



## IN MEMORIAM

Assoc. Prof. Elissaveta Borisova Zvetkova, MD, PhD  
(05.07.1940 – 19.05.2024)

Elissaveta Zvetkova passed away on May 19th, 2024.

Elissaveta Zvetkova was born on July 5<sup>th</sup> 1940 in Veliko Tarnovo in a family of a military doctor and a pharmacist. She graduated Higher Medical Institute in Sofia in 1964. Dr. Zvetkova worked as a paediatrician in the District hospital in town Svishtov. In 1966 she became a PhD student at the Institute of Morphology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences where she defended her doctoral thesis under the supervision of Acad. Assen I. Hadjioloff. With her supervisor Dr. Zvetkova published a monograph on the fluorescent properties of cells and tissues in vertebrates and human. With her colleagues she developed and published an original method for visualization of cytoplasmic RNP proteins in hemopoietic colonies in agar cultures. The method was later modified for simultaneous and differential staining of nucleoproteids and some cationic proteins for quantitative analysis of blood and exfoliated cells.

Elissaveta Zvetkova has specialized in France, Russia and Germany. She was an expert in histology, embryology, fluorescent histochemistry, bone marrow hematopoiesis, etc. Dr. Zvetkova was promoted to Associated Professor in 1982.

Assoc. Prof. Zvetkova was Head of Department of Cell Differentiation in the Institute of Experimental Morphology and Anthropology (1995-2005). From 1976 to 1995 she was a part-time assistant at the Medical University-Sofia and Faculty of

Biology in Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” where Dr. Zvetkova had seminars in histology and embryology.

Assoc. Prof. Zvetkova’s major scientific contributions are in the field of general and local regulatory mechanisms of bone marrow hematopoiesis in normal and pathological conditions. She studied the *in vitro* effect of neopterin and other pteridines on the proliferation, differentiation and colony formation of bone marrow hematopoietic granulocyte-macrophage progenitors. Of great interest to her was also the *in vitro* influence of growth factors on the hemorheological properties and cell-to-cell interactions of hematopoietic and endothelial cells. The obtained results were published in more than 120 scientific papers.

She supervised students in their master degree thesis as well as PhD students. Even after her retirement in 2006, Dr. Zvetkova continued to work and support young scientists in their scientific career and was an active and valuable member of Scientific juries. Dr. Zvetkova was a coordinator and/or participant in national and international research projects.

Due to her outstanding writing talent Elissaveta Zvetkova was a member of the Editorial board of several prestigious scientific journals. She was also a member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, Bulgarian Anatomical Society, Bulgarian Society of Biorheology and the International society of Pteridines.

For her scientific achievements Assoc. Prof. Elissaveta Zvetkova obtained many national and international awards.

In her spare time she enjoyed playing music, drawing and writing poetry. Elissaveta Zvetkova loved to travel and to get acquainted with other cultures.

Assoc. Prof. Elissaveta Zvetkova dedicated her life to science and research and to her last breath she worked on review papers in the fields of cell biology, hematology and hemorheology. She will leave an everlasting trace in our hearts with her exquisite style, encyclopedic knowledge and generosity.

*Yordanka Gluhcheva*



**Fig. 1.** Assoc. Prof. Elissaveta Zvetkova with her INSO award in 2022.