



FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN TOXICOLOGISTS & EUROPEAN SOCIETIES OF TOXICOLOGY

PROF. VESNA MATOVIC



It is with great regret that EUROTOX conveys the loss of Prof. Vesna Matovic who passed away this week. Vesna was a remarkable woman and an accomplished toxicologist whose passion for education was clearly evidenced by her extensive teaching career spanning more than 40 years. Her "bubbly" personality, exuding a positive attitude, allowed her to create strong relationships with students and colleagues alike.

Vesna was born May 10, 1953 in Belgrade. She completed her PhD in Toxicological Chemistry at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade, Serbia. She later completed her specialisation in Toxicology Chemistry (1992) and Toxicological Risk Assessment (2014) at the same institute. From 2004, she was Head of the Department of Toxicology "Akademik Danilo Soldatovic" at the University of Belgrade. Not only was Vesna a renowned professor, eager to promote educational activities to assist upcoming scientists, but she also was instrumental in establishing the Serbian Society of Toxicology (SETOX) in 2010. Since her appointment as President that same year, she worked enthusiastic to make SETOX an important point of reference for toxicologists in Serbia, while increasing its visibility across Europe and internationally by joining EUROTOX and IUTOX, respectively. A great example of her passion for education was the organization of a highly successful specialized toxicology course in genotoxicity and carcinogenicity in Belgrade under the auspices of EUROTOX in 2015.

One of her greatest achievements in this area was serving as President of CTDC10 (Congress of Toxicology of Developing Countries) and Co-chair of International Scientific Committee of CTDC10. She was proud that for the first time Serbia had the opportunity to host a worldwide international toxicology meeting gathering representatives not only from surrounding countries, but from far flung destinations such as the United States of America, Australia, Japan, China, South Africa.

Vesna was also responsible for setting up the Serbian National Register in 2012, which is part of the EUROTOX European Register of Toxicologists (ERT) and serves to recognise toxicologists who excel in education, skills, experience, and professional standing. She published more than 300 papers in reputable journals and served as referee for several International scientific journals.

Vesna served as EUROTOX Executive Committee Member (2016-2020) and member of the Registration SubCommittee (2015-2020). She was a friend and a colleague. An exceptional person with a great sense of duty and respect. Her warm smile and desire to contribute was contagious, and she will truly be missed. The thoughts of all EUROTOX members are with her family at this sad time.