



Dinko Plenkovich

MAY 8, 1949 - JAN 20, 2021



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FLORAL HAVEN

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 6
Tribute Wall	Page 7
Media	Page 14



Dinko Plenkovich

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DINKO PLENKOVICH, PH.D., FACR

Born in Zagreb, Croatia (former Yugoslavia), on May 8, 1949, radiological physicist, Dinko Plenkovich, died of complications of abdominal compartment syndrome, leading from Ogilvie syndrome on January 20, 2021. This was the inauguration day of the US President Joe Biden, and the day Dinko was supposed to receive his first dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

In his childhood, Dinko spent many of his summers at the coast of the Adriatic Sea with his loving parents, Nada and Zlatko Plenkovic (Croatian spelling). He liked swimming and had fond memories of those wonderful camping trips. They also travelled to many European regions and cities.

In high school, Dinko fell in love with mathematics and physics. He was profoundly impacted by Mrs. Fuss, his high school math teacher for 4 years. He was intensely grateful for her teaching. He once wrote to a friend: "We had excellent teachers and mentors, especially in math and physics. They were providing us with ever more and more challenging problems to solve. This is how we were training for the mathematics and physics competitions at class, school, city (Zagreb), state (Croatia), and country (Yugoslavia) level. Each of these competitions was eliminatory, and only a few with the highest scores advanced to the next level. In the 10th grade, I won the first place both on the state and country competitions in physics." Dinko also won the third place in the math competition at the country level. Following the high school, he studied physics at the University of Zagreb, and then worked for a while as a nuclear physicist at the Boskovic Institute in Zagreb. Dinko landed in the United States to study at Harvard University for his master degree in Medical Radiological Physics in 1980. He earned his Ph.D. in Physics from University of Utah in 1982. He married Soo-Kuen Diana Lin, a Chinese Christian lady from Hong Kong, at the Chinese Presbyterian Church in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1987.

Dinko worked hard his whole life. He served at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana; East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina; Washington Hospital Center in Washington, District of Columbia; St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma; Stormont-Vail HealthCare in Topeka, Kansas; Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, New York; Greater Baltimore Medical



Obituary

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Center in Towson, Maryland; and Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County in Rock Springs, Wyoming. Dinko's appetite for learning and studying had motivated him to get the American Board certifications in Therapeutic Radiological Physics, Medical Nuclear Physics, Diagnostic Radiological Physics, and Nuclear Medicine Physics and Instrumentation. A department head in one of the hospitals in which Dinko worked described him as "a very detail-oriented physicist who cared greatly for the patients in whose care he was involved." People liked to work with him. Dr. Greene commented that he was "an ethical, compassionate, knowledgeable person!"

Dinko took great pride in establishing the Medical Physics Program at East Carolina University as an Associate Professor of Physics. One of his graduate students remarked: "He is the most knowledgeable, dedicated, and patient professor I have ever met. He would teach students equally, and put all his effort for their success...He pushed us to take the board exam for career advancement." His department chair expressed that he wished "more professors were as good with students as Dinko was." All his graduate students have become outstanding physicists. Teaching was Dinko's talent and he enjoyed it. He also used this talent to help his two adopted children from Croatia, Daniel and Annie. In 2018 a great honor was bestowed on Dinko: He was selected to a prestigious and well-deserved position of a Fellow of the American College of Radiology (FACR).

Even when he reached the retirement age, Dinko had never truly retired. Rather, he continued helping patients by taking locum tenens (substitute) radiological physicist positions at different hospitals in various states. In March of 2020, at the onset of the devastating pandemic, Dinko and Diana returned to Oklahoma from his last locum tenens assignment in North Carolina. He began passionately researching the progress of COVID-19 in different countries, and had been astonished by the success of the fight against the virus in many Asian countries, especially in Taiwan. He strongly advocated the importance of vaccines and a need to achieve the herd immunity. Dinko was also interested in other medical, social and political issues. One of his favorite books was *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. It is a true story of the fight for justice. Last few months of his life, Dinko spent much time discussing and explaining his views and hopes about the 2020 presidential election process. His friend Dr. Brown remembers: "Dinko's brilliance and passion inspired me to write my first, and likely not my last letter to a politician..." Anthem Church in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, was Dinko's church home for 22 years. He and his wife attended Anthem Church whenever they were back home from his many out of states assignments. Those of us who knew Dinko will remember him as a loyal and caring husband, father, colleague, and friend. He will be sorely missed.

