Academician Professor Mirko Grujic, MD, PhD (1931-2021)

Fate and God’s destiny wanted this text to be a personal In Memoriam, written by the late professor Mirko Grujic. And it was intended, that professor Grujic submit it to me, as the proposer for the founding of the new Academy of Sciences, on the initiative of Academician Asim Kurjak, and that Academy is currently organizing the Founding Assembly. On that occasion, professor Grujic, in a telephone conversation, modestly, as it was his manner, said “colleague Masic, don’t suggest me, there are younger people, maybe I won’t even live to see its establishment”. That is just what, unfortunately happened, and it was as if the late professor Grujic sensed his trip to a better world. Morning hours on May 20, 2021: I have just received the sad news that our esteemed academic and first vice president of the Academy, Mirko Grujic, passed away this morning. We have lost a dear colleague, a teacher, a noble man and a friend. It will forever remain in our hearts and minds (Izet Masic) … When I found out about the death of professor Grujic, I was very shaken and sad. We have known each other and socialized for a long time, since my student days. It was not just a professional gathering of two colleagues, but we were bound by an unusual and distinctive friendship, which we nurtured and deepened over the years. And now a very interesting moment. Although we knew each other, socialized, cooperated for decades, we always addressed each other officially, but that in no way diminished our closeness, spiritual and intellectual intimacy. Therefore, on the occasion of Professor Grujic departure, let me be allowed to make a well-deserved statement. Bosnian-Herzegovinian medicine has always had, and fortunately, and today has an enviable number of excellent and great doctors, professors and unavoidable scientific names, but no one stood out as much as professor Grujic. If someone’s title naturally merged with the surname, then that someone was certainly professor Grujic. A true and unrepeatable professor. A man of gentlemanly demeanor, very modest, unobtrusive, kind. He was a humanist, an altruist, a benefactor. He was also a Renaissance type of scientist. He was adorned not only with great medical knowledge, from many fields of medicine, but he was also adorned with great general culture and encyclopedic knowledge from all areas of the human spirit. He was a lover of the written word, literature and music, he was a beauty, a Schöngeist. He was the coryphæus, Nestor and bard of Bosnian-Herzegovinian diabetology and will be remembered forever for that. This morning, my friend and work colleague, a great diabetologist, professor Mirko Grujic, passed away. May he have eternal glory and may heavenly spaces be opened to him (Muhamed Hadzimejlic). Doctor, professor, great man. He became my role model when I met him. He was always ready to help me, to give me advice or to review my books, papers or some other work. It will remain a symbol of Sarajevo. May the Bosnian land be easy for him (Sukrija Zvizdic). Deep Condolences to the great professor and wonderful man, who was a member of my commission in my master's thesis. I wish him eternal peace, and deep condolences to his family (Jasenko Karamcic).

Many colleagues said a nice word about academician Mirko Grujic through social networks. I, as the President of AMNuBiH, whose academic was one of the founders and first vice president, and as the editor of this journal, who’s last „socialist” editor was Professor Grujic, had the ungrateful, but honorable
task of signing this in memoriam, in the name of this institution. Professor Mirko Grujic will remain in the heart and minds of all of us, especially me, as I wrote in the text, but I will also miss him as a colleague and friend, who came to take almost every issue of this journal that he published in person, with his hands, as he himself was bound with heart and soul to the Medical Archives. For all that has been said, we should be grateful to our professor and teacher, but also to a colleague and friend from whom no ugly word or thought has ever been heard. The Corona Pandemic has denied us the opportunity to say goodbye to our colleague and friend in a different way, but may this Obituary be an eternal written memory of the professor’s name and a glimpse into another, better world. He left this one in a difficult and fraught times, which I guess gave him as much trouble as all of us. I rearranged the original professor’s text a little, but kept the factual facts given to me by the esteemed professor Grujic as submitted, which I think suits the readers the most, in order to get an idea of what kind of scientist and teacher he was. How his students perceived him and how they will remember him, I added in the last part of the text, because these are expressions of regret of our AMNuBiH academic with whom the late Mirko Grujic communicated the most in the last years of his life.

Professor Mirko Grujic was born on 25th of May 1931 in Skopje, in the doctor’s family. Faculty of Medicine completed 1955 in Zagreb. In 1960 admitted to the specialization in internal medicine at the Internal Clinic in Sarajevo, and specialist exam passed in 1964 in Zagreb on Internal clinic - Rebro. In 1967 defended his master thesis entitled: “The sensitivity of the rats heart on digitoxin after depletion of cardiac catecholamine with epsilon-amino-caproic acid and after application of norbormide” and achieved a Master’s degree in medical sciences. In 1979 defended at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Zagreb, Ph.D. thesis entitled “Application of monocomponent, monospecific and highly purified insulin in treatment of patients with diabetes” and achieve scientific degree Doctor of Medical Sciences. As a user of foreign scholarships stayed several times at various clinics and institutes abroad, namely: Leipzig, Ulm, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Dusseldorf, Karlsburg, Berlin. Appointed primarius in 1974. In 1984 elected as assistant professor, 1987 as associate professor, and 1992 as full professor at the Medical Faculty in Sarajevo. Mentor of many masters and doctoral dissertations, as well as the President or member of the Commission’s test in 140 specialist examination in internal medicine. Published 210 papers in national and international journals. Chief editor of the magazine from doctor association Bosnia and Herzegovina “Medical Archives” from 1988 until 1993. Chairman of the Association of endocrinologist Yugoslavia in two terms as a secretary and as a president of the endocrinology section of the doctor association Bosnia and Herzegovina. Member of Advisory Board for journal Diabetologia Croatica Zagreb since its establishment until today. Member of the Editorial Council for magazine “Radovi” of the Croatian Society for Science and Arts in Sarajevo since 1994 until 1998. Got Sarajevo city plaque and the much social and professional recognition. Got awarded the Medal of Military Merit, Order of the silver wreath and the Order of merit for people with a silver star. Served as Head of Diabetes Clinic for Endocrinology, Diabetes and metabolic diseases in Sarajevo, and was deputy head of the same clinic. Member of the Presidency of Croatian Heritage, Sarajevo branch from 1998 and a regular member of the Croatian Society for Science and Arts in Sarajevo from 1994. Since 1999 Head of Department of Clinical propaedeutic at the Medical Faculty, University of Mostar. Since 2000 in the contractual employment relationship at the Medical College in Mostar as a full professor on several subjects. In 2007 on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the University of Mostar, the winner of letter of thanks from the Rector of the University of Mostar. In 2009, elected for full member and vice-president of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2004 elected for Corresponding Member of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Bosnia and Herzegovina in Mostar.

Sarajevo, May 25, 2021.
Academician Izet Masic, MD, PhD

Figure 2. Academicians Vjekoslav Gerc, Mirko Grujic, Sukrija Zvidic and Izet Masic (from left to right), during Celebration of 10th Anniversary of AMNuBiH, Sarajevo, 2019