

## **Profile of Professor Nina Gunde-Cimerman, the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia**

Nina Gunde-Cimerman started her scientific career as a PhD student at the National Institute of Chemistry in Ljubljana. In 2006, she became a full professor in microbiology at the University of Ljubljana and, in 2018, the Chair of Molecular Genetics and Biology of Microorganisms. Her research dedicated to extremophilic fungi initially investigated the salterns at Sečovlje on the Slovenian Adriatic coast, but now covers Arctic glaciers and in extreme household environments, e.g. dishwashers. Her research also includes the study of extremophilic fungi that are opportunistic human pathogens. Nina and members of her research group have explored extreme environments in many different countries, from polar to hypersaline, to collect samples and have established the world's largest strain bank of extremophilic fungi (Ex), with more than 16.000 strains. Her discoveries have helped establish the international research field of extremophilic fungi of which Nina has been a leading figure for over the last 20 years resulting in collaborations with researchers on five continents and numerous plenary talks at important international and prestigious conferences, lately exemplified by Asilomar (2018) and the Gordon Conferences (2022). Her bibliography comprises more than 160 scientific articles and 6800 citations covering the biodiversity and phylogenetics of extremophilic fungi to their molecular adaptations through genomic and population analyses. Nina has written numerous popular science articles, given many public lectures and frequently appears on radio and television.

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