

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Branko Dobrović (1982–2006)



Branko Dobrović was born on 26 January 1982 in Zagreb. He attended elementary school in Zagreb and Switzerland. In 1999 as a student of 5th Gymnasium in Zagreb Branko was a state champion in Chemistry. In 2000 he enrolled the School of Medicine, Zagreb as a second in the entrance exam. In 2002 Branko received the Dean's Award for Extraordinary Undergraduate Students. Thanks

to the Humboldt University scholarship he attended one semester at the School of Medicine in Berlin, where he passed the assigned exams with the highest score. For the last three years Branko volunteered in two scientific projects and worked at the Laboratory for Neuromorphometrics. Branko graduated on 6 July 2006 with honors. He died tragically on 5 August 2006.

In this issue we have prepared the manuscript containing results of Branko scientific research with hope to keep memory on an extraordinary personality and promising scientist. As a mentor, I would like to give few more words dedicated to Branko.

Professors should only write recommendations for their best students and never have an opportunity to write what I am writing for my student. It is just not fair. Since I will never have another opportunity to write Branko's recommendation, I would like to use this instead of any recommendations and good words that I would gladly like to write about him.

I knew Branko since he was a first-year student. He was that kind of a student who you remember at the very first lecture because he could surprise you by his unexpected answers. On the other hand, when asking some-

thing complicated you would not be able to get to know him better because in that situation he would remain modestly quiet, but only until examinations. Then he was a real revelation. He was able to give you a new and fresh view of things you would consider old, already defined or unsolvable. He was never afraid to ask questions. Although Branko studied Medicine, he was a born researcher. I cannot say anything about his ability to work in a team, because my team consisted of Branko only, but I know what kind of a team leader he would have been. He chose a temporarily employed professor from Zagreb as his mentor, so Branko mostly worked alone without any encouragement. Every time I came to Zagreb he had a lot of results, many new solutions, ideas, answers and, naturally, new problems to be solved. His task was difficult – to refute the dogma created by a long lasting researchers' tendency to find something significant among their results. Many scientific results are interesting but it is questionable if they are significant and it is common to confuse causes and consequences. Consequently, after careful and diligent efforts Branko proved that those phenomena, which we researched for a dozen of years, were probably just a consequence of monitored changes. Somebody might say that this is not very important, but if you knew how the human mind operates, it would be immediately clear to you that the hardest thing to do is to question or better yet subvert set frames.

Branko was a dedicated worker, a critical analyst and a tireless seeker for new questions and answers. If you looked for a new employee in your laboratory, he would be the person you could give a chance to prove himself. He would surely say that you overestimated him, but after a short period of time you would be able to see that he was the right person for the job.

Branko, if only important and difficult questions were solved by people like you.

*Your mentor
Marija Heffer*