Obituary

On 6th February, Professor Ioan Dzitac passed away.

He was born on February 14, 1953 in Poienile de sub Munte, a mountain village in Maramureș county, in the North-Western Romania. Though he attended primary and secondary school in a disadvantaged environment, through his ambition and hard work he overcame all obstacles. He attended "Dragoș Vodă" high school in Sighetul Marmației, and after the baccalaureate he attended "Babeș - Bolyai" University of Cluj - Napoca, obtaining a bachelor's degree in Mathematics with the highest grade and, subsequently, obtained from the same university a Ph.D title in Computer Science with a maximum grade. In 2019, he obtained the habilitation in the field of Economic Informatics at "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, then the title of Doctoral Supervisor at University of Craiova.

He was an Associate Professor at University of Oradea (1991-2005). From 2009 until his sudden passing, he has been a Full Professor of Computer Science at "Aurel Vlaicu" University of Arad. He was Rector of Agora University for eight years, and recently named Vice-Rector for Research

and International Cooperation. He was an Adjunct Professor at the University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (2013-2016) and a member of the advisory board at Hoseo University in Asan, Republic of Korea.

His scientific interests included various aspects of Artificial Intelligence, Soft Computing and applications of Fuzzy Logic in technology and economics. He published 3 books, 12 courses and student support materials, and over 150 scientific articles in journals and in conference volumes. He yielded more than 850 citations according to Google Scholar, 420 citations from 350 citing articles and a H-index of 11 according to Clarivate's Web of Sciences

In 2006 he initiated, together with Prof. F.G. Filip and prof. M.J Manolescu, ICCCC (International Conference on Computers, Communications, and Control) a series of successful scientific events held every second year by scientists from Europe, North and South America, and Asia. The core topics of the conference are: a) the theory of computing and communications, b) soft computing, c) integrated solutions in computer-based control, and d) decision-making and support systems. The ICCCC proceedings were initially published by IEEE and, since 2020, by Springer. Prof. Dziţac and prof. Filip, are the Editors in Chief of the International Journal of Computers, Communication and Control - IJCCC (http:JCR2019 (2020), with an impact factor IF= 2.093 (Q3). In 2021, Prof Dziţac edited the first issue of IJCCC that was dedicated to the 100-anniversary of the birth of prof. Lofti Zadeh.

Professor Dziţac was included among the 100 Romanian Computer Scientists everywhere, from the last 100 years, in the volume "One Hundred Romanian Scientists in Theoretical Computer Science", Romanian Academy Publishing House, 2018, as well as in the volume "Romanian Civilization- Information Science and Technology in Romania ", published in the year of the 100th anniversary of the Great Union, also in the Academy Publishing House.

He was a brilliant researcher and a model teacher, who was extremely loved and appreciated by collaborators from Romania and abroad, as well as by the multitude of his students. At the same time, he was a loving husband and a parent dedicated to raising and educating his children Renata, Cristian, and Domnica Ioana.

Requiescat in pace!

His legacy, namely his projects concerning ICCCC conference and the IJCCC journal will be continued and developed by assoc. prof. Simona Dziţac - wife, Domnica Ioana Dziţac - daughter, prof. Misu-Jan Manolescu and prof. Florin Gheorghe Filip - friends and co-initiators of the above-mentioned projects.

Assoc. Prof. Simona Dzitac, Domnica Dzitac,
Prof. Misu-Jan Manolescu, Prof. Florin Gheorghe Filip