

University of Novi Sad
DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NOVI SAD

Prof. Dr. GORDANA VUNJAK-NOVAKOVIĆ
University Professor, Columbia University, New York, United States of America

Biography

Prof. Dr. Gordana Vunjak-Novaković is a Serbian-American bioengineer who was recently elevated to the title of University Professor, the highest academic rank at Columbia University reserved for only 16 out of 4,000 professors (8 active and 8 emeriti) who have made important contributions to his or her field of study. University Professors serve the university as a whole rather than a specific Faculty or Department. She is also the Mikati Foundation Professor of Biomedical Engineering, a Professor of Medical Sciences at Columbia University, and a faculty in the Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center and in the Center for Human Development. Professor Vunjak-Novaković directs the Laboratory for Stem Cells and Tissue Engineering, and the Bioreactor Core of the NIH Tissue Engineering Resource Center. Professor Vunjak-Novaković obtained her Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering at the University of Belgrade in Serbia, and was a Fulbright Fellow at MIT.

Professor Vunjak-Novaković is a member of the National Academy of Engineering, the National Academy of Medicine, and the National Academy of Inventors (as the only woman at Columbia with these three highest recognitions).

The focus of her research is on engineering functional human tissues for regenerative medicine and studies of development and disease. Professor Vunjak-Novaković published 3 books, 60 book chapters, and 360 journal articles. With over 35,000 citations and impact factor $h=108$, she is one of the most highly cited individuals of all times, in all disciplines. Professor Vunjak-Novaković gave 370 invited talks including a number of endowed, honorary and keynote lectures. She has 79 licensed, issued or pending patents and has founded three biotech companies: epiBone (<http://epibone.com>), Tara Biosystems Inc (<http://tarabiosystems.com>), and East River Biosolutions (eastriverbio.com)

Prof. Dr. Gordana Vunjak-Novaković serves on editorial boards of 25 journals, Council for Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine, Board of Directors of the Center for Advancement of Science in Space (CASIS) - where she chairs the Science/Technology Committee, Board of Directors of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering, and as the US Section Head for Musculoskeletal Repair & Regeneration for the Faculty 1000 of Medicine. Professor Vunjak-Novaković is serving on Advisory Boards at several academic institutions (Sloan-Kettering Center for Stem Cell Biology, New York Stem Cell Foundation, New York State Stem Cell Science, City College New York, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Washington University, University of Washington Seattle Dialysis Center, University of Maryland Center for Engineering Complex Tissues, University of Vermont, University of Pennsylvania, University of Toronto Medicine by Design Center) and companies (epiBone, Tara Biosystems, East River Biosolutions, Advanced Cell Technology, Organovo, Modern Meadow, StemSave).

Among her many recognitions, Professor Vunjak-Novaković was elected to the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) where she was the Chair of the College of Fellows (2016-17), inducted into the Women in Technology International Hall of Fame "for developing biological substitutes to restore, maintain or improve tissue function", and received the Clemson Award of the Biomaterials Society "for significant contributions to the

literature on biomaterials” (2009). Professor Vunjak-Novaković gave the Director's lecture at the NIH, as the first woman engineer to receive this distinction. She was elected to the New York Academy of Sciences for contributions to biomedical engineering, Academia Europaea for contributions to translational research, and the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts for contributions to biology and chemistry. Professor Vunjak-Novaković is a Fellow of the Biomedical Engineering Society (2009), a Fellow of the AAAS, a Founding Fellow of the International Society for Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine, one of the Foreign Policy's 100 Leading Global Thinkers for 2014, and the recipient of the Pritzker Award of the Bio medical Engineering Society.