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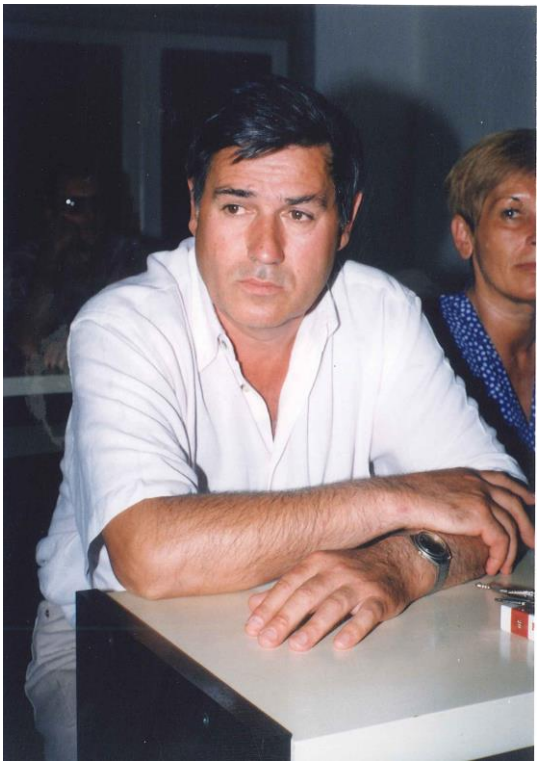
# PREFACE TO THE SPECIAL ISSUE OF FU PHYS CHEM TECH, DEDICADED TO PROFESSOR RADOSAV M. PALIĆ ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 70$^{TH}$ BIRTHDAY



Professor Radosav M. Palić during mid 1990s

*This special issue of* FU Phys Chem Tech *is dedicated to Professor Radosav M. Palić on the occasion of his 70$^{th}$ birthday. Dr. Palić has made important contributions in many areas of chemistry, his main interest being the chemistry of volatile plant metabolites and their antimicrobial activity. He was the pioneer of the phytochemical research at the University of Niš. The authors of the papers published in this issue (all manuscripts underwent a rigorous peer-review process) are his former students and/or his scientific collaborators, who are grateful to him for his contribution to the development of chemistry not only at the University of Niš but also in Serbia.*

Professor Radosav M. Palić (left) and Professor Stevan Miletić (right) during 1980s in a laboratory of the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Philosophy, Niš

Professor Radosav M. Palić was born on May 25th, 1945 (Sredska, Prizren, Serbia). He graduated from the Faculty of Sciences and Mathematics, University of Priština, with a B.Sc. in Chemistry in 1968. Professor Palić obtained his Master (*Diene and polyene steroid systems synthesis and their cycloaddition reactions*, 1971) and PhD degrees (*Chemical composition of taxa of the plant genus* Satureja *L. and the influence of microclimatic factors*, 1981) at the Faculty of Chemistry, University of Belgrade; his M.Sc. and Ph.D. supervisors, M. Stefanović and M. Gašić, respectively, were leading Serbian chemists (later on they became academicians at SANU) at the time.

Right after obtaining his M.Sc. degree, he started working at the Department of Chemistry, University of Priština, as a teaching assistant. Doctor Palić started working at the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Philosophy in Niš, in 1982, only a decade after its being founded in 1971. From then on, first as an assistant (1982-1987), then an associate (1987-1993), and finally a full professor (1993-2012), he unselfishly worked on the development of both the Department and the Faculty, not only in an educational, but also scientific and administrative aspects.

