

IN MEMORIAM OF ARNAS PALAIMA

(10. 08. 1969 – 01. 12. 2020)

More than a year has passed since the passing of Dr. Arnas Palaima, a scientist who selflessly served to save our Earth and its services for our descendants. His scientific activities and works spread the idea that environmental pollution should be newly approached with a more environmentally friendly, circular economy model, which warrants innovative changes of businesses and mentality. Such ideas are getting more and more popular nowadays, when environment's global change is increasingly visible.

A. Palaima's way to science started already at Panevėžys' gymnasium named after J. Miltinis (previously 7th secondary school), when he wholeheartedly submerged in natural sciences: participated in expeditions and biology "Olympic Games", three times becoming a laureate of international biology competitions. After graduation from Vilnius University and winning a Fulbright Scholarship, he went for doctoral studies to the USA, where he defended his PhD thesis in Evolutionary Ecology at Miami University. Later he worked at Miami and Mississippi universities and the Ecological Economics Innovations Center at Berkeley, California. As a Graduate Teaching Assistant at University of Miami, he taught more than 700 laboratory courses and research seminars. As a visiting assistant professor of Biology at the University of Mississippi, he gave more than 800 lectures to more than 3,000 students in General Biology, Genetics, Human Biology and Environmental Sciences. As a former director of the Ecological Economics Innovations Center at Berkeley, Dr. Palaima provided consultancy on eco-innovation and science implementation and commercialization. Over the past decade, he has been working with numerous San Francisco Bay Area companies in technology development.

In 2018 A. Palaima won Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship in Economic Sciences and moved to the United Kingdom, where he worked as a research MSC fellow in Ecological Economics at the University of Cambridge. His key research interests included ecological economics of pollution/waste management, circular economy of plastics, and the relationship between green growth and tropical deforestation. He worked with pharmaceutical substance pollution in coastal southern



Baltic by conducting trade-off analysis among key economic and ecosystem structural/functional variables. His priorities always were topics of relevance to Lithuania, its environment and resource management.

Results of A. Palaima's evolutionary ecology research were published in multiple peer-reviewed publications and summarized in a monograph "Population's evolutionary adaptation to temperature: a study of *Daphnia* (Crustacea: Cladocera)", published in 2010. He served as the editor of a monograph published in 2012 by the University of California Press, one of the most prestigious university publishers in the USA, titled "Ecology, conservation and restoration of tidal marshes: the San Francisco Estuary". The scientific importance of this book is witnessed by its acquisition by more than 800 academic libraries in 42 countries.

While completing his PhD studies at Miami University, Arnas founded the Vilnius University Biologists Abroad Society. During late 1990s, this society, comprised of Lithuanian students studying abroad, helped Vilnius University Faculty of Natural Sciences acquiring scientific literature, textbooks, databases and computers, published articles popularizing science in Lithuania.

A. Palaima's legacy is marked by a breadth of interests and an incredible commitment to the preservation of our planet. It inspires to follow his footsteps safeguarding a healthy environment in our country and the planet for future generations. We will remember Arnas Palaima as an outstanding scientist, a great man and a dear friend.

Kęstutis Arbačiauskas