

Academician **Mirna Šitum** was born in 1962. In 1985 she graduated from the University of Zagreb School of Medicine. She worked as a general physician at the Institute of Emergency Medicine in Split from 1986 to 1991. In 1991 she voluntarily joined the 4th Guards Brigade of the Croatian Army where she was a colonel and Head of medical corps until 1993. She finished her residency in dermatology and venereology in 1996 and in 2004 she became a subspecialist of dermatooncology at Sestre milosrdnice UHC in Zagreb. She is currently a leading Croatian dermatooncologist with a prominent international scientific and professional reputation. She has been Head of the Department of Dermatology and Venereology at Sestre milosrdnice UHC in Zagreb, Croatia since 2000. In 1999 she became Head of the Department of Dermatovenereology at the School of Dental Medicine, University of Zagreb, Croatia and in the same institution she became a scientific consultant in 2007 and in 2012 a full professor.

As a postdoctoral programme coordinator, she manages several courses at the University of Zagreb School of Medicine, as well as the School of Dental Medicine and Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry. In May 2018 she was elected as a full member of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. From 2009 to 2018 she was president of the Croatian Dermatovenereological Society of the Croatian Medical Association. Currently, she is the president of the Croatian Society of Dermatooncology of the Croatian Medical Association. Thus far she has presided over 30 international congresses, 8 national congresses and 120 international symposiums. She is credited as author and co-author of 810 publications; 230 scientific papers of which 126 are cited in Current Contents. She is the editor of 28 books and author of 38 books and 104 book chapters. She has contributed to 17 national and international scientific projects as head researcher and associate researcher. She is Head Coordinator of the "Euromelanoma organization" in Croatia, as well as member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Vitiligo Research Foundation. She initiated the forming Šof of several subspecialist activities in fields of dermatooncology, dermatosurgery and psychodermatology.

She is founder and Head of the Croatian Referral Centre for Melanoma, Croatian Referral Centre for Dermoscopy and Croatian Referral Centre for Chronic Wounds of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia. She was an invited lecturer at numerous international and national symposiums. She is a member of 7 Editorial Boards in national and international scientific journals, as well as a member of 10 international professional scientific associations. She was a mentor for 25 doctoral dissertations. She is Head of the Residency Programme in Dermatology and Venereology and Chairwoman of the Dermatology and Venereology Committee of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia.

She is the most productive and most cited author in the field of dermatooncology in Croatia. The results of her scientific research regarding the molecular and genetic basis of the development of familial malignant skin tumors has become a standard part of clinical practice in predicting disease development among family members. She is also a founder of the Croatian Vitiligo Biobank and was the first physician in Croatia who performed melanocyte transplantation. Her scientific work in psychodermatology is appreciated worldwide and the results of her scientific experience have become a part of clinical practice as an interdisciplinary collaboration among dermatologists, psychologists and liason psychiatrists.

With her scientific and professional reputation, national and international recognition, continuous promotion of scientific and professional topics in the field of dermatovenereology and public health, she is placed among the most prominent and most successful persons of her generation in Croatian and international medical science. She has made major contributions in the perception of dermatovenereology as a profession in Croatia, translating it

from a conservative internist profession into a functional interdisciplinary field that insists on a holistic approach to the patient.

She has received numerous honors for her scientific and professional activities. In 2005 she received the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts Award in the field of medical sciences and in 2016 she received the National Science Award for the popularization and promotion of science.