

The Most Influential Scientists in the Development of Biomedicine: Branko Cvjetanovic (1918-2002)

IZET MASIC

Academy of Medical Sciences of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Corresponding author: Prof Izet Masic, MD, PhD, FWAAS, FIAHSI, FEFMI, FACMI. Academy of Medical Sciences of Bosnia and Herzegovina. E-mail: izetmasic@gmail.com. ORCID ID: <http://www.orcid.org/0000-0002-9080-5456>.

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Branko Cvjetanovic (1918–2002), MD, PhD, was Professor of Epidemiology at University of Zagreb, Croatia and expert of World Health Organization in Geneva (1, 2). He studied medicine in Zagreb. Belonged to the progressive student movement and was a member of the party organization of the University in the years before the occupation of Yugoslavia. From 1941 participated in the National Liberation on duties in military medical service. Completed studies of Medicine in Zagreb in 1946 and started working as an assistant of the Department of Hygiene and Social Medicine of the Zagreb School of Medicine, where he tenured as private docent. Bringing together experts from the School of Public Health; Central Public Health Institute and the Infectious Disease Hospital, he intensifies epidemiological studies in the field and issued our first textbook of Epidemiology. In 1955 he was elected to university assistant professor of Hygiene and in 1956 achieved a doctoral degree on the hygienic assessment of bacterial air pollution. From 1957 to 1978 he led the Department of bacterial disease within the World Health Organization in Geneva. In 1960 he became a professor of epidemiology at Zagreb School of Medicine and in 1973 a professor of Public health at the Berkeley University, California. After returning to Zagreb in 1978, he worked as an associate of the Immunology Institute and Professor at the School of Medicine as additional work for the needs of postgraduate studies. He was engaged in field and laboratory immunoprophylaxis research of bacterial infectious diseases, especially typhoid. He made a series of epidemiological models, especially for typhoid, tetanus, diarrheal diseases, polio and other acute infectious diseases and which are applied in the planning and evaluation of immunization and sanitation programs of



health care. He studied cholera as an international health problem and wrote about other problems of epidemiology and public health in the domestic and international journals (1). He is a founding member of the International Epidemiological Society and an honorary member of several medical societies.

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