

## OBITUARY

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We are sad to report the death of one of our Editorial Board members, Professor Vladimir Betina, who had been on the Board since our very first Issue in 1989.

Vladimir Betina was born on 17 June 1930, in Ozdin in middle Slovakia. After finishing his studies in 1954 at the Faculty of Chemical Technology of the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava, Slovakia, he continued to work in the same university during the communist era. In 1974 he was removed from the teaching post at the faculty due to his public Christian activities and was limited only to research work in the field of microbiology. During the 1970s and 1980s

Professor Betina published the results of his research in more than 130 scientific articles in both local and international peer-reviewed journals. He was also an author, co-author and editor of more than twenty books in the field of microbiology that have been published in several languages.

Following the so-called Velvet Revolution in Czecho-Slovakia, Professor Betina was again allowed to return to his pedagogical activities among students and in 1991 he was appointed as a professor of microbiology. As a Christian and as a scientist he was fascinated by God's creation and its laws. Professor Betina had a profound belief in God as creator, and expressed his strong belief in Christianity and science in several publications published in the Slovak language under the pseudonym Enrico Banti.

Vladimir Betina was married for 51 years to Milena Findova and they had four children. In 1998 he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease that gradually isolated him from his closest relatives and friends. He died on 11 May 2006, at the age of 75 years.

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**The Editors are grateful to Professor Josef Potocek for providing the information for this obituary.**

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