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the Anthem Church located at 7777 S. Garnett Rd., Broken Arrow, OK 74012.



Obituary

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MAY 8, 1949 - JAN 20, 2021

Funeral will be web-cast for those who cannot attend:
[View Funeral Webcast](#) This webcast can be viewed for up to 90 days.




Hong Kong will be 14 hrs ahead of this time.
Croatia will be 7 hrs ahead of this time.

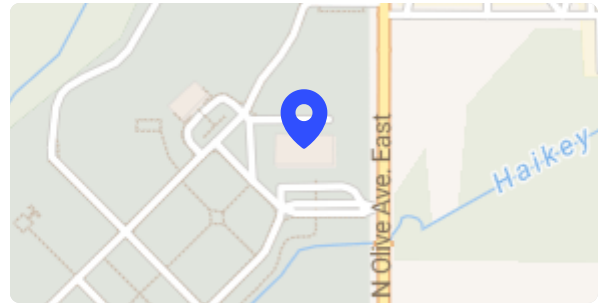


Events

Dinko Plenkovich
MAY 8, 1949 - JAN 20, 2021

Funeral Service

-  **Wednesday**, February 10, 2021
-  10:00 AM CT
-  **Floral Haven Funeral Home Chapel**
6500 S 129th E Ave., Broken Arrow OK 74012





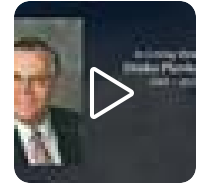
Tribute Wall

Dinko Plenkovich

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Floral Haven Funeral Home, Crematory Andcemetery shared a **Video**.



February 3 at 5:39 AM



Gary Barnes February 10 at 7:22 AM

Sorry to learn of Dinko's passing. I first met him when he was a graduate student at the University of Utah. It was always a pleasure to meet and talk with him at RSNA and AAPM Meetings. He will be missed by the medical physics community as well as by his family. Gary T Barnes, PhD, FAAPM, FACR Professor Emeritus Department of Radiology University of Alabama Birmingham



Xiaoyang Wang February 9 at 6:35 PM

Very sad to hear the pass of Dr. Dinko Plenkovich! He is our beloved Professor and friend. , His devotion to his family, friends and students will always be treasured and remembered. I am so grateful for his teaching, caring and friendship. May God bless him. Xiaoyang Wang



Xiaoyang Wang February 9 at 6:03 PM

I am very grateful for Dr. Plenkovich as my Medical Physics Professor in East Carolina Univ. He treated us as his colleagues and friends for all this years! His devotion to his students will always be remembered. Many thanks to you, Dr. Plenkovich! Xiaoyang Wang



George Hatzinikolaou February 9 at 4:46 PM

Dinko you will be remembered for your kind heart and brilliant mind. I am lucky to have met you.



James J. Vucich February 9 at 12:33 PM

I also only met Dinko a few times at annual meetings decades ago and being of Croatia heritage, I especially enjoyed making his acquaintance. He was a very welcoming person. I see from his obituary that it is unfortunate for me that our paths did not cross more often. James Vucich



Bob Nishikawa February 9 at 11:14 AM

As a fellow medical physicist, I only met Dinko a few times at our annual meeting probably more than 25 years ago. But I do remember a kind and gentle man that stood out among the many physicists I have met over the years. RIP Dinko.



