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ZENO GÂRBAN PhD corresponding member of the Romanian Academy at his 85th anniversary

Was born in Timișoara on December 13th, 1939. He is a graduate of the „C.D. Loga” Highschool Timișoara (1956). Forwards he attended the courses of the Faculty of Agronomy, Department of



Animal Bioresources at the University (Institute) of Agronomy Timișoara (1956-1962). Some years later Zeno Gârban attended the courses of the Faculty of Chemistry of University “Babeș-Bolyai” Cluj-Napoca (1968-1973).

In 1982, he defended his doctoral thesis entitled Investigations on native and denaturated nucleic acids: Interactions of deoxyribonucleic acid and purine metabolites with divalent metals at the Institute of Chemistry Cluj-Napoca of University “Babeș-Bolyai” Cluj-Napoca, becoming Ph.D. in chemical science-specialty biochemistry.

After graduating the first faculty he held various functions. At the beginning he was employed as assistant professor at the Department of comparative animal physiology of the University of Agronomy Timișoara (1962), then he was transferred in accordance with the Government’s Decree No. 427/1962 (beside other 23 colleagues from the university) in

order to provide organizational support to agricultural enterprises from Crișana region. There, initially he worked as engineer and later on as vice-president of the Agricultural Council Salonta-Crișana (1962-1966). Afterwards, Zeno Gârban was nominated as head of the Laboratory of Animal Genetics Oradea for District Bihor (1967-1969).

Following the ending of the Chemistry Faculty (1973) he worked as chemist-analyst for a research contract at the University of Agronomy Cluj-Napoca (1973-1974); biochemist-analyst at the Central Laboratory of Clinical Chemistry at the University Clinics in Hospital No.1 Timișoara (1974-1979); biochemist/senior researcher fellow in the Laboratory of Embryology-Teratology existing at the Scientific Research Base of the Romanian Academy - Branch Timișoara, integrated into the Institute of Public Health (1979-1991); associate professor at the Department of Biochemistry - Molecular Biology, Faculty of Food Engineering at the University of Life Sciences (Agronomy) Timișoara (1991-1995); full professor (1995-2009); consultant professor/senior researcher fellow (since 2009). His scientific activity was oriented in the domains referred to below: After year 1962: animal physiology, e.g. blood circulation - lactopoiesis, neuroendocrine interrelationships in vasectomy; electrophoretic studies of blood and milk proteins, metabolites of semen, etc. Later, after year 1973, approached topics regarding: specific interactions of deoxyribonucleic acid – DNA, e.g. DNA-metal ions, DNA-polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, DNA-cytostatics (in vitro and in vivo effects in the relationship DNA-cisplatin and DNA-cyclophosphamide); heredopathology, e.g. effects on experimental animal models (materno-fetal complex) induced by metal ions, ethanol etc.; metabolization of nutrients and biotransformation of chemical xenobiotics of food and pharmaceutical interest, e.g. mechanisms, effects; pathobiochemistry of urolithiasis, e.g. heterogenous mechanisms of uroconcrements nucleation; role of chemical xenobiotics in nutrition and pathobiochemistry, e.g. deliberate contamination – use of additives and accidental contamination / illegal – pollution.

Prof. Dr. Gârban performed specializations (after 1989) through documentation visits and exchanges of experience in Greece (1991), Germany (1993, 1995), Hungary (1994), Austria (1995), USA (1997). His scientific activity has materialized by publishing (as single author or in collaboration) over 390 scientific papers in the country and abroad, 36 books (31 as single author) in Romanian publishing houses (e.g. Publishing House of the Romanian Academy, Publishing House Eurobit a.o.), some re-edited; chapters in books in foreign publishing houses in English: Pergamon Press-Oxford (1984), Libbey-London (1997), Wiley-VCH-Weinheim (2004), and the book “Biologically active substances usable in food, pharmaceutical and agrobiological fields” published at CRC Press, USA (2024).

Among the most important books published in Romania are mentioned: Biochemistry. Comprehensive Treatise, i.e. Vol. I Molecular basis of life; Vol. II Biochemical effectors; Vol. III Metabolization of nutrients; Vol. IV Biotransformation of xenobiotics. Xenobiochemistry (1993-2024 being at the 5th edition); Molecular biology: Concepts, methods, applications (1992-2009, 6 editions), Human nutrition (2000); Xenobiochemistry in agrosciences and food science (2011), Quo vadis food xenobiochemistry (first edition in 2015); Biotransformation of xenobiotics of food and pharmaceutical interest: Specific interactions (2017), etc.

The 4th edition of Molecular biology: Fundamental and applicative problems published in 2001 was awarded with “Traian Săvulescu” Prize of the Romanian Academy in 2003. In 2005 he launched Xenobiochemistry: Comprehensive Treatise - the first published treatise in Romania in that domain, with multidisciplinary specificity (searching the Internet, in that period no such publications have been found in other countries).

During the period 2000-2005 he participated as partner in the EU project „Biotechnology Thematic Network” (that included 24 European countries), coordinated by the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biotechnology of University of Perugia (Prof. Dr. Mariapia Viola Magni).

He is / was also member in the editorial boards of the journals: Roumanian Biotechnological Letters București (1995-2001), Acta Universitatis Cibiniensis Seria F Chemia Sibiu (1995-2002), Journal of Agroalimentary Processes and Technologies – Timisoara (1995-present) of the Faculty of Food Processing Technology Timișoara.

At the initiative of Prof. Gârban was established the “Working Group for the Study of Metals in Biological Systems” in Timișoara (1979). Later on, in collaboration, he organized under the auspices of the Romanian Academy the Symposia Series „Metal Elements in Environment, Medicine and Biology” – MEEMB (1993-2010), the in extenso papers being published in Tomes I-X. In 2013 he set up the “Working Group for Xenobiochemistry”. Within the activity of that group he published papers and the volume Quo vadis food xenobiochemistry (the 3rd edition in English - 2018). Also, he published articles and books with historical themes, e.g. local history, European universities (e.g. Almae Matres Mundi: European Universities), a.o.

Prof. Gârban is/was member of the following national scientific societies: Union of the Societies for Medical Sciences from Romania - Branch Timisoara, Section of Clinical Laboratory and Section of Prenatal Pathology and Embryology (1974-1991); National Society of Cell Biology (1985-present); Romanian Biochemical Society - founding member (1990) and member of the National Council (1990-1997); Romanian Biominerals Society (1991-1999); Academy of Scientists from Romania (from 1992-1997); Romanian Society of Analytical Chemistry (1993-present); Romanian Society of Magnesium Research - founding member (1999-present).

The scientific activity of Prof. Dr. Zeno Gârban was also recognized abroad being nominated as member of the following international scientific societies: International Society for Trace Elements Research in Humans - I.S.T.E.R.H (1985-1989); Fondazione “Alessio Pezcoller” for Oncological Studies – Trento Italy (1987-2004); European Placenta Group (1991-2004); European Cell Biology Organisation – ECBO (1993-present); New York Academy of Sciences - NYAS (1997-present) and American Chemical Society - ACS (2007-present).

In 2011 he was elected as corresponding member of the Romanian Academy. Now his activity is oriented towards the studies related to xenobiotics of food and pharmaceutical interest. He is also preoccupied with the re-edition of the following books: Biochemistry. Comprehensive treatise (Vol. I-IV), some of them being at the 5th edition as well as Food xenobiochemistry.

We wish him fully success in activity.