

PERSONALIA

IN MEMORY OF PROF. ARMEN TRCHOUNIAN



Corresponding member of NAS RA, Honored Scientist of RA, Chair of Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology, Biotechnology, Scientific Head of Research Laboratory of Microbiology, Bioenergetics and Biotechnology at Yerevan State University (YSU), Prof. Armen Trchounian passed away on November 18, 2020 in the age of 64.

From 1993-2011 he has been a professor at the Department of Biophysics, later assuming the responsibilities of the Chair of the Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Biotechnology. From 2001-2002 he worked as the Head of the Department of Science and Training of Scientific-Pedagogical Staff of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia. After he was appointed as Chairman of the Supreme Certifying Commission of the Republic of Armenia (2002-2010). Returning to his Alma-Mater (YSU), in 2011 he was elected as the Head of the Department of Microbiology, Plants and Microbes Biotechnology, and in 2015, as a result of merging the two chairs of the Faculty of Biology, he was elected as the Head of the joint Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Biotechnology.

Since 2015, A. Trchounian was the Leader of the Research Laboratory of Microbiology, Bioenergetics and Biotechnology in the Scientific-Research Institute

of Biology at Faculty of Biology, YSU. A. Trchounian's contribution to the scientific-practical activity of the laboratory is invaluable. He was able to ensure the work of the laboratory with strong administrative principles, developed the scientific activity of the laboratory in the most up-to-date directions at the international level. Moreover, he completely rebuilt the department and research laboratory, modernized it with state-of-the art equipment. Due to his inexhaustible and selfless organizational energy and diligence, A. Trchounian left a huge scientific legacy in the form of more than 800 scientific publications, monographs, conference proceedings etc. Besides, under his supervision two scientists obtained their Doctor of Science (DSc) degrees and 25 graduates obtained their PhDs. He participated in more than 100 international congresses, meetings and symposiums where he presented and promoted his research ideas, which were widely accepted.

In 2006 A. Trchounian was elected as corresponding member of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia. Prof. Trchounian has been awarded numerous prizes and honours, both nationally and internationally, among them Prize of the President of Republic of Armenia for the Achievement in Natural Sciences (2003), Honorary Title: Honored Scientist of the Republic of Armenia (2019), International Association for Hydrogen Energy (IAHE) Akira Mitsui Award for leadership in biological hydrogen production area (2016), American Society for Microbiology (ASM) Moselio Schaecter Award in Recognition of a Developing-Country Microbiologist (2020). As a result of his fruitful activity, he has been awarded commemorative medals of the president of National Assembly of Armenia and State Committee of Science and many others. He has been a member of a number of international academies and scientific organizations.

Through his many years of scientific and teaching activities A. Trchounian has made a great contribution to the development of microbiology, biochemistry, biotechnology and bioenergetics and overall science in Armenia.

Armen Trchounian has been a member of the editorial boards of a number of international peer-reviewed journals in Elsevier and Springer. For many years he was also a member of the editorial board of the "Chemistry-Biology" series of the YSU "Scientific Bulletin" scientific journal, investing his tireless abilities of the great scientist in raising the periodical to a qualitatively new level.

All those who worked with A. Trchounian knew about his diligence, dedication, hard work, ability to make the right decisions, to achieve the necessary results. We will always remember him as a wise leader, prominent professional, devoted friend, this way.

We pass our condolences to his family of biologists: wife Dr. Anait Vassilian - Associate Professor, Department of Ecology and Nature Protection; son Dr. Karen Trchounian - acting Head of the Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology, Biotechnology who will continue the work and traditions that his father left.

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