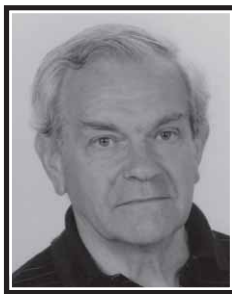


In memoriam*Prof Dr Berislav Pende**(January 4, 1928 – March 26, 2009)*

There are people who have devoted their professional career to meet public needs but remained unnoticed by non-professionals and never got public recognition for the benefits they have provided. Their professional achievements were their only reward. In our world of marketing and competition such people are deprived of the gratitude they deserve by their valuable endeavour. Dr Berislav Pende, the pioneer of Croatian immunochemistry, who silently passed away on March 26, 2009, is one of such people.

Berislav Pende was born in Imotski on January 4, 1928. He obtained his education in Zagreb. After attending the First Gymnasium (1938 to 1946), he studied Chemical Engineering (Technology) at the Technical Faculty of the University of Zagreb and graduated in 1952. He pursued his professional studies at the School of Medicine, where he obtained the Master's degree in 1964 after presenting his research in the thesis *Methods of Disintegration of Gram-Negative Bacteria*. By summarising his investigations in the thesis entitled *A Contribution to the Improvement of Preparing Biologically Active Proteins from Extracts of Placenta* and doctoral exam at the Faculty of Biotechnology, he obtained his PhD from the University of Zagreb in 1972. During the period from 1974 to 1977, he gained useful postdoctoral research experience by visiting the Department of the Institute SCLAVO in Siena.

Since 1959 Dr Pende was employed at the Department of Immunology in Zagreb, where he headed the Sector of Haemoderivatives and Immunochemistry from 1972. In his work Dr Pende focused on the isolation of cardiotropin, antigenins of Gram-negative bacteria, on the technology and production of heterologue antitoxic antibodies, as well as on the separation, isolation and production of pure protein fractions from placental extracts. At the same time he was developing technologies for and the production of medically useful preparations from human plasma. Throughout his professional career, he was investigating, improving and extending immunochemical analytical methods. His research was published in 58 papers and presented at numerous local and international meetings. He organised many professional meetings and scientific symposia, always aiming to inspire the development of immunochemistry and widen its application. For decades, he was a member of the editorial board of *Periodicum biologorum*.

Dr Berislav Pende paved the way for the development of Croatian immunochemistry, and in 1990 he was engaged in shaping a long-term strategy for the development of biotechnology and food industry of Croatia. His major efforts were directed towards the prosperity of the Department of Immunology. By introducing new methods, tools and new technologies, he organised laboratories set for basic and applied research in immunochemistry, and contributed greatly to the education and skilful competence of the staff. As project manager and teacher, he transferred his knowledge and enthusiasm on numerous graduate and undergraduate students of the University of Zagreb, thus inspiring new generations to join the field of immunochemistry. Professor Pende was teaching graduate students of Medical Biochemistry at the Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry since 1968, students of Biology at the Faculty of Natural Sciences since 1969, and students of Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics at the School of Medicine since 1972. Since 1982, the subject Immunochemistry, taught by Professor Pende, was introduced into the regular undergraduate curriculum for students of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry.

Dr Berislav Pende was an active member of the Croatian Biochemical Society since its establishment in 1976, and from 1981 to 1983 he was the president of the Society. On the occasion of the Society's 20th anniversary, his contribution to the Society was awarded. Though fit, active and devoted to his profession, according to legal rules, Dr Pende had to retire from his functions at his 70th birthday. The Croatian Biochemical Society has organised a special symposium to present the fruitful field of Croatian Immunochemistry that gained international reputation and triggered international collaboration on several projects thanks to the inspiring work of the respected Professor Berislav Pende. His contribution to the professional education as teacher and research supervisor of many generations nourished the progress of the healthcare sector, and his involvement in the activities of the Biochemical Society was reviewed.

Though Dr Pende has left us forever, we can still share the benefits of his achievements, and his attitudes toward work may still inspire young professionals to put their efforts in furthering science and health protection.