

IN MEMORIAL TO Janez POGAČAR

Prof. Dr. Janez Pogačar died on July 14, 1999, only fifty-eight years old. He was of rural origin, born in Bohinjska Bela, one of the most beautiful parts of Slovenia. He attended the primary school in his birth village, the lower secondary school in Bohinjska Bistrica, and he finished the Agricultural Secondary School in Maribor with distinction. He took his degree at the former subdivision for animal breeding at Department for Agronomy of Biotechnical Faculty Ljubljana with distinction in 1965. After the graduation he started to work in Centre for Animal Breeding at Agricultural Institute of Slovenia as assistant. In 1971 he was elected to be a research fellow. He was interested in computer sciences and in 1973 he was awarded a degree for programming language FORTRAN by Republic Computer Centre. Next year he took his doctoral degree at the University of Ljubljana. At the Animal Breeding Department of Biotechnical Faculty he was elected to be the senior research assistant for cattle breeding in 1976 and in 1980 he became an associated professor for control and assessment of production traits in animal production. In 1992 he was elected to be a full professor for animal breeding and subjects Control and Assessment of Production Traits, and Biometry and Computer Sciences. From 1982 till his death Prof. Pogačar was the head of Chair for Biometry and Data Processing.

When a young researcher, Prof. Pogačar studied abroad at the University of Hohenheim under Prof. Fewson and Prof. Rabold, at the University of Wageningen under Prof. Politiek and in Grub under Dr. Averdunk. Formal relations to foreign institutions developed into collaboration and friendship with experts, especially with Mr. Averdunk. Being a well-known expert, Prof. Pogačar was a member of several international institutions and a contact person with International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR), International Bull Evaluation Service (INTERBULL) and European Genetic Commission for Brown Breed. He was awarded several prizes and merits like Boris Kidrič reward and a merit and prize of Agricultural Institute.

He lectured computer sciences to students of agronomy and animal breeding and biometry at Zootechnical Department. He also lectured two subjects at post-graduate level. He was mentor and co-mentor to several students with their graduation theses and expert reports, master of science and doctoral theses.

Prof. Pogačar collaborated with experts from the whole former Yugoslavia. Many junior experts used to study under him, and he was mentor or co-mentor to some of them.

Prof. Pogačar's bibliography shows the extent and importance of his work.

Even those who had only casual relations with Prof. Pogačar know that not many so modest people with such a firm, impeccable and fine character as his was are in the world. Therefore it is not surprising that his colleagues liked him, trusted him and deeply regretted his illness and death. He fascinated them for ever.

Editor-in-Chief