

Dr. Marija Strojnik (Scholl) is a distinguished professor (Investigator Titular E) at the Optical Research Institute (Centro de Investigaciones en Optica) in Leon, Mexico. She earned a Ph. D. and an MS degree in Optical Sciences from the Optical Sciences Center at the University of Arizona, USA, the first woman to do so. Earlier she was awarded an MS and BS degree in Physics from the Arizona State University. She also earned an MS degree for completing the Engineering Executive Program at the University of California at Los Angeles. As the third woman in its history, she learned how the social, legal, financial, governmental, personal and personnel issues affect the development and implementation of technological and scientific advancements in our society.

Dr. Strojnik has been a member of the Optical Society of America (OSA) since 1978 and was recognized as a Fellow in 1999. She is also a member and Fellow of the International Society for Optics and Photonics (SPIE) (since 1978 and 1994). In addition, Strojnik has been a member of Sigma Xi since 1987 and a Fellow since 2021. She has been a member of Mexican Academy of Sciences since 2001. Her ranking within the Mexican Scientific registry is *Emerita*, one of less than 250 people with this distinction. She is profiled by most international reference publications since 1982, *Who's Who in Science and Engineering* and was featured in the first SPIE Calendar, *Women in Optics*. She was featured in the exhibition of Slovenian Technical Museum of thirteen scientists that will open this year in Cleveland. As an SPIE and OSA lecturer she delivers presentations in three languages, English, Spanish and Slovenian. She also participates in the European and Slovenian Festival of Science and writes for the popular astronomy magazine Spika.

Professor Strojnik has published over one hundred refereed publications in international journals with an impact factor. Google acknowledges her with over 3000 citations, h-index of 29 and i10-index of 86. She has authored 13 book chapters and ~300 conference proceedings papers, with over 40 of them invited or keynotes. She organized over 40 conferences on Infrared in the USA and in Europe and is an Invited Editor of more than 40 books.

Her appointments to editorship of prestigious journals attest to her recognized expertise in optics and infrared. In the nineties, she was the first woman to serve the OSA) as a Topical Editor for *Applied Optics* for two terms and the SPIE as invited Guest Editor of *Optical Engineering* for two special issues. She was an invited Guest Editor of the special issues on *Advanced Infrared Technology and Applications* in the *Optics Technologies Journal*, three times in *Applied Optics*, and once in *Applied Remote Sensing*. Dr. Strojnik sits on the editorial board of *Infrared Physics and Technology*, and the *Journal of the Ronchi Foundation*. In 2014, Marija was appointed an Associate Editor of OSA's *Optics Express*, where she currently performs the duties of a Deputy Editor. Prof. Strojnik has been a member of numerous international standards committees, and Awards and Fellow-Selection Committees of both the SPIE and the OSA.

Prof. Strojnik was honored with the SPIE *George W. Goddard* award in 1996 for conceiving, implementing, and demonstrating an autonomous robotic technique for optical navigation using star maps and an intelligent CCD camera. The technique was first successful in guiding the NASA *Cassini* mission to the outer planets in 2005. She was awarded seven NASA Technology Certificates. Marija was a thesis adviser to more than 25 doctoral candidates who now hold academic positions. She mentored about 20 students who graduated with Master of Science degrees. Most of her students uploaded statements of appreciation on the OSA *Mentors* and *Women-scientists* boards.

Marija was born in Ljubljana, Slovenia, where she completed the so-called classical high school, learning classical languages in addition to the standard curriculum. She believes that students learn best in supportive, yet high-expectation settings. As a professor in Mexico, she has a 100% student completion rate (a Ph. D. requirement includes two refereed publications as a first author). Marija has three children whom she raised by herself after her husband passed away from the ALS.