



Professor Ivan Bašić (1941–2009)

NADA ORŠOLIĆ
ZORAN TADIĆ

University of Zagreb, Faculty of Science
Department of Animal Physiology
Rooseveltov trg 6, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
E-mail: norsolic@yahoo.com;
ztadic@biol.pmf.hr



With great sadness we inform that our dear friend and esteemed colleague, Ivan Bašić, professor at the Department of Animal Physiology, Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb, passed away on September 8th 2009, after a year of struggle with cancer.

Ivan Bašić was born on June 8th, 1941 in Bihać (Bosnia and Herzegovina). He studied Veterinary medicine at the University of Zagreb, where he obtained a DVM degree in 1964. His MSc was in Experimental biology (1971), and his PhD degree, on the effects of tumor on he-

matopoiesis in mice in (1973), Both at the Faculty of Science; University of Zagreb.

Between 1973 and 1975 I. Bašić was postdoctoral fellow at the M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute, Houston, Texas, USA. He returned to the same institution as a Visiting professor, and stayed there from 1983 to 1985. Next visit of I. Bašić to the USA was in 1989. This time to the Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois, as a Visiting scientist.

In 1985, I. Bašić was elected Full professor at the Department of Animal Physiology, Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb, where he worked until his premature death.

During his career, I. Bašić had a number of research interests. At the beginning, his research was centered on Experimental immunology and Immunotherapy of tumors and metastases. He, together with dr. Luka Milas and colleagues showed that mice bearing tumors, if inoculated with *Corynebacterium parvum*, can experience tumor regression. These were seminal papers on the biological therapy of tumors and were published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, *Cancer Research*, *Clinical and Experimental Metastasis* and *European Journal of Cancer*. I. Bašić performed research of antimutagenesis and the use of radioprotectors.

In parallel, he pursued the field of Veterinary immunology and, together with the team from the School of Veterinary Sciences of the University of Zagreb, started research in the immunology of the Equine infectious anemia and its comparison with AIDS. The results were

published in several journals, including *Veterinary Immunology and Immunopathology* and *Immunobiology*.

A short period in the 90ties, I. Bašić was interested in the molecular diagnostics of livestock diseases, specially the use of molecular methods in the conservation genetics of autohtonomous livestock. He published several papers on the subject, including one in *Livestock Production Science*. Also, during this phase of his research, I. Bašić encouraged several young scientists to enter the exciting and lively field of conservation genetics and sent them abroad to learn the modern techniques to be used later in Croatia. Even today, these young scientists are active in the field and are among several rare people in Croatia who practise and understand modern conservation genetics.

The last period of I. Bašić's scientific career spans the late 90ties and the beginning of 21st century, up till now. He again turned to the Experimental oncology. But this time, he centered his research on the use of honeybee products (royal jelly, venom, propolis and their constituents) in the prevention and treatment of tumors and their metastases. These studies were initiated together with one of the authors of this text (N.O.) and were truly fruitful, with many papers published in various journals, including *Toxicon*, *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*, *Cancer Science*, *Biomedical Pharmacotherapy*, *International Journal of Hyperthermia and Periodicum biologorum*. These studies are still going on and are actually I. Bašić's legacy.

Professor Bašić was always encouraging younger scientists to open their own areas of research, often different

from his own research. With his great support, one of the authors (Z.T.) established a colony of living snakes which is used for various behavioural/ecological/evolutionary studies. Using the animals from this colony, many international contacts were established and the research is currently very active on the international basis, with collaborators from Belgium, France and USA.

I. Bašić published more than 180 papers, delivered 23 plenary lectures, coauthored and authored three books and coedited two. He mentored 11 MSc theses, 12 PhD theses and numerous BSc theses. He was also an inspiring teacher and taught many undergraduate and graduate courses, such as »Animal Physiology«, »Immunology and Immunogenetics«, »Biology of Tumors and Their Metastases«, »General Oncology«, etc.

He was member of the Croatian Biological Society, Croatian Immunological Society, European Association of Cancer Research, Metastasis Research Society, and the International Society for Developmental and Comparative Immunology. For the importance of his work and excellence in research he received the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts Award in 2004.

Professor Bašić was an outstanding scientist, a true friend to his collaborators, who transferred his energy and passion for research to them. He was also an enthusiastic teacher. He will be sincerely missed by all who knew him, particularly by those who were his closest collaborators.