

9th Scientific Conference RIJEKA AND CITIZENS OF RIJEKA IN THE MEDICAL BACKGROUND

Rijeka, November 7th and 8th, 2008

The School of Medicine of the University of Rijeka was for the ninth time in a row the gathering place for prominent figures of historical and medical science, and the 7th and 8th of November, 2008 went by deliberating on Croatian and European medical heritage. This was a chance to participate in a scientific conference entitled "To Rijeka and Citizens of Rijeka in the Medical Background". This year the conference had a Collection of Abstracts including twenty one titles, with over thirty authors. The conference was organized by the Croatian Scientific Society for the History of Medical Culture, headed by Prof. Dr. Ante Škrobonja, and it was sponsored by the City of Rijeka and Primorsko-goranska County, Ministry of Science, Education and Sport of the Republic of Croatia, "Jadran – galenski laboratorij" and the Foundation of the University of Rijeka.

Appropriate "anniversary-like" reminiscing about jubilee dates connected to renowned persons and notable events and their everlasting influence on the medical profession and science took place on the first day of the conference.

Accordingly, Vedran Frković and Amir Muzur reminded us of the hundred year long function of Brothers Branchetta Foundation and its charitable role transformed in the performance of the Medical School of the University of Rijeka – i.e. the Faculty whose founder of Chemistry and Biochemistry Institute, Prof. Dr. Ing. Eugen Cerkovnikov, was discussed by Ms. Čedomila Milin. Ana Alebić Juretić spoke about the Club for Natural Sciences in Rijeka and Prof. Peter Salcher, leading figure of the Club. Anja Petaros and Ante Škrobonja reported on the hundredth anniversary of iodine tincture promotion for postoperative disinfection of skin and smaller wounds by Dr. Antonio Grossich. The same anniversary was dealt with by Aleš Fischinger, Janez Fischinger and Duša Fischinger, within the presentation of the 4th

international congress of thalassotherapy, held in Opatija in September 1908. On the occasion of the 120th anniversary of birth and 50th anniversary of death of Andrija Štampar, Željko Dugac spoke about this prominent figure, while in her illustration Marija Počivavšek highlighted one hundred and twenty years of existence of the General Hospital in Celje. Zvonka Zupanič Slavec and Ksenija Slavec reminded us of the half of century of Slovenian cardiac surgery. Dorđe Milović and Grozdana Milović Karić interpreted “The Traces of the Culture of Healthcare in the Old Korčula Statute”.

At the closure of the working part of the Conference, the participants went on a professional trip to Kaštel Grobnik where they met with members of the Chakavian choir. Upon their tour of the citadel they continued to socialize in a pleasant atmosphere at lunch with the hosts.

Second, and the last day of the Conference was devoted to free historical and medical topics, with inspired illustrations breathing new life into elusive times as seen from the today’s perspective. Along those lines, Ivan Katić and Vesna Vučevac – Bajt presented “Curiosities on Animal Waterway Transport”. The punishment of castration in the Salic Law was researched and explained by Grozdana Milović Karić and Đorđe Milović. Then Andrija Nikić described “Medicus domesticus”, the book on medicinal herbs by Fr. Duje Ostojić. “Customs, Tradition and Beliefs in the Sphere of Healthcare and Social Culture of Behaviour Disappearing in Bosnia and Herzegovina” was interpreted by Ajnija Omanić, Melvida Serdarević and Hajrunisa Omanić.



Working atmosphere during the conference at the School of Medicine in Rijeka



Reception of the mayor of the Čavle municipality and meeting the members of the Chakavian choir in Kaštel Grobnik.

Tullio Vorano recalled a mining accident in Raša in 1940, and the then organizer of rescue and help services, Dr. Giovanni Battista Pillano. Mirko Jamnicky Dojmi spoke about the life and work of Prof. Dr. Slavko Perović, and Vladimir Dugački recollected the father of Croatian ophthalmology, Doc. Dr. Kurt Hühn. The interpretation of the professional work of Dr. Josip Berlot, especially the meaning it had for epidemiology and immunology, was accounted by Ivica Vučak, while Eduard Pavlović presented his view of the psychiatrist Chief physician Dr. Salvator Karabaić. Theodor de Canziani Jakšić presented some details from the life of Dr. Andrija Brlić. A very important topic was introduced by Nenad Labus, “Memorial Pieces Dedicated to Medical Enthusiasts in the Cemeteries of Rijeka”. An illustration of prominent medical figures and events through the prism of Croatian stamp editions from 1991 to 2008 was given by Igor Salopek.

As it was on the first day, once the expositions ended, there ensued a discussion which, abounding with constructive answers, often raised new questions – questions which are yet to be discovered, and conclusions yet to be written down, organized and left for future reference.

And finally, the only thing left to do is to thank and congratulate the Organizational Board, and to express hope that we will see each other again and that there will be more people present at the jubilee, tenth in a row “To Rijeka and Citizens of Rijeka in the Medical Background” conference.

Igor Salopek