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OBITUARY

Dr. Á. Magdolna Gulyás (1948-2005)

Magdolna Gulyás was born on 9th October 1948 in Szeged. Following her schooling in Szeged, she entered the Faculty of Science at József Attila University, from where she received her diploma in biology in 1972. After graduating, she started work as a biologist at the Animal Health Station of Csongrad County.

In 1973-74 years she worked at the Department of Biophysics of József Attila University, where she prepared her doctoral dissertation on a biophysical topic: „Study of the spectroscopic properties and transfer of electron excitation energy in a fluorescent lysozyme and fluorescein isothiocyanate complex system". She was awarded her doctorate in 1976 with the result „summa cum laude".

From 1974, following the foundation of the Department of Biochemistry at József Attila University, she worked there as an assistant and then a senior lecturer. She was dedicated to her work, which involved the study of the properties and stability of immobilized enzymes. She defended her dissertation for the candidate degree: „The heat stability of immobilized enzymes and some applications" in 1992, and received the title of Candidate of Biological Science from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. In the next year she was appointed associate professor. Between 1994 and 2002 she was head of the Department of Biochemistry. Her scientific activities included the study of stress responses of environmental pollution, e.g. pesticides, herbicides and heavy metals in fish. She was especially interested in investigations of enzyme systems participating in antioxidative processes. She paid great attention to proteins involved in the first line of biological defence (metallothioneins and heat shock proteins). Her successful scientific achievements are revealed by numerous publications in various prominent, international journals and she was widely recognized for her work on environmental toxicology. She created new, special subjects and introduced the teaching of environmental biochemistry and stress biochemistry for students. She was co-author of a scientific book and textbooks. She always paid detailed attention to the education of the students. Many students learned from her and four PhD dissertations were defended under her guidance.

In 1997 Magdolna and her research group were awarded the Ibaraki Kasumigaura Prize for their invaluable contributions to the success and achievement of the 7th International Conference on Lake Conservation and Management in San Martin de Los Andes (Argentina).

Besides her love for research and teaching, she dedicated a great deal of her time to serving the scientific community. She was a founder and active member of the Environmental Biochemical Section of the Hungarian Biochemical Society. She was a member of the International Society of Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety and the Hungarian Biochemical and Toxicological Society.

She was full of scientific plans when she was taken away from us extremely suddenly on 10th March 2005 after some days in the university hospital.

She was a devoted, exemplary mother. Her early death means that she could love and take pleasure in her granddaughter for only a short time.

Her death is a great loss to the scientific community at large. We miss her terribly. Her colleagues, and her students at the Department of Biochemistry consider it an enormous privilege to have had the opportunity to work with her and we are deeply grateful for her presence among us. We should like to preserve her spirit and we shall all remember her with great affection.