



Professor dr Desanka Marić

Professor Desanka Marić is the first teacher of Animal Physiology at the Faculty of Sciences (FS) at the University of Novi Sad (UNS) and the founder of scientific and teaching activities in the field of reproductive endocrinology and animal physiology.

Desanka Marić was born on 10.XI 1929. in Novi Sad. Prof. Dr Desanka Marić graduated from the Gymnasium in Novi Sad in 1948. She graduated from the FS University in Belgrade (UB) in 1952., and received her PhD in 1960. at the same faculty. The PhD dissertation entitled "*Attachment to the mechanism of action of female sexual hormones on the rabbit platelets*" was defended at the Department of Physiology of FS UB under the mentorship of prof. Dr. Radoslava K Anđusa (<http://gjaja.bio.bg.ac.rs/radoslav-andjus/>). Prof. Dr Desanka Marić is married to prof. Dr. Vojislav Marić and she is mother of two children living in the United States (Dr. Ivana Marić, Dr Svetislav Marić).

Prof. Dr. Desanka Marić was employed at the Institute for Medical Research in Novi Sad in the group of prof. Dr. Strahinje Marinkova from 1953. to 1963. She was appointed as an assistant professor of animal physiology at the Faculty of Philosophy UNS. She was appointed as an associate professor in 1970. and full professor in 1975. From 1964. to 1973. prof. Dr Marić was in charge of teaching of the courses the General Animals Physiology and Comparative Animals Physiology, and since 1973. she has been responsible for the course General Animal Physiology. The research in the fields of animal physiology and the reproductive endocrinology were very intense in that period, numerous mechanisms of physiological phenomena were explained, and in their lectures prof. dr Marić tried to put all these new knowledge into the teaching content. Prof. Dr Marić was the first who recognize contemporary research trends, and introduced new teaching subjects: Reproductive Physiology, Reproductive Endocrinology, Endocrinology with Neuroendocrinology. She has published two editions of General Animal Physiology textbooks with Dr. Stanko Stojilković, Practicum with selected chapters from Comparative Animals Physiology with prof. dr. Irina Simonović, as well as selected chapters in the textbook Radiological and related analysis (theory and application).

Prof. Dr. Desanka Marić is the founder of the research in the field of endocrinology FS UNS. At the end of the seventies of the XX century prof. dr Marić led research in one of the most advanced laboratories for experimental endocrinology in the former Yugoslavia, which was also one of the European reference laboratories for radiomunologic analysis. Among other things, under the leadership of prof. dr Marić routine analyzes of protein and steroid hormones were performed, as well as other analyzes in the field of reproductive endocrinology. Laboratory under the leadership of prof. dr Marić contributed very significantly to the inclusion of Yugoslav experimental endocrinology into European trends. These research activities, which are still fostered at our faculty, are certainly the result of the postdoctoral training of prof. Marić in the USA. During 1963. and 1964., prof. dr Marić was on post-doctoral studies in the field of reproductive physiology at the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology (Shrewsbury, Massachusetts USA), and then in 1966. and 1967. at the Medical Faculty University of Lexington (Kentucky USA). In this period, prof. dr Marić performed research in the field of neuroendocrinology. Part of the research results obtained during staying in the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology was published in the prestigious journal *Endocrinology* and this paper is highly appreciated and cited.

During her work at FS UNS prof. dr Marić was the holder and participant in a number of national and international scientific projects. Her research work was focused on the examination of regulatory mechanisms of reproduction and hypothalamic control of gonadotrophic secretion. Applying the method of hypothalamic

deafferentation and accompanying changes in gonadotrophic hormones and prolactin, her results have contributed to understanding complex mechanisms of neuroendocrine regulation of reproductive function. Her extensive research work is also associated with the study of hormonal changes during postnatal development, as well as mechanisms involved in the development of puberty, with a particular emphasis on the role of prolactins in males and the concept of correlation in the production of prolactins and androgens. In addition to the above mentioned, the significant contribution of prof. Marić is dedicated to a very interesting problem of the impact of stress on central and local regulatory mechanisms of testicular steroidogenesis, as well as the importance of endogenous opiates and free radicals (nitric oxide) in the paracrine control of production of androgens. In addition to fundamental research in the field of reproductive endocrinology, prof. Marić was also involved in examining the effects of pesticides on the reproductive capacity of rats of both sexes over several generations, and studied the hormone status of cows in order to control and improve reproduction.

Prof. Dr Marić worked with her associates during her scientific research work with numerous eminent national and international scientists. The most intensive cooperation was achieved with prof. Dr. Radoslav K Anđus and his associates (Institute of Physiology, Faculty of Biology, UB) in scientific projects of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts supervised by prof. dr Anđus. It is also important to mention the cooperation with prof. dr Radivoje Milin and his associates (Institute of Histology, Medical Faculty, UNS) that is still ongoing. From international cooperation are distinguished: prof. dr Luciano Martini (Institute of Endocrinology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Milan), prof. dr Belá Flerco (Faculty of Medicine, University of Pecs), prof. dr Belá Halász (Faculty of Medicine, University of Budapest), prof. dr Mirjana B Nikitovitch-Winer (Faculty of Medicine, University of Lexington). The significance of the results of the scientific research work of prof. Dr Marić was recognized by invitation from Faculty of Medicine, University of Lexington to hold a special seminar, which prof. Dr Marić held in 1982., entitled: *"Relationship between prolactin and androgen variables in the growing male"*.

Scientific production prof. dr Marić includes over 90 peer-reviewed scientific papers, of which 17 were published in eminent international journals, as well as 49 publications at international and domestic conferences. It is necessary to emphasize the significant positive influence of these works at the international and domestic scientific community, expressed through numerous citations in the works of other authors. In addition, she was mentor of 7 PhD theses, 4 master theses and 32 graduation theses.

Regardless of the fact that intensive teaching and scientific work requires a lot of engagement, prof. dr Marić was involved in the work of the administrative structures at the PMF UNS during her thirty-two years of work. In addition, she was the President of the Society of Physiologists of Yugoslavia, a member of the International Society of Neuroendocrinologists, the Society of Biologists, as well as the Society of Endocrinologists of Vojvodina, and she was a member of the editorial board of the *Matica srpska* and the editorial board of the *Proceedings of the Faculty of Sciences*. Prof. dr Marić belongs to the most prominent UNS teachers. The results of her perseverance, enthusiasm and work were recognized in the scientific and wider community, and she was awarded: diploma and medals *Matica srpska* (1976), honorary of FS UNS (1979), diploma of the Association of Endocrinologists of Yugoslavia (1983), October Prize of Novi Sad (1989). It is especially important to point the UNS Lifetime Achievement Award specially awarded by the Association of University Professors and Scientist UNS (2006).

After retirement in 1995, the engagement of prof. Dr Maric in the scientific work did not stop. On the contrary, evidences of her work are represented by the published scientific paper. It is particularly important to point out that during all 23 years since retirement, close associates of prof. dr Marić has a unique and very valuable mentor, a referee and a friend.

Publication of prof. dr Desanka Marić (given Kostić)

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Saopštenja

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