

## Tribute to Professor Želimir Kurtanjek

I met Prof. Želimir Kurtanjek in 2004 when I was a student at the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, where he was teaching Measurement and processes regulation, Reactors engineering, and Modelling of biotechnological processes. Due to his efforts in approaching very complex teaching materials with his friendly and open attitude, the students always honoured Prof. Kurtanjek. After finishing my graduate studies, I had the opportunity to closely collaborate with Prof. Kurtanjek, from 2008 until his retirement, as his teaching assistant in the Laboratory for Measurements, Regulation and Automatization of the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology.

Prof. Želimir Kurtanjek was born in Zagreb in 1946. He earned his bachelor degree at the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Sciences in 1971, and in the same year, he gained a teaching assistant position at the Department for automatization at the Sisaak Technical Faculty. After finishing his master studies in technical cybernetics at the University of Zagreb in 1975, he started his PhD studies in chemical engineering at Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Houston, Texas, where he earned his doctoral degree in 1979. In 1981, he gained the position of assistant professor in the Laboratory for Measurements, Regulation and Automatization of the Department of Process Engineering at Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, Zagreb University, where he worked as associate professor and full professor, as well as head of the laboratory until his retirement. The scientific work of Prof. Kurtanjek was focused on mathematical modelling of chemical and biochemical processes. Over the years, his successful scientific work gained recognition, and he became member of several scientific associations (American Institute of Chemical Engineers, International Fed-



eration of Automatic Control, Croatian Academy of Engineering, Croatian Society of Chemical Engineers, Croatian Society of Biotechnology, and Croatian Society KOREMA). He was also Croatian delegate in the European Federation of Biotechnology, Working Party on Measurements and Control, Biochemical Engineering Science, and in International Federation of Automatic Control, Technical Committee Control of Biotechnological Process-

es. Beside his numerous obligations in teaching and scientific work, prof. Kurtanjek was also working on the promotion of chemical and biochemical engineering as Editor of the Chemical and Biochemical Engineering Quarterly from 2000 to 2017. During this time, CABEQ became a recognized research journal cited in important scientific journals databases.

It is my special honour and privilege to mention that Prof. Kurtanjek gave all his working colleagues his view of modern chemical and biochemical engineering as interdisciplinary scientific fields based on fundamental knowledge of natural sciences, biotechnology and chemical engineering. With his open approach to different scientific fields, cooperation among faculty members and his cooperation with different scientific institutions, Prof. Kurtanjek was always highly appreciated. Prof. Kurtanjek was always trying to transfer his knowledge to younger colleagues, and to teach us to use the most recent scientific literature, to be very detailed in experiment planning, to be highly critical toward obtained results, and to use modern software tools for data analysis. With his approach to teaching and scientific work, Prof. Kurtanjek inspired and supported many young students and colleagues to expand their knowledge in chemical and biochemical engineering, and become experts in those fields.

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