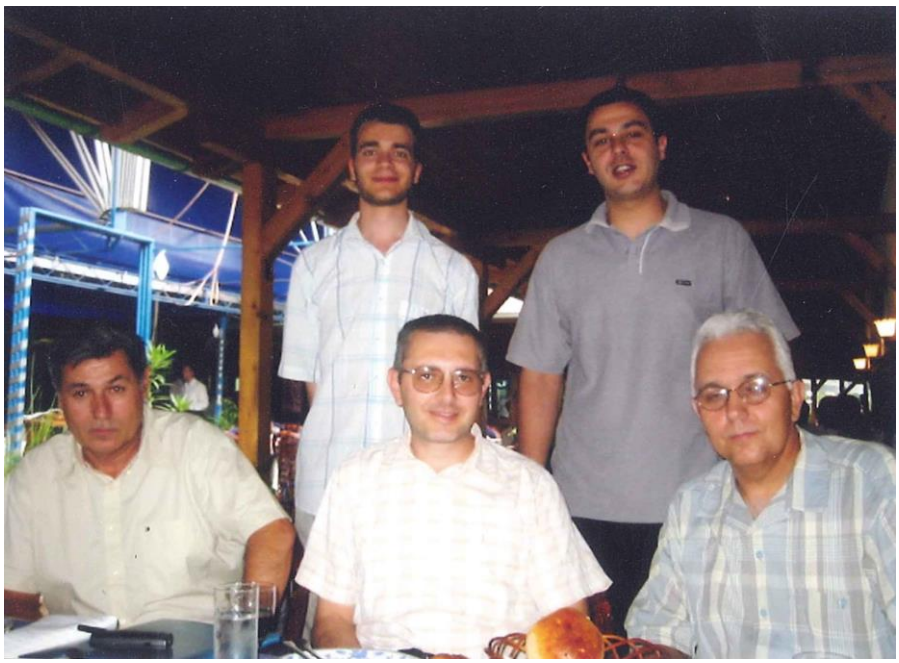
Professor Palić was the Head of the Department of Chemistry (1987-1989), Chief of the Institute of Chemistry (1994-1998) and Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy in Niš (1992-1994 and 1998-2000). He was the first Dean of the Faculty of Sciences and Mathematics, University of Niš (2000-2001), Head of the Chair of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry (1994-2012) and the president of the Scientific Board of the Faculty of Sciences and Mathematics (2004-2006). Professor Palić was also a member (1992-1998) and president (1998-2000, 2017-2012) of the Scientific Board for Natural Sciences and Mathematics, University of Niš, a member of the University Scientific Board (Chemistry, Biotechnology, Chemical and other industries and Pharmacy; 2005-2007) and a member of the University Senate (2007-2012). In addition, Professor Palić was a member of the

Expert Committee at the Ministry of Sciences and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia (2002-2007).


Professor Milorad Cakić (Faculty of Technology, University of Niš), M.Sc. Salamh Moh'd Amr, Professor Radosav M. Palić and Professor Siniša Đorđević (Faculty of Technology, University of Niš) (1995, Leskovac)

From the beginning of his scientific carrier, Professor Palić was interested in phytochemistry. He and his team were the first to introduce phytochemical research at the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Philosophy (now Faculty of Sciences and Mathematics), University of Niš. According to a SciFinder search of the CAS database and Scopus database, during his fruitful carrier, professor Palić co-authored more than 110 scientific papers, published in respectable peer-reviewed journals, such as: *Flavour and Fragrance Journal*, *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*, *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, *Organic Geochemistry*, *Journal of Serbian Chemical Society*, *Journal of Essential Oil Research*, etc. At the time of writing of this preface, these papers were cited more than 1,000 times in total, and are still in line with current phytochemical research. He focused most of his attention on bioactive (antimicrobial) volatile secondary metabolites (usually isolated from the plant matrix in the form of essential oils) of *Satureja*, *Hypericum*, *Achillea*, *Calamintha*, *Artemisia*, *Equisetum*, *Acinos*, *Stachys* and *Micromeria* species. He tried to scientifically address the ethnopharmacological usage of the mentioned taxa. An important part of his research focused on plant secondary metabolites (terpenes, fatty acids and alkanes) as potential chemotaxonomic markers. He was also interested in $CO_2$ supercritical extraction of secondary metabolites, the development and optimization of HPLC methods for both quantitative and qualitative analyses of different natural as well as synthetic organic compounds/mixtures. In addition to phytochemistry, Professor Palić was interested in the chemistry of ferrocene

and coumarin and the synthesis of their bioactive derivatives. He also investigated the stability of some pharmaceuticals and the kinetics of their degradation.



