental and applicative kinesiology. The position of a leading researcher or a researcher in many scientific projects, forty four original scientific papers published in reviewed journals, 38 professional papers and papers of popular science and 17 textbooks, handbooks and studies, intended primarily for students of the Faculty of PE, but for professionals in schools, sports and sport recreation as well, participation in numerous conferences and congresses – all these were only a part of his scholarly, professional and community work.

He was one of those who initiated the publishing of the journal *Kineziologija* (now *Kinesiology – International Journal of Fundamental and*

*Applied Kinesiology*) in 1971. He wrote a manifesto on kinesiology, explaining the concepts, principles, contents and structure of a new borne science, conceived at the High School of Physical Culture in Zagreb. For a number of years he served either as an associate editor (eight years) or editor-in-chief (ten years), thus making possible its current quality and relevance.

For years he presided over the Postgraduate Study Council at the Faculty of PE and was responsible for the organization and quality of the Master of Science and doctoral study in kinesiology. A considerable number of MSc and PhD degrees speaks in favour of his successful performance.

As a Deputy Minister of Education and Physical Culture of the Republic of Croatia (responsible for the latter), he served two tenures and contributed exceptionally to the legislative regulation and positioning of physical culture and sports in society by introducing the first comprehensive Law on Physical Culture and numerous decrees.

He was among the initiators and organizers of the international scientific conference on kinesiology. The first, in a row of three so far, was held in 1997 in Dubrovnik.

As the president of the Croatian Association of Theoretical and Experimental Kinesiology and

a fellow of the Academy of Educational Sciences of the Republic of Croatia he continuously promoted the scientific core of kinesiology and contributed considerably to its affirmation among other scientific fields and disciplines.

For his scholarly, professional and community work he was decorated with numerous awards, among which the most distinguished was the State Sport Award "Franjo Bučar" for life achievements in 2000.

It has been a valued privilege for us to have known and have been associated with Professor Miloš Mraković, for being allowed to share his knowledge, experience and kindness he generously gave to anyone. We miss him very much – for years we were used to him and needed him, of which were until his passing, unaware. All the written and memorised is insufficient to replace our meetings with the dear professor, which were filled with unselfishness, with wisdom and easiness, warmth and sympathy when he listened to us. No wonder then that his passing impoverishes our lives.

Professor Miloš Mraković will be long remembered as a scientist of great calibre, an inspired teacher, a charismatic advisor, a researcher of great insight and, above all, a person who cared deeply for others.

*Dragan Milanović & Željka Jaklinović-Fressl*