

IN MEMORIAM

Prof. dr. doc. IOAN FLOREA DUMITRU



On the morning of the 13th of January 2004 the biochemical academic community suffered a great loss by the death after a long suffering of Professor dr. doc. I.F.Dumitru. The Romanian Biotechnological Letters has lost also its editor-in-chief.

Born on the 30th of May 1934 at Oarja, he attended the primary school in his native village. Between 1941-1952, I.F. Dumitru continued his studies at the „I.C. Brătianu” High school for boys in Pitești. In 1952 he started the graduate studies in biology at the „C.I. Parhon” University of Bucharest and between 1954-1958 was a student at the University of Sankt Petersburg-Department of Biochemistry. His graduation thesis was entitled „Study of the Regeneration Speed of Cholesterol and the Fraction of the Total Number of Lipids in the Liver both under Normal Circumstances and under the Influence of Hormones (Insulin and Cortisone Acetate).”

In the last term of 1958 I.F.Dumitru worked as researcher at the Oncological Institute of Bucharest and, at the beginning of 1959, he became assistant lecturer in the Biochemistry Department at the „C.I.Parhon” University of Bucharest. Being

extremely creative and a really hard working person, he succeeded in finishing only in three years (December 1959- December 1962) the PhD thesis: „The Content and Intensity of the Metabolism of Various Fractions of Phospholipids within the Central Nervous System”. In 1963 he had a post doctoral position (specialization in enzymology) at the University of Ghent, Belgium

In February 1963 he was promoted to lecturer.

I.F. Dumitru was awarded with the scientific title of doctor docent in sciences (the highest scientific title in Romania) at the „Al.I.Cuza” University in Iassy in January 1971.

His discipline and organizational skills were rapidly remarked within the academic community and that's why in May 1971, he was appointed as deputy general director of the General Department of higher education and then director of the high-school and vocational school education system. In October 1973 he became reader at the University of Bucharest and in 1980 full professor of biochemistry. In 1974 I.F. Dumitru founded the Biochemistry Section at the Faculty of Biology of University of Bucharest. He was vice-dean of the Faculty of Biology (1977-1981). In 1993 he founded the Centre for Research in Enzymology and Biotechnology whose director he was until the end of his life. His great experience in biochemical and biotechnological education was revealed in its completeness when he founded the Faculty of Biotechnology of the „Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian-Democrat University whose dean he was between 1991-1995.

Professor I.F. Dumitru was scientific advisor for a tenth of PhD students. He generously shared his outstanding experience and knowledge with all his disciples . He was a great professor and one of the most important researchers in Romania. His merits were recognized by several prizes with which he was awarded, the most important being: the prize of the Ministry of Education for teaching works (1967), The Emil Racoviță Prize of the Romanian Academy (1982), University Professor Emeritus (1983).

Being a recognized authority in enzymology all over the country and our continent, he was a member of several scientific societies: The Biochemical Society (UK), The Society of Physiologists, Biochemists and Pharmacists of the Russian

Federation, The Belgian Biochemical Society, International Biographical Center, Cambridge, England, The Romanian Society of Biological Sciences, The Romanian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

His huge scientific creation comprises over 275 published scientific papers, mainly in enzymology.

I.F. Dumitru acquired a lot of experience in the publishing domain by being the founder and editor of the following periodicals: Romanian Biotechnological Letters, Journal of Medicine and Biochemistry-an international journal (renamed after 2000 as Journal of Cellular and Molecular Medicine and published by the University of Medicine and Pharmacy-Bucharest), News in Biotechnology and Progresses in Biotechnology.

Professor I.F.Dumitru was one of the greatest professors of biochemistry and also a very important researcher in our country. His contribution to the Romanian modern biochemical teaching is invaluable. Professor I.F. Dumitru was a professional example for his younger colleagues.

He had not only an impressive scientific culture but also a humanistic one.

Professor I.F.Dumitru passed away but leaves behind a rich and vast work and a lot of disciples who will continue their magister action in new research fields.