

In memoriam: Miroslav Kališnik



8 April 1927 – 10 March 2009

Professor Dr Miroslav Kališnik was born on 8 April 1927 in Videm ob Savi, Slovenia. He graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Ljubljana in 1952 and completed his PhD studies in 1960. He had already expressed an interest in teaching during his studies. In 1947 he began his academic pursuits as a student demonstrator at the Institute of Histology and Embryology at the Faculty of Medicine in Ljubljana, followed in 1953 as assistant, in 1961 as assistant professor, in 1967 as associate professor and in 1972 as professor of histology and embryology. From 1991 till his retirement in 1995, he was the head of the Institute of Histology and Embryology and vice rector of the University of Ljubljana from 1992–1994. The University of Ljubljana nominated him professor emeritus in 1996. In 2008 the Slovenian Government presented him an award for his life's work in higher education.

Professor Kališnik was an excellent and devoted teacher, as well as a fair and honest man. He taught histology and embryology graduate students in medicine and dental medicine, as well as stereology, statistics and writing of scientific papers for

postgraduate students. He published six textbooks on histology, stereology and the methodology of scientific research. He supervised the diploma work, master and PhD theses of colleagues from all over the former Yugoslavia. His personal research was devoted to the function of the thyroid and parathyroid glands, which he investigated with stereological methods.

He was a very active member of the Yugoslav Association of Anatomists, its president from 1975–77, vice president from 1977–79 and secretary general from 1981–88. In 1976 he founded the Stereological section of the Yugoslav Association of Anatomists and acted as its president till 1988. From 1976–1990, he organised regular yearly stereological meetings and basic courses for participants from the whole of Yugoslavia and in 1981 the 3rd European Symposium on Stereology in Ljubljana.

His special interest was editorial work. From 1976 till 1981 he edited *Stereologia Yugoslavica*, from 1982–1999 he was the editor-in-chief of *Acta Stereologica* and since 2000 the honorary editor of *Image Analysis & Stereology*. He joined the editorial board of *Zdravstveni vestnik*, the journal of the Slovenian Medical Association, in 1967 and served as the journal's editor-in-chief from 1980–88. He was also the editor for medicine and pharmacy in the *Encyclopaedia of Slovenia*.

Since 1975 Professor Kališnik had been engaged in the preparation of the *Slovenian Medical Dictionary* and in 1979 became the editor of the three editions of this dictionary. His constant efforts towards the popularisation of science resulted in many papers and short contributions published in popular journals, many of them in the Slovenian journal *Proteus*, where he was also a member of the editorial board.

Slovenia and the international scientific community have lost a great man. We shall miss his friendly nature, enthusiasm and the great knowledge that he generously shared with everyone.

Ida Eržen