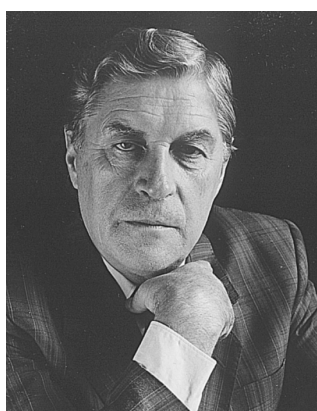


## IN MEMORIAM

### ACADEMICIAN VOJIN ŠULOVIĆ (1923-2008)

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Well-known as one of the leading lights of our profession and an exceptional humanist, gifted scientist, and prominent erudite, Academician Vojin Šulović died in a traffic accident on 22 February 2008. Vojin Šulović was born on 18 May 1923 in Kuršumljija, Serbia, where he completed his elementary education, and graduated from high school in Prokuplje in 1941. He was very proud of his origins and often stressed that the strong influences of his native region, parents, family, teachers, and professors - who taught him that only by hard work is it possible to succeed - were his main guidelines at every turn in life. In high school, he was especially interested in natural science, biology, physics, chemistry, and mathematics. Reading the biographies of Fleming, Koch, and Pavlov during that period - when a certain process of identification goes on in the life of every young man - Šulović acquired an inclination for medicine, although he later wrote that he then paid almost no thought to what he was going to study after graduation from high school.



At the end of the Second World War, Šulović enrolled in 1945 at the University of Belgrade's Faculty of Medicine, from which he graduated in 1951. He took his studies seriously, even though the conditions for studying were very difficult, the war being just over. Following graduation from medical school, Šulović worked as a doctor at the Chemical Institute. A year later he enrolled in the program of specialization in gynecology and obstetrics at the Gynecological-Obstetrics Clinic in Belgrade. He passed his specialists' examination in 1956 and was appointed Graduate Assistant at the Medical

Faculty's Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics in 1954, Assistant Professor in 1961, Associate Professor in 1969, and Full Professor in 1976. In addition to the Faculty of Medicine in Belgrade, he taught undergraduate and post-graduate courses in medicine at the medical faculties in Kragujevac, Niš, Novi Sad, and Priština. He regularly delivered lectures in the area of perinatal medicine to post-graduate medical students at the Faculty of Medicine in Zagreb and lectured at the post-graduate level in Indonesia and Greece. Professor Šulović was Chairman of the Department of Pathology of Pregnancy for many years, and Director of the Gynecological-Obstetrics Clinic from March of 1973 to October of 1985. From 1985 to 1987 he served as Provost of the University of Belgrade, in which capacity he was responsible for scientific work and international cooperation. He retired on 30 September 1988. During the exceptionally difficult period for our country from 1987 to 1996, Professor Šulović acted as President of the Serbian Medical Society. Through his efforts and authority, work of the Society was maintained on an enviably high level. In recognition of his contributions, he was elected Honorary President of the Society.

Professor Šulović wrote that he decided to specialize in gynecology by chance, although as a student he liked the subject. As a teacher he later introduced a completely new visionary approach to gynecology and obstetrics. He began his lectures to students with the observation that the subject he taught is one that deals with the "problems of human reproduction." He considered then that this was the correct approach to the concept of gynecology and obstetrics, since

it embraced problems of genetics, general biology, pathophysiology, molecular biology, and endocrinology.

He prepared his habilitation thesis in France at the Gynecological Clinic in Strasbourg and habilitated at the University of Belgrade's Faculty of Medicine, where he defended his doctoral dissertation entitled "The Biological and Biochemical Aspects of Choriongonadotropic Hormone of Placental Origin". Upon his return from specialist studies in Strasbourg in 1959, Professor Šulović - with the assistance of Professor Siniša Tasovac, the man he called his spiritual father in the field of gynecology and obstetrics - founded the Department of Pathology of Pregnancy, a completely new discipline in which he pioneered. Ten years later the new discipline developed into perinatal medicine, a separate sub-specialty of which Professor Šulović was the creator in our country.

Through extended sojourns in Strasbourg (1958-59) and at Harvard in Boston (1965-66), Professor Šulović contributed significantly to the Gynecological Clinic's awareness of developments elsewhere in the world and aroused the world's interest in our medicine. As Director of the Gynecological-Obstetrics Clinic during the period from 1973 to 1985, Academician Šulović both oversaw the professional training of future specialists and promoted significant scientific development of the Clinic. As an advisor, he unselfishly guided an enormous number of doctors from the Clinic and from all parts of former Yugoslavia in the preparation of their master's and doctoral theses. By virtue of his presence, work, and direct contributions, Professor Šulović was not just the adviser in the preparation of all these theses: it could be said that he in effect became their co-author.

Professor Šulović headed many research projects of significance to science, the medical profession, and the Serbian nation itself. He felt the Clinic to be his home and imparted to his associates the impression that they were members of one big family. As a great altruist, he took an interest in the problems of all of the Clinic's employees, not just doctors and medical personnel, but also cleaning women, workers, and menials. His door was always open to all of them. He charmed patients with his knowledge, humanism, and

great professional authority. He was a persona grata throughout the world. His dignity, erudition, and charisma won the respect of all he conversed with.

For his scientific, professional, educational, and public work, Professor Dr. Vojin Šulović received many forms of recognition. By all odds the greatest was his election to the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts. Professor Šulović became a corresponding member of the Academy in 1978 and was elected to full membership in 1988. Within the Academy, he chaired the International Committee on the Influence of Infective Diseases Including AIDS on Human Reproduction and the Committee for Study of the Biology of Human Reproduction. In addition to this, he served as Secretary of the Departmental Committee for Monitoring Development of the Medical Sciences in Serbia and was a member of the editorial staff of the journal "Scientific Bulletin". He was the recipient of the July 7 and October Awards of the city of Belgrade, various awards from the Serbian Medical Society, and the Serbian Soldier's Medal. He was proclaimed an honorary citizen of Kursumlija and Smederevo and received the keys to those cities. He was awarded many medals, both domestic and foreign, including high recognition from the President of France in the guise of the Order of Chevalier for National Service.

Professor Šulović was a member of the Societies of Gynecologists and Obstetricians of France, Russia, Poland, and the Duchy of Poznan; the Medical Academy of Romania; the Society of Surgeons of Jordan; and the Gynecological-Obstetrics Sections of the Medical Societies of nearly all of the former Yugoslav republics. In a word, his name was the personification of gynecology and obstetrics in Serbia.

In the history of Serbian medicine, Academician Vojin Šulović will be remembered as a giant whose diligent work, high expertise, and great professional authority marked the beginning of the modern epoch of gynecology and obstetrics. With his death, Serbian science lost a remarkable man who devoted his whole life to his profession, scientific work, and the training of future generations.

Professor Dr. Nebojša Radunović