From left to right, top to bottom: Professor Niko Radulović (M.Sc. student in the lab of Prof. Palić at that time), Professor Ivan Palić (PhD student at the time), Professor Radosav Palić, Professor Nebojša Simić (now working at the Department of Chemistry, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway) and Professor Dragić Vukomanović (University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, Dartmouth, Massachusetts), summer, 2002

For years, Dr. Palić was a professor of Organic Chemistry at the Faculty of Sciences and Mathematics, University of Niš. He was a mentor to a large number of M.Sc. and Ph.D. students. An even larger number of students defended their M.Sc. and Ph.D. theses within his team, under the supervision of his closest associates. Although he retired at the end of 2012, he is still active and is still helping those he used to teach.

Professor Palić knew how to lead and guide, but he also knew that giving scientific freedom, even to the youngest and least experienced of his associates and students, could result in unexpected, exciting findings. As once members of his team, we were among those who were constantly encouraged to experiment, take initiative, and make their own decisions during research. Thus, in our humble opinion, one of the greatest things about Dr. Palić, a professor, was that he never constrained, yet he did everything in his power to support the creativity of those with whom he worked. The best proof that this was a good way to lead a research group and motivate younger associates is that only at the Faculty of Sciences and Mathematics, University of Niš, there are currently two active (and we dare to say quite scientifically productive) groups that arose from Professor Palić's original team.

From left to right: Žarko Stojanović, Professor Sofija Rančić (Teaching Assistant at the time), Professor Gordana Stojanović (Teaching Assistant at the time), Professor Radosav M. Palić and Professor Vesna Milovanović (Teaching Assistant at the time) with her husband; celebration on the occasion of Professor Gordana Stojanović's (the closest associate of Professor Palić) Ph.D. defense (Professor Palić was the supervisor), 1997.

For his work, Professor Palić received many awards among which the Award of the Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia for distinguished achievements in the realization of a Project of the Ministry in the period 2002-2003 (2004), Who's Who of the Year (Distinguished Leadership Award of The American Biographical Institute, 1993) and Man of the Year (Award of The American Biographical Institute, 1994). All of the contributors to this Special Issue of *FU Phys Chem Tech*, together with us, would like to express our gratitude to Professor Palić for all he did for the development of chemistry not only at the University of Niš but also in Serbia. The authors of the papers published in this issue (all manuscripts underwent a rigorous peer-review process) were former students and/or scientific collaborators of Professor Palić. We are privileged to have had the opportunity to learn from him, be mentored by him, and worked together with him.

In the end, we would like to thank Professor Gordana Stojanović and Professor Ivan Palić who provided the biographical data of Professor Radosav Palić and photographs from their private collections.

Due to a great number of contributing manuscripts for this special issue and the time restrictions imposed by the peer-review process, only a part of these studies will be published in this first special issue. There will be a second one with the remaining papers dedicated to Professor Palić.

*Niko S. Radulović, Editor-in-Chief*

*Polina D. Blagojević, Section Editor*

# PREDGOVOR SPECIJALNOM BROJU ČASOPISA FU PHYS CHEM TECH, POSVEĆENOM PROFESORU RADOSAVU M. PALIĆU, U ČAST NJEGOVOG 70. ROĐENDANA

*Ovaj specijalni broj časopisa FU Phys Chem Tech je posvećen profesoru Radosavu M. Paliću, u čast njegovog 70. rođendana. Dr Palić je dao značajan doprinos različitim oblastima hemije, a najviše se bavio proučavanjem hemije isparljivih biljnih metabolita i njihovom antimikrobnom aktivnošću. Profesor Palić je bio pionir fitohemijskih istraživanja na Univerzitetu u Nišu. Autori radova objavljenih u ovom broju (svi rukopisi su podvrgnuti naučnoj recenziji) su njegovi bivši studenti i/ili saradnici, koji su mu zahvalni na svemu što je on učinio za razvoj hemije ne samo na Univerzitetu u Nišu, već i u Srbiji uopšte.*