James Sorenson February 9 at 9:35 AM

My sincere condolences to Diana and their children. I was his medical physics mentor at Utah and am very pleased by his successful career in the field. Jim Sorenson



Jung T. Ho February 9 at 8:41 AM

Missing the great moment in MIRL, U of U, Salt Lake City, Utah. JT



Tribute Wall

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CH

Christina posted:

Very sad to hear of Dinko's passing, and on a day I am sure he was so looking forward to celebrate. Such a kind, gentle hearted individual. My condolences to the family.

February 15 at 5:27 PM

DA

Dan Bailey, Atlanta Ga posted:

I met Dr. Plenkovich while I was a student at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute. He had a determined passion for medical physics, and he was both friendly and encouraging to the students in our research and projects. I'm grateful that I knew him. My sincere condolences to his family and friends. Until the reconciliation of all things in the infinite love of God.

February 14 at 2:00 AM

BV

Bonnie Veronda posted:

It was always nice to be in Dinko's presence. He was kind, funny, thoughtful, and caring. My mom has many wonderful memories of Dinko over the many years they were friends, since their school-age skiing trips. I'm glad I got to see you and Dinko more when you were in the Baltimore area. Diana, thank you for sharing your memories. You and Dinko have a beautiful marriage. I am praying for Dinko and his loving family. - Bonnie V.

February 10 at 3:43 PM

MV

Mark Vaughan posted:

Dinko was my friend. I'll never forget how excited he was to learn that my family and I would be traveling to Croatia on vacation in 2014. He wanted to arrange the whole trip - including a visit to his dear mother in Zagreb. He was a wealth of Balkan history. I first met Dinko in 2005 in Tulsa, OK (Stormont-Vail): he was the physicist and I was a fledgling Varian project manager, delivering him a new Trilogy CLINAC. We met again in Rock Springs, WY years later to do the same job again. Our paths crossed again at various places and he was always an enthusiastic friend and advisor first - then we'd get around to the business of radiation systems. I'll miss Dinko, his frequent emails and pictures, but am excited to see him again one day again, since he is a brother in Christ. - Mark Vaughan, Varian Medical Systems, Project Manager in Colorado Springs.

February 10 at 10:51 AM



Tribute Wall

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Paul Carson posted:

Dicko was a dedicated and talented medical physicist. He did what we should all hope for ourselves, to do more than our parts in the continuum of human culture. Paul Carson, University of Michigan, retired.

February 9 at 6:14 PM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Plenkovich family.



February 9 at 4:18 PM



Angel Barber posted:

So very sad to hear of Dinko's passing. He was such a positive light here at the Winston-Salem Cancer Center. Wishing all who loved and knew him peace. 🙏❤️

February 9 at 8:06 AM



Kenneth Hoffmann posted:

Dinko was one of the best in terms of his mind and his person. I met him back in the early 90's, and we kept in touch off and on. It was good to have him around in Buffalo, if only at conferences, as he was serving down in Jamestown most of the time. I was sad to see him leave. I am more saddened in his passing. But, Dinko has not died, not really; he has passed over into new life. May you be consoled in the hope of your faith, with knowledge of the charity that Dinko lived. May he be now more fully joined with God, and may he comfort those who wait for the reunion. 2 Peter 1:4. Yours in Faith, in Christ, Ken Hoffmann

February 9 at 6:55 AM



Fei Hu & Family sent a Divine Light to the Plenkovich family.



February 7 at 7:04 PM



Tribute Wall

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Jennifer posted:

Dinko, you had finished your race as a dedicated professional in your field, a loving son, husband and father in your family. Your dedication and selfless love will be well remembered. You may now rest in peace in the heavenly home, knowing that God will shower His abundant love to Diana, Daniel and Annie. Diana, Daniel and Annie, may the fond memories of Dinko and the hope of seeing him again in the heavenly home comfort you in these days and the many years to come. TL and Jennifer

February 6 at 3:35 AM



Esther And Vincent Mok, Callum And Yolanda Suen sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Plenkovich family.



February 5 at 11:15 PM



Anonymous sent a Strength & Solace Spray to the Plenkovich family.



February 5 at 1:12 PM



Julie A Anderson lit a candle in honor of Dinko.

