

## In memoriam Prof. Dr. Sc. Pavo Caput (1935 – 2024)



Pavo Caput was born on December 21, 1935, in the village of Dubravca, in the Konavle region near Dubrovnik. He completed primary school in Gruda and graduated from the Teacher Training School in Dubrovnik in 1953. He then worked as a teacher and headmaster at elementary schools in Vitaljina, Pridvorje, and Dubravci, all situated in the Konavle area.

Later, he worked as a research associate at the Institute of Animal and Dairy Science, University of Zagreb Faculty of Agriculture, during which time he completed a specialized course on the application of radioisotopes in animal science organized by the Federal Nuclear Commission in

Belgrade. Between 1964 and 1968, he gained hands-on experience in animal production while working at the Agricultural Station in Bjelovar and at the agricultural enterprise PIK “Moslavina” in Kutina. From 1968 to 1982, he was employed at the Livestock Breeding and Selection Centre in Zagreb, where he served as a technical officer, advisor, and later as the head of the institution, focusing on livestock breeding and selection across Croatia. He earned his master’s degree with the thesis *“The Influence of Cow Age on Milk Production and the Accuracy of Breeding Value Estimation”* (1979), and his doctoral degree with the dissertation *“The Genetic Composition and Phenotype of the Modern Simmental Cattle in Croatia”* (1982).

In 1982, he joined the University of Zagreb Faculty of Agriculture, where he taught courses in Cattle Breeding, Horse Breeding, and several related subjects until his retirement in 2006. During his academic career, he advanced to the rank of Scientific Advisor and Full Professor with tenure. He supervised numerous undergraduate theses, 12 master’s theses, and four doctoral dissertations. He also served as Vice-Dean for Science at the Faculty of Agriculture and as a member of the Governing Board of the University of Zagreb. Between 1996 and 1997, he held the position of Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Croatia.

His primary scientific interests were animal breeding and selection, as well as the conservation and revitalization of autochthonous breeds. He led several scientific and applied research projects and published, independently and in co-authorship, around 170 scientific and professional papers indexed in international databases and national journals. He was the author of three university textbooks — *Animal Husbandry* (Školska knjiga, 1991), *Cattle Breeding* (Celeber, 1996), and *Conservation of Biological Heritage in Animal Husbandry* (Croatian Dairy

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Association, 2010) — and several professional books, including *The Path of Milk* (HAD, 2000), *Agricultural Advisor* (Znanje, 1985), and *Dubrovnik Cheese* (Celeber, 2003). He served as Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Stočarstvo* from 1990 to 2004 and was a member of the editorial boards of *Agronomski glasnik*, *Poljoprivredna znanstvena smotra*, *Mljekarstvo*, and *Praxis Veterinaria*.

During the 1990s, he chaired the Animal Science Section of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts (HAZ) and served as Vice-President of the regional association *Danubian Countries Alliance for Conservation of Genes in Animal Species* (DAGENE, Budapest) between 1998 and 2010. He chaired the organizing committees of several scientific conferences (DAGENE 1990, Buzet; DAGENE 1994, Zagreb) and co-organized and moderated numerous national and international meetings (EAAP, FAO).

He undertook scientific and professional training and study visits in the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Norway, the Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, France, Portugal, Italy, Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Egypt, and Australia.

For his exceptional contributions to science, he was awarded the *Order of Danica Hrvatska with the image of Ruđer Bošković* by the President of the Republic of Croatia (1996) and received a Certificate of Appreciation from the University of Zagreb Faculty of Agriculture, for his long-standing teaching and research work (1995).

He considered his most significant professional achievements to be the education of numerous generations of animal science students, the development of national breeding programs in cattle and horse breeding, and his dedicated advocacy for the conservation and revitalization of endangered indigenous breeds of domestic animals.

He passed away at the age of 89 in 2024. May he rest in peace.

Dr. András Gáspárdy  
President of DAGENE