

In memoriam of Doc. Ing. Ľudovít Drobnica, DrSc.



Doc. Ing. Ľ. Drobnica, DrSc., a foremost teacher and scientist of the Faculty of Chemistry, Slovak Technical University, Bratislava, died on October 13, 1980 in the prime of his most productive period of scientific and teaching activities. It is very sad that all his intentions and ideas which he planned to realize after reaching his fifty were interrupted by a sudden death and will remain as an unanswered question forever. Therefore we will give a concise account of the work and achievements of this enthusiastic scientist, outstanding pedagogue, generous and unselfish friend and remarkable personality.

Ľ. Drobnica was born in Trnava on September 30, 1930. After finishing his university studies in Prague in 1953, he joined as Assistant Professor the Department of Technical Microbiology and Biochemistry of the Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Technology, Slovak Technical University, Bratislava. His CSc. thesis he defended in 1958 at the Institute of Chemical Technology in Prague. In 1963 he was appointed Associate Professor. In 1973, at the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Prague, he pleaded with success his DrSc. thesis *Isothiocyanates as Biologically Active Compounds*. During his 27-year stay at the faculty he contributed greatly to the teaching of biochemistry and physiology of microorganisms, and was also engaged in teaching some other subjects. Under his guidance no less than 18 postgraduate students were awarded CSc. degrees in biochemistry or microbiology, three of them were from abroad.

Important is Doc. Drobnica's contribution to the treasure of the world science. A number of his papers dealing with the relationship between the structure and physicochemical properties and biological activities of isothiocyanates and other natural and synthetic compounds brought him a world-wide recognition. The structure, function, and activity of enzymes involved in the cell energy metabolism was additional prominent area of his scientific interest. He also contributed significantly to elucidation of the regeneration processes in cells injured with metabolic inhibitors, to recognition of the effects of deficient media on biochemical and physiological functions of the cell, and to understanding of the fundamentals of morphogenesis of microorganisms. Part of his work he devoted to the preparation, characterization, and application of immobilized enzymes. In the last years of his life he paid main attention to the principles of the regulation of glycolysis and oxidative phosphorylation.

The wide scope of his interest is reflected in more than 200 original scientific papers, 4 monographs, 36 patents, and a large number of lectures presented at scientific meetings.

With a sudden death of Doc. Drobnica we have lost a man of exceptional ethical values and cheerful enthusiasm, a man always willing and capable of giving more than receiving, a man creating exciting scientific and intellectual atmosphere and gathering enthusiastic people to productive teams. Because of this, he was a successful teacher who soon acquired the devotion of his students, and an unsubstitutable associate for his coevals.

His memory will dwell in our hearts and his achievements will outlast in the work of his students and successors.

K. Antoš