

Svetlana Miceva Ristevska—an obituary



Professor Dr Svetlana Miceva Ristevska passed away on December 18 2014.

She was born on 29.09.1950 in Skopje, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)¹ where she attended both elementary and high school as well as graduated from the Medical Faculty in April 1976. Immediately after graduation she worked at the Centre for Rehabilitation “Katlanovska Banja” and at the Medical Centre in Kumanovo. A year later she was employed at the Institute of Pathophysiology and Nuclear medicine in Skopje.

In 1976, Professor Miceva Ristevska enrolled into postgraduate medical studies in pathophysiology. She successfully completed her studies in February 1982 with the public defense of her thesis “The Changes of the Level of Thyroxin, 3-iodothyronin and Thyreostimulating Hormone in the early Phase of Treatment of Thyrotoxicosis

with Favistan”. She completed her doctoral studies in 1998 with a thesis entitled “Clinical and Laboratory Characteristics of Benign Non-toxic Goiter in the Republic of Macedonia”.

She is the author and co-author of numerous articles published in Macedonian and international medical journals and she has presented her research at national and international conferences, especially in the fields of thyroid pathology, parathyroid glands, nephrourology, and methods with labeled cells.

During her specialization she participated in seminars and courses in the field of nuclear medicine in Berlin, Brescia, Budapest, Warsaw and at the Vinca Institute in Belgrade. Professor Miceva Ristevska also spent 11 months at the Nuclear Medicine Department of St. Bartholomew’s Hospital in London in 1988/89. In 1990 she became a specialist in nuclear medicine.

Professor Miceva Ristevska achieved a long and continuously successful career in scientific research, teaching and healthcare. She supervised a significant number of doctoral and master theses undertaken by her colleagues at the Institute and at other departments of the Medical Faculty. She was well-known for introducing new methods in the field of nuclear medicine in the country and has particularly contributed to the diagnosis and therapy of patients with thyroid pathology, especially with regard to overcoming the iodine deficiency in the country. She is the co-author of the monographs: “Iodine Deficiency in Macedonia” in 1997; “Correction of Iodine Deficiency

in Macedonia” in 2004 that won the State prize “Goce Delcev” and a tribute by the University “Ss. Cyril and Methodius”, and “Iodine Deficiency in Gravidity and Lactation” in 2008. In 2005, with the office of UNICEF and together with Prof B. Karanfilski and Prof S. Loparska, she was an invited teacher for training the team for correction of iodine deficiency in the Republic of Bosnia and Hercegovina.

Professor Miceva Ristevska was actively involved in the theoretical education and clinical training of students of medicine, stomatology and pharmacology first as a teaching assistant and then as an Associate Professor in Pathophysiology. In 2001–2003 she was the Head of the Department of Pathophysiology and in 2003–2004 she was the Head of the Nuclear Medicine Department. From 2004 until 2013 she was the Head of the Institute of Pathophysiology and Nuclear Medicine at the Medical Faculty in Skopje. She is a co-author of the books for clinical training in the subject of Pathophysiology as well as in

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Nuclear medicine—“Practicum of General and Specialized Pathophysiology” and “Nuclear Medicine in Clinical Practice” for students of medicine.

She was an active member of the Educational and Employment Board of the Medical Faculty, and she also participated in the Council of the Stomatology Faculty, the Macedonian Medical Association, the Macedonian Society of Nuclear Medicine (as President for nearly a decade), and the European Association of Nuclear Medicine (until 2013).

Professor Miceva Ristevska loved life completely and cherished her family endlessly. She had a son, Filip, and

a daughter, Nevena, and she celebrated the 37th marriage anniversary with her husband Ljuben only a month before she passed away. People who knew her remember her as a “rock of a woman”, undaunted by the challenges of life. She approached all things with an equal enthusiasm and with a resolve and ability to offer solutions to difficult issues. Professor Miceva Ristevska had a big heart and immensely enjoyed time spent amongst friends. Everyone in her family felt her warmth and kindness and we shall always reminisce on her inspiring personality.