PREFACE

This volume of Serdica Mathematical Journal consists of contributions in the broad area of Algebra. It is dedicated to the 75th anniversary of Professor Vesselin S. Drensky, a leading mathematician and recognized specialist in combinatorial aspects of rings and algebras.



Vesselin Drensky giving a talk

Vesselin Drensky was born on December 10, 1950 in the town of Burgas, on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. He became interested in Mathematics while at school, and in 1968 he won a silver medal at the International Mathematical Olympiad. He graduated from the University of Sofia in 1973, and in 1979 he obtained his PhD degree from the Moscow State University, under the supervision of Yuri Bahturin. A year later he started his career at the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences as a research associate and rose to Professor. Vesselin Drensky served for more than 10 years as a Head of the Algebra and Logic Section at the Institute, as a Chairman of the Scientific Council, and as a Director of the Institute. He retired in 2021. He is a member of

the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, he has served as an Editor-in-Chief of Serdica Mathematical Journal, and now he is the Editor-in-Chief of the Proceedings of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Vesselin Drensky's scientific interests and contributions fall into several areas of Algebra and Combinatorics: Algebras with polynomial identities and computational methods in the study of these algebras, Invariant Theory, Free algebras, Group representations and their application to Polynomial identities and to Invariant theory, Numerical characterization of PI algebras, Nonassociative Algebras, and more.

Throughout his career Vesselin Drensky has always worked with students. He supervised several PhD students, and although informally, was de facto supervisor of many others. He has a large network of collaborators that spread among the Globe. He published more than 190 scientific papers in highly prestigious journals. His contributions to Algebra are not limited to proving new theorems, though. He also published two books on PI algebras, and they have influenced many young researchers around the world. Vesselin also edited several important Conference Proceedings. At the time when Vesselin started his PhD studies, PI theory was only beginning its development. Nowadays it is a highly sophisticated branch of Algebra, abounding of deep and beautiful results and theories. A good part of this growth of PI theory is due to Vesselin Drensky.

This volume contains contributions from Vesselin's students, colleagues and friends. We express our deep gratitude to all contributors who, despite the short notice, were able to submit their papers. Special thanks go to the anonymous referees who managed to keep the tight schedule. We are extremely grateful to Tatiana Parkhomenko, the Editorial Assistant of Serdica Mathematical Journal. She performs magical things with the TEX system, and saved us a lot of technical work.

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