

Foreword

Professor Vladimir Marić passed away a year ago, on May 22, 2009. With his death, our scientific community has lost one of the best biotechnologists and biochemical engineers ever. He was a backbone and a leader of Croatian biotechnology, industrial microbiology and bioprocess engineering. As an author of over 150 scientific and professional papers, 12 books, 2 monographs and 6 university textbooks, Professor Marić created high standards in science and teaching during his career at the Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, University of Zagreb, Croatia.

For exceptional contribution to the development of biotechnical sciences, especially biotechnology and bioprocess engineering, Professor Vladimir Marić received numerous awards and recognitions, among which are *Fran Bošnjaković* award in year 2000 and the State Prize for Science in year 2008 in category *Life Achievement Award*. He was a member of Scientific and advisory committee of the European Federation of Biotechnology, member of the Croatian Academy of Engineering, Chair of Scientific Council for Biotechnological Sciences and a member of the National Scientific Council. As an expert in malt and brewing technology, he was a member of the Group of beer, malt and hop industry of Croatia, and supervisor of the engineering and technological projects for breweries in Croatia and surrounding countries. He also had successful cooperation with many other Croatian biotechnology-based companies.

All of us, his former students, collaborators, friends and admirers, have been honored to work with Professor Marić since our undergraduate days to the scientific maturity. Being Guest Editors of this Special Issue of *Food Technology and Biotechnology* dedicated to his memory was a special privilege for us and the burden of responsibility at the same time, because he was also a very active member of the Editorial Board of this journal. Bearing in mind the typical pattern of his broad interest for science and technology, we have tried to select papers from his distinguished colleagues and collaborators that are dealing with broad spectrum of topics close to his scientific interest and expertise.

Working on this issue has evoked many precious moments embedded in our memories of time spent with him both as colleagues and as friends. We will always remember his strength, self-confidence and also rationality, fast reasoning, his powerful ideas, as well as his sense of humour and open-hearted human warmth. This special issue of *Food Technology and Biotechnology* is an expression of gratitude to Professor Vladimir Marić in the name of all of us who had the privilege to have known him.

Guest Editors:

Jagoda Šušković and Božidar Šantek

