

60 Years Prof. Dr. Đurđa Vasić-Rački

CURRICULUM VITAE

Personal

July 7th 1946 born in Zagreb, Croatia

Education

1971 – B. Sc. in chemical engineering at Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology, University of Zagreb

1976 – M. Sc. in chemical engineering at Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology, University of Zagreb

1981 – Ph. D. in chemical engineering at University of Zagreb

Professional Experience

1978 – assistant at Faculty of chemical engineering and Technology, University of Zagreb

1983 – assistant professor of chemical engineering at University of Zagreb

1987 – associate professor of chemical engineering at University of Zagreb

1992 – full professor of chemical engineering at University of Zagreb

Teaching Activities

Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology, University of Zagreb, Croatia

- mass and energy balances;
- chemical engineering;
- biochemical engineering;
- biocatalysis and biotransformations;
- environmental engineering.

Visiting professor at Faculty of Food Technology, University J. J. Strossmayer, Osijek, Croatia, since 2000:

- chemical and biochemical engineering.



Visiting professor at Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, University of Maribor, Slovenia, 2004/2005

- biochemical engineering.

Supervisor of more than 40 B. Sc., 11 M. Sc. and 7 Ph. D. theses. Founder of the postgraduate study Environmental Engineering at University of Zagreb.

Guest researcher at Institute of Biotechnology 2, Research Centre Jülich, Germany, since 1985.

Research interest

- enzyme reaction engineering;
- biotransformations;
- bioreactors;
- computer modeling;
- biochemical engineering;
- environmental engineering.

Project contractor in 3 national and 3 international projects.

Publications

books: 2 chapters (BIA, Slovenia, VCH-Wiley, Germany)

refereed journals: 49

refereed international proceedings: 18

symposia, conferences, congresses: more than 70

Consulting

Several consulting assignments to industry in the area of chemical and biochemical engineering:

Pliva, Zagreb/HR, Pinus, Rače/SI, Vitiva, Nova vas pri Markovcah/SI

Memberships

Associate member of Croatian Academy of Technical Science

Regular member of working party Applied Biocatalysis of European Federation of Biotechnology

Member of International Organization for Biotechnology and Bioengineering

Member of Croatian Society of Chemical Engineers

Member of Administrative board of Society of University Professors Zagreb

Editorial Boards

– Chemical and Biochemical Engineering Quarterly (Croatian Society of Chemical Engineers,

Slovenian Chemical Society and Austrian Association of Bioprocess Technology, Zagreb);

– Acta Chimica Slovenica (Slovenian Chemical Society, Ljubljana);

– Bioprocess and Biosystem Engineering (Springer, Berlin/Heidelberg)

Awards

2003 – Golden diploma of University of Maribor, Slovenia

2004 – Central European Initiative Award “From Research to Enterprise”

2006 – Croatian State Award for Science

A special issue of “Chemical and Biochemical Engineering Quarterly” is dedicated to Prof. Dr. Durda Vasic-Racki on the occasion of her 60th birthday.

She is a member of the Editorial Board. She and her co-workers contributed quite frequently to this journal. She is a chemical engineer who was educated at the University of Zagreb. I got to know her more than twenty years ago when she was still an Assistant Professor. Already at this time she was a guest researcher at our Institute of Biotechnology (Research Center Jülich, Germany). Since then she was a guest in our institute every summer for two to three months. I had the pleasure to follow her career in Zagreb where she became an Associated Professor for chemical engineering (1987) and a Full Professor (1992).

Since experimental working conditions at the University of Zagreb were quite limited 20 years ago, she focussed herself on computer modelling. She is thus best-known for her research activity in model-based enzyme reaction engineering. Every summer we could provide here with new experimental data, which she carefully analysed by means of computer modelling. This symbiosis between experimental and theoretical work was beneficial for both sides. I remember that our PhD-students sometimes sent data to Zagreb already before her visit to Jülich.

Over the years the field of cooperation was expanded also to fermentation and down stream processing, so that many co-workers out of her group also

spend some time in Jülich. I especially remember the PhD-examination of Dr. Bruno Zelic in Zagreb, where Prof. Vasic-Racki and I were the referees. He just visited our institute again (August 2006).

In the meantime the situation for experimental work in the field of enzyme reaction engineering has improved a lot at the University of Zagreb. Prof. Vasic-Racki could attract in a most astonishing way a lot of resources under difficult conditions. She wrote successful grant proposals and could also convince industrial partners to finance her work. Over the years, when her successful scientific work was more and more recognised, she became member of several editorial boards and scientific associations (e.g. Associate member of Croatian Academy of Technical Science (1992)).

I would like to thank her for all her engagement during so many years. Since she speaks perfect German, I had a better chance to get to know her warm personality and her modesty. I hope very much that more than twenty years of Croatian-German cooperation in the field of enzyme engineering will also be an illustrative example for our younger colleagues and co-workers, who finally have to carry on this work.

Prof. Dr. C. Wandrey Jülich, Germany