

Prof. ANTON ROTH MD, PhD
(1937-2015)



Anton Roth past away on September 9th, 2015 in Zagreb. University Hospital for Tumors has lost an extraordinary researcher and School of Medicine University of Zagreb a respectable teacher. Prof. Roth was a pioneer and leader in the field of internistic oncology.

Professor Roth served for many years as the director of the Clinical Oncology Department at University Hospital for Tumors. He brought an infectious enthusiasm and a panoramic vision to his work. He was not just about getting grants, but about what could be done to change the face of medicine on a big scale. He is perhaps best known for his work with the advanced gastric cancer drug 5-fluorouracil and cisplatin taken by hundreds of thousands of patients around the world to reduce the risk of cancer recurrence.

Profesor Roth had an insatiable thirst for knowledge, and his mind whirled with new ideas and projects to explore. Colleagues describe how he had get a glint in his eye, and would be off and running. As a consummate clinician-scientist with a dizzying sense of energy and urgency he was always focused on helping each patient.

A native of Petrinja, enrolled at the University Of Zagreb School Of Medicine, graduating in 1963. He continued his training with a residency at Zagreb. He earned his Ph.D. from the Zagreb School of Medicine in the Croatia, 1979 and later was hired as an professor of Internal Medicine at the Zagreb University School of Medicine.

Over the course of his career, he became one of the world's foremost authorities on combination of chemotherapy and irradiation. He published more than 140 articles, reviews, and book chapters, and was a member of many prestigious professional organizations (Croatian Medical Association, Croatian Medical Chamber, Croatian Academy of Medical Sciences, Croatian Society of Gastroenterology, Croatia Society of Oncology, European Society for Medical Oncology ESMO, European Society for Clinical Oncology ESCO, European School of Oncology ESO, European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy ASGE, American Society of Clinical Oncology ASCO). He was cited over 400 times.

He passed on his enthusiasm and compassion to dozens of rising physicians and researchers in clinical oncology and other specialties who saw him as a mentor and a friend. He had a lifelong love for music. He appreciated all types of music, from classical artists to evergreens and jazz. Above all, Dr. Roth was a loving father. His child is a surgeon Andrej Roth Ph.D. By any measure, profesor Anton Roth was a remarkable success, and a remarkable human being.

Miroslav Banović