

WOMEN & GIRLS IN SCIENCE

USB Faculty of Science



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Why have you chosen the path of science?

It was a coincidence more or less. I got a number of a colleague from České Budějovice at a conference. He was putting together a new research team and offered me and also my husband the opportunity to work in the Laboratory of Biomembranes of the then Faculty of Biology of the University of South Bohemia. I was pursuing protein crystallography, which was a field that was only starting to form in Czech science at the time. I introduced the instruction of protein crystallography for USB students, started organising international crystallisation courses and obtained support from the Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS).

I also worked on grants, supervised doctoral students... and when my children were born, I could not tell students to find other supervisors or colleagues abroad that I am cancelling FEBS courses and cooperation...

So I kept going and oftentimes it was not easy... but the work with students that I really like and also the cooperation with many domestic experts and experts abroad motivated me.

Have you encountered any difficulties in your scientific career caused by the fact that you are a woman?

I did not encounter difficulties of this kind. Nevertheless, here in Czechia, I was told from time to time that women are supposed to take care of the family, not science... but I was lucky that I started cooperating with colleagues abroad who actually supported me as a woman and gave me the courage to continue owing to the field that almost no one was pursuing here 20 years ago.

What would you like to tell women scientists and all girls and women thinking about a career in science?

If you want it and go after your goals or dreams, you will surely make it even if it often won't be easy for you.

I am rooting for you and wish you much courage and strength!