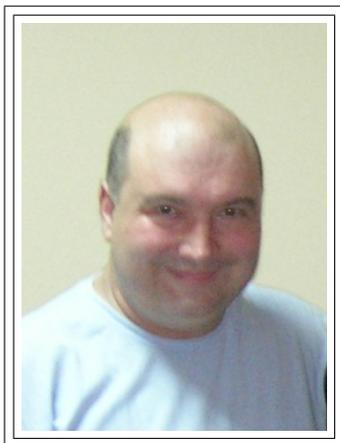




In Memoriam Antony Popov (1962–2012)



We are deeply saddened by the sudden death at the age of 49 of our colleague Associate Professor Dr. Antony Popov, member of the Department "Information Technologies", Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, Sofia University. Tony was a very good mathematician, specializing in the area of Pattern Recognition. He was able to master and apply techniques from several important subfields of this broad area: mathematical morphology, interval analysis, and fuzzy sets. Dr. Popov pioneered the methods and theory of mathematical morphology in Bulgaria. This particular research field requires solid foundation and understanding of geometry, set theory, topology, analysis, and statistics. Tony was an example of a true professional who combined the knowledge from all of these fields to produce several excellent papers on important mathematical morphology topics. Many of his colleagues from the "Biomathematics" group had been active participants in the M.S. program "Biomedical Informatics". This graduate program was created under Tony's leadership about ten years ago. He put a lot of effort to build the program up, and

found a way to involve his colleagues from various departments: mathematics, biophysics, bioengineering, and biology. Many students got enrolled and graduated from the program producing quality theses. Tony always was encouraging them and was really happy for their success. Dr. Popov was also actively involved in organizing the regular Bioinformatics & Computational Biology seminar supported jointly by the AgroBio Institute (ABI) and the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics. The seminar has served as an incubator for many new ideas, attracted new Ph.D students, facilitated the establishment of international collaborative projects, publications, and software development and implementation.

Tony was instrumental in organizing the School for Young Scientists as a workshop held at the yearly BIOMATH conference. He was pretty much the sole organizer of the last year workshop, and planned the entire scientific program for the current 2012 one. During the last several years, Dr. Popov was actively involved in the research project "Computer Simulation and Innovative Model-Based Study of Bioprocesses" supported by the National Science Fund established by the Bulgarian Ministry of Education. Several of his Ph.D. students became a part of the research team. Tony will be always remembered as a very helpful, modest, and trusted colleague with a big heart. He was and will be an example of a real gentleman for all of us. He will be dearly missed!

From: Tony's colleagues; Department of Biomathematics, Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, Bulgarian Academy of Science; Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"; Bioinformatics group at the AgroBio Institute, Sofia; Genomic Signal Processing Laboratory, Texas A&M University.