

Social news

Happy eightieth birthday to Professor Mercedes Wrischer



Fig. 1. When not looking at tiny cell structures, dr. Wrischer loves hiking around big mountains.

In February, 2009, Professor Mercedes Wrischer celebrated her 80th birthday. Transmitting our best wishes to one of the most faithful contributors to *Acta Botanica Croatica*, we hope that she will continue to take part in the life of our journal.

Professor Wrischer obtained her degrees from the University of Zagreb. In 1955, she joined the Laboratory of Electron Microscopy at the Ruđer Bošković Institute, where she spent her entire career. Through the years, she advanced to the head of the laboratory. She also served as a teacher at the University of Zagreb. She officially retired in 1998, but continues to come in nearly every day and always has some research project running.

Professor Wrischer is one of the best known regional cell biologists, particularly appreciated for her experience in electron microscopy. She was among the pioneers in this field and, at first, spent much time establishing efficient laboratory techniques for the preparation of biological samples. Soon, plastid morphology and physi-

ology became her main field of work, which it has remained until the present day. In recent years, she became fascinated with chromoplast development and successfully introduced her junior colleagues into this specialized subject.

In addition to her own projects, Professor Wrischer has widely collaborated with colleagues from a variety of disciplines, from colloidal chemistry to medical research, but most of all with biologists of all specialties. For many years, regional research on plant viruses was unthinkable without her help with electron micrographs. Professor Wrischer has also actively collaborated in a number of professional societies, and she continues to be a member of the editorial board of *Acta Botanica Croatica*.

For her engagement in research and education, Professor Wrischer received the Ruđer Bošković award for distinction in science, the Ruđer Bošković medal, and the Award of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts (with Professor Nikola Ljubešić) for her work on plastids. She was also elected an Associate Member of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

For her birthday we wish her that she may continue enjoying what she appreciates most: the pursuit of knowledge and the friendship of her colleagues.

**Professor Mercedes Wrischer – list of publications
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- PREBEG, T., WRISCHER, M., FULGOSI, H., LJUBEŠIĆ, N., 2008: Ultrastructural characterization of the reversible differentiation of chloroplasts in cucumber fruit. *Journal of Plant Biology* 51, 122–131.
- WRISCHER, M., PREBEG, T., MAGNUS, V., LJUBEŠIĆ, N., 2009: Unusual thylakoid structures appearing during degradation of the photosynthetic apparatus in chloroplasts. *Acta Botanica Croatica* 68, 1–9.

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* Earlier publications were listed in *Acta Botanica Croatica* 53, 161–173 (1994) and 58, 1–4 (1999)