

KOSTADINKA BIZHEVA (1970-2025)



It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of [Kostadinka Bizheva](#), Professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Waterloo, affectionately known as Dida to her colleagues and friends.

Dida was passionate about her research into biomedical optics and designing optical imaging technology. She initiated the field of optoretinography, a non-invasive method of measuring physiological and metabolic changes in the photoreceptors of the retina. She joined the Department of Physics and Astronomy in July 2004 and established her [Biomedical Optics Research Group](#), which is world-renowned for its development of novel imaging technology for use in clinics. Dida was cross-appointed to the School of Optometry and Vision Science and to the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department in the Faculty of Engineering. She was also the Graduate Officer for her home department of Physics and Astronomy. In addition, she had just joined the CAP-NSERC Liaison Committee representing Biomedical and Biological Physics.

Recently, [Dida was named a 2025 Optica Fellow](#), acknowledging her lifetime of achievement in optics and imaging. Teaching and mentoring were important to Dida, and she looked forward to how this appointment would help her shape the trajectory of students entering the field of biomedical optics.

Dida is remembered for her passionate approach to her research and her warmth in connecting with collaborators and students alike.

Sourced mainly from the Faculty of Science Website, University of Waterloo

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