

Professor Vladimir Mrša, PhD

Vladimir Mrša was born in 1957 in Zagreb. He studied Biochemical engineering at the Faculty of Technology, University of Zagreb and subsequently received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb in 1984. He joined Laboratory of Biochemistry of the Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology in Zagreb in 1980 and has been the full Professor at the same Faculty since 1999.

Professor Vladimir Mrša has conducted research in the field of protein glycosylation and secretion, and in the last two decades his research team has been involved in investigations of the molecular mechanisms of cell wall biosynthesis in fungi. In frame of this research a number of new proteins have been discovered in the *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* cell wall including the Pir-protein family several GPI-anchored proteins like Ccw12, or Sed1, and non-covalently bound proteins like Scw4, Scw10, Scw11, etc. Reactions leading to incorporation of Pir proteins in the wall have been elucidated and the regulation of binding and activity of non-covalently linked cell wall proteins through proteolytic processing have been discovered. In the recent years Professor Mrša and his team have been studying possibilities of implementation of these findings in yeast cell surface engineering by protein display. Professor Mrša has published 52 papers which have been cited over 1000 times according to the Web of Science. Two of the papers have been published in collaboration with Hungarian co-authors. Besides, he has published 2 patents and has been an invited lecturer at a number of national and international meetings including two annual meetings of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology. He is an active member of the Croatian Microbiological Society, Croatian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and Croatian Society for Biotechnology. Besides, he is a member of the Croatian Academy of Engineering and chairs the GMO panel of the Croatian Food Agency. He is a member of the IUBMB's International Commission for Yeasts. Professor Mrša has been involved in the organization of more than 30 scientific conferences among which is the series of Central-European symposia under the name *Power of microbes in industry and environment* that he has started in 2002. In frame of this series 5 meetings took place so far and the Hungarian Society for Microbiology has been a co-organiser of all of them. Professor Mrša has been actively involved in the creation of the national high education policies and particularly in the processes of high education internationalisation. He has coordinated the *Workgroup for high education* in the process of creation of the *Croatian strategy for education, science and technology*, he has been the president of IAESTE-Croatia and acts as the national CEEPUS expert and the coordinator of a CEEPUS network *For safe and healthy food in Mid-Europe* in which the Hungarian partner, Sz. Istvan University has been particularly active and the actual founder of the network. He was also actively involved in the formation, and is now a coordinator of the joint master study in Molecular biotechnology between the University of Zagreb and the University of Orleans in France. For his promotion of Croatian-French academic collaboration he was awarded the French order of the academic palm. Professor Mrša served as the dean of the Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, in two mandates, and the vice dean for international relations, also in two mandates. Presently, he is the Head of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the same Faculty, as well as the Editor-in-Chief of the scientific journal *Food Technology and Biotechnology*.