

LAURA ȚUGULEA (VICOL)

(4 January 1948 – 3 March 2014)

Professor Dr. Laura Țugulea died unexpectedly this spring on 3rd March leaving in sorrow her family, his friends from Romania and abroad and the Romanian biophysics community.

Laura Țugulea was born in Bucharest on January 4, 1948. In the period 1965–1970, she graduated from the Faculty of Physics, specialization in Biophysics, University of Bucharest. She was immediately employed as a researcher in “Daniel Danielopolu” Institute of Normal and Pathological Physiology from Bucharest.



Beginning with 1974, she worked as an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Physics, Department of Electricity and Biophysics, where she passed through all didactic positions, being appointed Professor as a result of her prestigious didactic and research activity. She was also a PhD coordinator in the field of Biophysics.

Professor Dr. Laura Țugulea dedicated her life equally to her family and her profession.

As a Professor of Biophysics she loved her students whom she carefully coordinated during their undergraduate, graduate (as Master students) or PhD studies. Many of her students are activating in different universities or research centres spread both in Romania and all around the world.

She was an excellent researcher publishing over 50 scientific papers in foreign and Romanian journals. She was author or coauthor of 5 books and she participated in more than 30 conferences/symposia being also involved in 20 national grants and 7 European Projects.

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Her entire activity was devoted to the development and progress of education and formation in Biophysics at the University of Bucharest, Romania. It is important to emphasize that she belonged to the fourth generation (1970) of biophysicists in Romania. Joining the group of Biophysics from the Faculty of Physics she fully contributed to the formation of Romanian biophysicists starting with the university year 1974–1975. From this year till 1992, the Faculty of Physics of the University of Bucharest was the unique centre of formation and education of Romanian biophysicists.

Her main research fields of interest were:

- Photosynthetic systems;
- Photovoltaic and photoelectrochemical devices based on organic and biological materials including also nanomaterials;
- Membrane model (e.g. embedded chlorophylls in liposomes) photophysics;
- Molecular spectroscopy and spectroelectrochemistry methods.

As concerns the Educational Physics, among her main activities and functions the following ones should be mentioned:

- Local coordinator of EMSPS-EPS (European Mobility Scheme for Physics Students-European Physical Society), 1993–2010;
- Member of the Mobility Committee of EMSPS-EPS responsible for Balkan and South-East Mediterranean countries, 1999–2010;
- Member of the Executive Committee of EUPEN (European Physics Education Network, Erasmus Thematic Network), 1998–2002;
- Departmental Socrates coordinator, 1998–2004;
- Member of the Management Committee of STEPS by EUPEN, 2005–2008;
- Coordinator of STEPS TWO project (EU/LLP/Erasmus/Academic Networks Programme), 2008–2011;
- Candidate countries representative in TUNING project (Socrates project, 2003–2006);
- Member of SAG Physics in TUNING project (EU project, 2006–2009) and TUNING Expert;
- Member of the International Society of Photosynthesis.

In the field of Physics/Biophysics education she also contributed with 11 significant publications.

Her premature and unexpected demise represents an irrecoverable loss for the Romanian biophysics community who will not forget her as a pleasant person and will always cherish her scientific and didactic achievements.

Prof. Dr. Aurel POPESCU Prof. Dr. Doina GĂZDARU

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