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This volume is dedicated to our colleage **Dr. TOMISLAV ZVONARIĆ** *who was devoted to improving of analytical methods for determining trace heavy metals in the marine environment.*

Dr. TOMISLAV ZVONARIĆ
1948 – 2008

Dr. Tomislav ZVONARIĆ, Croatian marine chemist, was born on 5 August 1948 in Jakšić (Kotar Požega) where he attended primary school. He attended secondary school in Slavonska Požega and subsequently studied at the Technological Faculty in Sisak in 1967. In 1971 he won a University award for excellent results during his studies which he completed in 1972 with the defence of his B.S. Thesis entitled "POLAROGRAPHIC DETERMINATION OF SURFACE ACTIVE MATTER IN WATER SOLUTIONS."

Dr. Zvonarić began his scientific career as an assistant in 1972 in the Centre for Marine Research in Rovinj, where he enrolled in a newly founded postgraduate course in oceanography, and shortly thereafter went to the Hopkins Marine Station in California for advanced training with Prof. Gilmartin. Under the mentorship of Dr. M. Branica and Dr. V. Žutić of the Ruđer Bošković Institute in Zagreb he completed his Master Thesis in 1975 under the title "ELECTROCHEMICAL DETERMINATION OF SURFACE MATTER IN SEA WATER." After military service in the Hydrographic Institute, Dr. Zvonarić found employment in 1977 in the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, where he worked in the laboratory for chemical oceanography and sedimentology until the end of his life.

Upon his arrival in Split, Dr. Zvonarić immediately founded a new section of the laboratory in which research on the biogeochemical cycles of cadmium, lead, zinc and copper in sea water was carried out. In the following years this research was successfully extended to mercury and its organic compounds.

Dr. Zvonarić was very active in those years and spent several months in the University of East Anglia in Great Britain and established a scientific collaboration with the Jožef Stefan Institute in Slovenia. He spent more than two years working on their nuclear reactor in improving analytical methods for determining trace heavy metals in the marine environment. He also worked on the topic of the influence of mercury in exposed professional workers in Idrija (Slovenia), Tuzla (Bosnia and Herzegovina) as well as in Pančevo in Serbia. He presented the results obtained during that period of research in his doctorate "DEVELOPMENT AND OPTIMIZATION OF AN ANALYTICAL METHODOLOGY FOR TRACING THE INFLUENCE OF ELEMENTARY MERCURY ON EXPOSED PROFESSIONAL WORKERS" which he defended at the University of Ljubljana in 1989.

In the 90's Dr. Zvonarić began to lead, and participate in, many national and international projects, among which included the projects "Ecological cycle of mercury in the Kaštel Bay marine environment," "Estimation of possible danger to the health of at-risk populations due to seafood contamination by toxic forms of mercury and methyl mercury," "National Program of the Republic of Croatia for the monitoring of pollution in the Adriatic Sea," "Level and influence of pollution in the areas of big population centres" as well as "Inspection of the quality of coastal waters, Project Vir-Konavle" which he led for 16 years.

During his scientific career Dr. Zvonarić participated in a great number of local, as well as international, scientific symposia during which he gave prominent presentations, especially in the area of mercury analysis. He presented the results of his scientific activities in more than 100 scientific and professional publications.

Apart from scientific research, Dr. Zvonarić was also active at the teaching-educational level and, as a mentor, was involved in the supervision of several degrees, 3 Masters and 3 Doctoral works which contributed to the development of new young scientists who are now working in various local and international institutes. Dr. Zvonarić taught part of the postgraduate study "Engineering Chemistry" in the Technological Faculty in Split with courses on "Sea Biology and Ecology," "Sea Fisheries" as well as on the doctoral study course "Applied Marine Sciences" at the University Centre for Marine Studies.

It should also be noted that Dr. Zvonarić was a long-time member of the chemistry committee for the research of the Mediterranean (C.I.E.S.M.), of the Croatian Chemical Society and of the scientific council of the ecological association LIJEPA NAŠA (Our Beautiful Homeland).

We will always treasure the memory of Dr. Zvonarić as a good scientist and teacher, and especially as a very kind colleague who would always find time to help others regarding both scientific as well as personal problems

Dr. Grozdan Kušpilić

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