

In Memoriam

Spassimir D. Nikolov (1939-2006)

Spassimir Dimitrov Nikolov was born in Bulgaria on July 23, 1939. He graduated from the Medical University in Sofia and was awarded the university doctor's degree in 1963 (MD). Since 1964 he occupied the position of an assistant professor in the Chair of Anatomy at the Medical University in the city of Varna. Dr. S. Nikolov specialized in human anatomy under the guidance of Professor G. Schumacher in the Chair of Anatomy at the University of Rostock, Professor Schibler in the Chair of Anatomy at the University of Wurzburg and in the Chair of Anatomy at the University of Leipzig. He attained the academic rank Associate professor in 1974 and Professor in 1989.

Dr S. Nikolov got his CSc (PhD) degree by the thesis "On the microvascularization of the main salivary glands" in 1970 and was awarded the DSc (DMSc) degree ("Ultramorphological characteristics of the vascular endothelial cells in view of their major functional trends") in 1987.

From 1992 through 2000 Professor S. Nikolov was Head of the Chair of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology at the Medical University of Varna and serving also as Deputy-Rector of the Medical University (Varna) for the period 1990-1994.

Professor S. Nikolov was author of over 120 scientific publications, co-author of 3 textbooks of "Human Anatomy" (1995), "Topographic Anatomy of Man" (1998) and "Handbook on Exercises in Dissection in Anatomy" (1997). Save for his tutorship of many students in anatomy he has been the scientific supervisor of PhD students.

Professor Spassimir Nikolov was member of the German Anatomical Society, an Honorary Member of the Romanian Society of Anatomists, member of the European Association of Chemical Anatomy, member of Executive Board of the Anatomists' Society of the Balkan countries and the Black Sea region. He was a long year member of the Executive Board of the Bulgarian Anatomical Society and organized a great number of successful national congresses and symposia with international participation. Due to his initiative in the city of Varna have been organized the "International Symposia on Clinical Anatomy" — the first one in 1994 and the oncoming 8th symposium will be held in 2006.



These scientific meetings are known and well-established in the European and international morphological community and are linked to his name.

Professor S. Nikolov has been visiting (invited) professor in 8 renowned European Universities and a participant in a large number of international and national scientific venues.

Professor S. Nikolov independently of his outstanding and long-lasting university teacher career was an active participant in many social events. As a municipal counselor in the city of Varna he was Head of Commission on Education and Science for the period 1991-1999.

On February 8, 2006, Professor Spassimir Nikolov passed away in the city of Varna at the age of 66 after a painful and long illness.

We, all the near and far friends and colleagues of his, will dearly miss him, but we will do the best we can to continue what he had begun.

Yordan Alexiev Yordanov
Editor-in-Chief