



## Obituary

## Academician Paula Putanov (1925–2014)



Academician Paula Putanov a widely known and respected scientist passed away on 24th January 2014 after a short battle with illness.

Paula Putanov was born on 14th July 1925 in Darda, The Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

She graduated in 1952 from the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Technical Sciences. She obtained her Ph.D. degree from the same Faculty in 1958. Her professional work started as a teaching assistant, and later become research associate at the Institute of Chemistry of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, later reorganized as the Institute of Chemistry of the Republic of Serbia and finally as the Institute of Chemistry, Technology and Metallurgy in Belgrade (1952–1959). She founded and at the same time became the head of the Department of Catalysis at the same Institute (1959–1968). In 1964 she has done her specialization in the field of catalysis, in Paris (Sorbonne University) and Lyon (Institut de Recherches sur la Catalyse, CNRS).

In 1966 she became a professor of Physical Chemistry and Catalysis at the Faculty of Technology of the University of Novi Sad (until retirement in 1990). She was a founder of Laboratory of Physical Chemistry and Catalysis on the Faculty. Under her leadership, more than 20 PhD and master's theses and nearly 100 diploma thesis were performed in the Laboratory. In 1971, she was appointed as a head of The Department of Chemical Engineering at the Faculty of Technology.

Her main research interest was physical chemistry, especially catalysis. She was initiator and pioneer of theoretical and experimental research, university teaching and scientific cooperation with the industry in the field of catalysis in the whole Yugoslavia. She developed scientific-technical cooperation with the chemical, petrochemical and oil industry in the country and abroad.

Professor Putanov published more than 200 scientific papers in the national and international journals and 12 books in the field of physical chemistry and catalysis and was a supervisor of more than 80 research projects and studies, both national and international. She has held 38 invited lectures on national and international

scientific events (Russia, USA, China, India, Greece, University Centres in Yugoslavia, among others).

**Membership in Professional Organizations**

Member of the Committee for Standardization of Catalysts at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, UNIDO (1979).

Editorial Board Member of the *Applied Catalysis*, Elsevier, Amsterdam (1982–86).

Member of the Working Party on Chemical Engineering Applications in Catalysis of the European Federation of Chemical Engineering (1991–99).

Honorary President of the Association of Yugoslav Chemical Societies (1986).

Member of the Association of Yugoslav Scientific Societies (1980–84).

President of the Association of Yugoslav Chemical Societies (1980–84).

Honorary President of the Department of Catalysis of the Chemical Society of Vojvodina.

Member and later also appointed to other positions at the Association of Chemists and Chemical Engineers of Yugoslavia.

Member of the Serbian Chemical Society.

**Membership in Societies**

Chair of the University Assembly of Novi Sad (1972–75).

Vice-Rector of the University of Novi Sad (1975–77).

Member of different state and university committees and juries (for the AVNOJ Award and July 7th Award, among others).

**Honors and Awards**

Golden Plaque by the Unido Catalyst Conference in Wien (1973).

The City of Novi Sad October Award (1981).

A number of recognitions, honors and acknowledgements for her contribution to scientific work and the development of the Faculty of Technology in Belgrade, the University and the Faculty of Technology in Novi Sad, among others.

**Membership in the Academy of Sciences**

Corresponding Member of the Vojvodina Academy of Sciences and Arts (1979).

Full Member of the Vojvodina Academy of Sciences and Arts (1982).

Full Member of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (1992).  
President of the Catalysis Board of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (1981–2014).  
Member of the Presidency of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (1998).  
Member of the Boards and Committees of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

We all admired her devotion to the science, her unlimited energy that has invested in development and research of catalysis. We will greatly miss her.

Members of the Laboratory of Physical Chemistry and Catalysis,  
Faculty of Technology, University of Novi Sad, Serbia  
Transmitted by Dr. Erne E. Kiss, Novi Sad, January 31, 2014