



In memoriam

Milojko Kovačević (1952-2013)

It has been almost a year since Mr Milojko Kovačević has passed away at his workplace, on July 3rd, 2013, on duty, as always. At the time, Mr Milojko Kovačević was the head of the Radiation and Environmental Protection Department of the Vinča Institute of Nuclear Sciences in Belgrade, serving as a longtime president of the Yugoslav Radiation Protection Association and member of the Editorial board of the Nuclear Technology and Radiation Protection journal.

Milojko was born on June 8th, 1952, in Vrnčani, Serbia. He studied physics at the University of Belgrade where he graduated in 1977, eventually earning a M. Sc. degree at the School of Electrical Engineering. Upon graduation in 1978, he joined the Radiation and Environmental Protection Department of the Vinča Institute of Nuclear Sciences in Belgrade where, over the following 30 years, he devoted himself to the promotion and advancement of calibration and metrology in ionizing radiation dosimetry. For decades, he was the head of the Secondary Standard Dosimetry Laboratory and head of the Radiation and Environmental Protection Department of the Vinča Institute of Nuclear Sciences. Health physics and the safe use and application of ionizing radiation were the other two principal focuses of his lifelong research efforts, documented by more than 100 scientific publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals and numerous conference proceedings.

At the start of his professional career at the Department of Radiation and Environmental Protection of the Vinča Institute of Nuclear Sciences, Milojko Kovačević headed a research program pertaining to the metrology of ionizing radiation, novel both to the national and international scientific community. The research focused on the metrology of the dose of ionizing radiation and maintenance of corresponding secondary and primary standards. Never willing to confine his scientific curiosity to a single program or field, Milojko also played a pivotal role in instigating research of the possible effects of ionizing radiation on different materials, such as semiconductors and optical fibers and the development of new types of dosimeters.

From day one of his career, Milojko never wavered from his goal to contribute to the development of dosimetry and radiation protection in Serbia. He was widely admired as a fair, sympathetic, and understanding leader, always in touch with the concerns, aspirations, and working conditions of all “Lab” employees, at the same time firm in setting up strict radiological protection standards in Serbia.

Among his friends and colleagues, Milojko will forever be remembered for his longstanding intellectual stewardship of research, collaboration, and international discourse on radiation protection and dosimetry issues. He had a rare gift for diplomacy, elegance, and grace, coupled with a razor-sharp mind, always striving to improve safety standards and avid in encouraging his juniors to undertake scientific research and publish their findings. Those of us who have worked with him will remember him as a caring and kind man who served his fellows well and, above all, a man who has taught us that life should be fun.

His passing away is a colossal loss for the general scientific community, in particular for the radiation protection community in Serbia.

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