I'm so sorry to hear this about Dinko. We lost touch once you left Jamestown. My condolences and prayers.



February 4 at 4:13 PM



Patricia Ellen Shaw posted:

Sweet Diana; So sorry for your loss of your husband. I didn't know him for very long but but was impressed with the gentleness he always showed. Such a very special man. He will be greatly missed in our class at church. Many prayers for your peace and comfort in the days to come. Pat Shaw

February 4 at 3:43 PM



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Jason Senn posted:

Dinko was an integral part of the start of my career as a Medical Physicist and a memorable part of those days at ECU. Thank you for your dedication Dr. Plenkovich!

February 3 at 5:13 PM



Josephine Farry February 10 at 8:54 AM

Diana I send my condolences to you and your family at this very sad time. I am new to The Circle of Readers but I want you to know you are in my prayers.



Naresh Tolani posted:

To a warm human being and teacher, who loved not just to teach but loved learning just as much. May your soul Rest In Peace, and may Christ Jesus welcome you into Heaven. May God give comfort and peace to your family, in this very difficult time. Until we meet again...Naresh & Kheng Tolani

February 3 at 3:21 PM



Naresh & Kheng Tolani sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Plenkovich family.



February 3 at 3:11 PM



Love, Tak And Shu Lam sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Plenkovich family.



February 3 at 10:01 AM



Tak Lam posted:

Dinko was a person who wanted to do his best. At East Carolina University, he established a Medical Physics Program which included all aspects of medical physics. The graduates from the program were all rounded and I was fortunate to be one of them. Dinko was certified in 3 specialties: Therapeutic, Diagnostic, and Nuclear Medicine. It is almost unheard of for a medical physicist. Dinko was a person who never retired, and is in a better place now. We, his students, are doing better because of him. Tak Lam

February 3 at 9:11 AM



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Steve Bradley posted:

Diana, I am praying for your and your family during this difficult time. I can still picture you and Dinko walking to and from church and that smile on his face. May God fill your loss with His love and the anticipation of seeing Dinko again in heaven. Steve Bradley

February 3 at 7:39 AM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Plenkovich family.



February 3 at 2:40 AM



Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Plenkovich family.



February 2 at 12:26 PM



Dong Meng posted:

Dinko is my ECU thesis advisor from 1990 to 1992, I learned so much from him, not only academically and professionally, but also every aspect of life. Without him, I'd never be able to enjoy my long and rewarding medical physics career. I am so sad to loss him forever.RIP, Dr. Plenkovich. We will always remember fondly about you.Dong Meng

February 2 at 12:22 PM



Shikuan She posted:

I have known Dr. Dinko Plenkovich since 1991 when I was a graduate student at Medical Physics Program in Easter Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina.Dr. Dinko Plenkovich is the most knowledgeable, dedicated, and patient professor I have ever met. He would teach every his graduate student equally, and put all his effort for their success. At early on, he pushed us to take board exam for the career advantage. All graduate students under his term at ECU are benefited in our future professional life.After he left the university, we still keep our professional and personal connection. He is a straight and hard-work person. He can open his heart to everyone.You would be deeply missed, Dr. Dinko Plenkovich.

February 2 at 11:48 AM



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Annie Rey lit a candle in honor of Dinko.

My father was a brilliant. One of the smartest people I have ever known. He had a funny personality and had an amazing spirit. I can truly say so many people are thankful that they got to meet him. And I cannot say enough that I am proud to have been his daughter. It truly saddens me, that my father is gone. But at least he is now in Heaven. He was my hero and he will be truly missed. May he Rest In Peace. I love you Daddy. ❤️



February 1 at 1:36 PM



Annie Rey May 5 at 4:08 PM

That really makes me happy to know that. Thank you for sharing!!



Mark Vaughan February 10 at 1:33 PM

Annie - your dad was incredibly proud of you and your brother. He would always get out pictures of the two of you in uniform any time we met up.



Media

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JH

Jung T. Ho February 9 at 8:41 AM

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Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Dinko by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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