

In memoriam



Prof. Lilia Panayotova Vasileva, Ph.D.
(1930 - 2023)

Prof. Lilia Panayotova Vasileva, Ph.D., the respected colleague and good friend, passed away on September 5th this year, at the age of 93.

Prof. Vasileva dedicated her whole life to science. She earned her master degree in pharmacy in Sofia, then specialized in Germany and Switzerland. She began her scientific career at the Veterinary Institute of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases (now the National Diagnostic Scientific and Research Veterinary Medical Institute). She was the founder and the first principal of the Biochemistry Department there, contributing to the activity of all departments in the Institute and creating a school of talented collaborators and followers.

Prof. Vasileva's scientific achievements lay in the field of biochemistry and virology and could be summarized in the following: elucidating the biomolecular mechanism of the virus-cell interaction, determination of the properties and the role of structural virus proteins, the importance of post-transla-

tional cleavage of glycoproteins, etc. Prof. Vasileva was involved in the execution of many projects with theoretical achievements directly related to practice, e.g. selecting new vaccine virus strains.

After her retirement in 1985, Prof. Vasileva joined the Biotechnology Department at the Institute of Microbiology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. A little later, she became a member of the Virology Department at this Institute. With her research potential and initiative, Prof. Vasileva contributed to asserting the authority of the Virology Department and, together with academician Angel S. Galabov, redounded the high international visibility and recognition of the Department and the Institute as a whole, making them the center of Bulgarian microbiology, as well as for the Balkan region. Her achievements in the study of influenza viruses are significant. Both at the Veterinary Institute and at the Institute of Microbiology, Prof. Vasileva contributed a lot to the growth of a large number of talented young virology scientists. For many of her young colleagues she was not only a teacher, but also a friend. She actively supported the teaching work in virology at the Department of Microbiology at the Medical University - Sofia.

The Editorial Board of Acta Microbiologica Bulgarica lost a remarkable member, a prominent virologist, a recognized scientist in Bulgaria and abroad.

Prof. Vasileva will be remembered with her eternal smile and willingness to help everyone, with her love for her beloved ones, with her respect for her colleagues and her never-ending pursuit of knowledge and improvement.

Prof. Vasileva remains in our hearts with her kindness, dedication and collegiality.

Rest in peace!

Angel S. Galabov,
Lyubka Dumanova