



## IN MEMORIAM

*Professor Yordan Alexiev Yordanov*

*Corresponding member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences*

On the 22<sup>th</sup> of February 2022 Professor Yordan Yordanov, Corresponding Member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences passed away.

Yordan Yordanov was born on the 6<sup>th</sup> November, 1938 in the village of Dragomirovo, Svishtov county, Veliko Tarnovo region in a teacher's family. He lived, studied and worked in the village of Strahilovo, Veliko Tarnovo region, the town of Polski Trambesh and in the city of Sofia.

Yordanov Yordanov graduated Faculty of Dentistry at Higher Medical Institute in Sofia (1963) with excellent score. After graduating he worked in a rural health department (1963-1965). In 1965 he was appointed an intern-research associate in the Department of Orthopedic Dentistry at the Higher Medical Institute in Sofia. There he acquired a degree in orthopedic dentistry with orthodontics (1967). From 1967 til 1968 he worked in the Ministry of Interior in Sofia. In July 1968 he was appointed as a researcher in the Department of Anthropology and Human Anatomy at the Institute of Morphology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, where in March 1971 he was promoted into assistant professor. In 1973 he acquired a degree in human anatomy and PhD degree after defence of dissertation on "Anatomical and anthropological characteristics

of the hard palate in humans”. In 1982 he acquired degree “Doctor of Medical Sciences” after defence of dissertation on “Restoration of the head on the skull”. In 1984 Yordan Yordanov was promoted to Associate professor and in 1990 – to full Professor. Professor Yordanov was promoted in Corresponding Member of BAS in 2004.

Professor Yordanov was founder (1980) and Head of the “Laboratory of Plastic Anthropological Reconstruction of the Head of the Skull” in the Institute of Morphology. For 25 years Yordan Yordanov was Head of the Department of Anthropology in the same Institute (1987-2012). He was Director of the Institute of Experimental Morphology and Anthropology with Museum (1991-2010). He was Coordinator of the National Program “Anthropological Characteristics of the Bulgarian People”.

Professor Yordanov specialized in anthropology in Poland (1973/74), USSR (Russia and Armenia – 1981). Then followed a specialization in Germany (1982/83) and in USA (1987).

With his great expertise and experience Professor Yordanov was a member and chairman of many scientific councils and commissions as follow: member of Specialized Scientific Council for Normal and Pathological Morphology at the Higher Attestation Commission (1991-2010) and its chairman (1993-1997); Chairman of the Scientific Council of the Institute of Experimental Morphology and Anthropology (1993-2010), Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Biological Institutes at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (1998-2010), Chairman of the Expert Council for Publishing Activity of the Academy (2003-2010), member of the General Assembly of the Academy, Mandate Commission and its chairman (1990-2010); member of the Legislation Committee and the Expert Council for DNA – Polymorphic Analysis of the Academy; member of the National Advisory Museum Council at the Ministry of Culture.

He was also the founder and Chairman of the Bulgarian Anthropological Society, a member and Chairman of the Bulgarian Anatomical Society; Editor-in-Chief of “Acta morphologica et anthropologica” and “Journal of Anthropology”; member of the Board of European Anthropological Association (Representative for Bulgaria); member of the International Identification Association, based in the United States.

Professor Yordanov was dedicated in teaching students from Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, University of Veliko Tarnovo “St. St. Cyril and Methodius”; New Bulgarian University – Sofia, Southwestern University “Neofit Rilski” – Blagoevgrad, Slavic University – Sofia. He was supervisor of many post-graduate student.

Yordan Yordanov’s remarkable scientific activity was in different fields of: physical anthropology (paleoanthropology, paleopathology, paleodemography), morphology of the human skeletal system, craniology, gemelology, morphology, dentistry, medical and applied anthropology, museum work. He created original methods for determining the biological age of man, for the quantitative assessment of the manifestations of asymmetry in the human face. He also established new relationships between individual facial sizes. He is the author of the invention “Model of the human head”. His main fundamental and applied scientific achievements are:

1. He introduced in Bulgaria, modified and updated the method for plastic anthropological reconstruction of the head on the skull, introduced new indices and methods in physical anthropology.

In 1982/83 in Germany he demonstrated the method of plastic anthropological reconstruction on a female skull of a Hun princess from the V century – exhibited

in the museum in Braunschweig. In 1987, in the city of Atlanta (USA), the method was demonstrated on a male Indian skull from the 14th century (Etowah culture). The reconstruction was presented in three museums in the state of Georgia (USA).

2. Professor Yordanov is author of more than 70 plastic anthropological reconstructions from archeological excavations from the Neolithic to the Renaissance in the territory of Bulgaria. Among them are the anthropological reconstructions of great Bulgarians and revivalists, activists of the liberation movement as Tzar Kaloyan and Tzar Samuil, Thracian Princess, Bacho Kiro, Georgi Rakovski, Luben Karavelov, Zahari Stoyanov, etc. Many of them are presented in the museum expositions in the country and abroad – in Japan, USA, France, Germany, Russia.

3. He was founder of the Anthropological exhibition “The Man in the Past”, registered by the Ministry of Culture. Later, the exposition grew into National Anthropological Museum that was opened on 21.03.2007 and registered by ICOM and Ministry of Culture.

4. His contributions to the characteristics of the human masticatory apparatus – hard palate, teeth, dental arches, thickness of the tooth walls are published for the first time in the literature.

5. He worked on the anthropological characteristics of the people who lived in our lands from the Neolithic to the Renaissance as well as on the modern population of the Republic of Bulgaria in the late twentieth century.

Professor Yordanov is the author of about 360 publications and 26 books and handbooks for medical students. The most famous book “Anthropology of the population of Bulgaria in the late twentieth century” is published in Bulgarian and in English by Professor Marin Drinov Publishing House of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia.

Prof. Yordanov was the initiator of many scientific events. As a member and chairman of the Board of Bulgarian Anatomical Society, he worked very hard in organizing the National Congresses of the Society. On his idea, a conference began to be held, for the first time in 2004 in the city of Koprivshtitsa, known as Koprivshtitsa Morphological Days. Since 2012, the conference has been held in Sofia, in the National Anthropological Museum.

Recognition for Professor Yordanov’s contribution are several prestigious awards by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the President of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Professor Yordanov is remembered by his colleagues as an erudite and talented person with unique sense of humour, elegant style and glamour. He was patriot with active public position and humanism. He was beloved teacher, a scientist with wide interests not only in the field of anthropology and biomedicine, but also in the field of history and archaeology, literature, art, music, etc. He was famous with numerous interviews in the press and on TV on wide-ranging topics - from cultural and historical heritage and the origin of man to the trends in the development of the modern population of Bulgaria and demographic problems.

Professor Yordanov was an epoch of the development of physical anthropology in Bulgaria! With his death Bulgarian Academy of Sciences as well as Bulgarian Morphological School lost a great scientist.

*Racho Stoev and Nina Atanassova*