

## THE XVI ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE »PROFESSOR IVAN BERKEŠ«

*dr Snežana Jovičić*

*Society of Medical Biochemistry of Serbia*

The 2013 Annual Scientific Conference »Professor Ivan Berkeš« was held on December 4<sup>th</sup> at Military Medical Academy in Belgrade. This Annual Scientific Conference and Fund »Professor Ivan Berkeš« were established to honor life and work of professor Ivan Berkeš, one of the founders of medical biochemistry in former Yugoslavia. He taught medical biochemistry at Universities in Zagreb, Skopje and Belgrade. His work at the University of Belgrade School of Pharmacy was in great part directed towards the definition and foundation of the specialist studies program. Also, professor Berkeš intro-

duced Clinical Enzymology as an independent discipline. With over 200 publications, mentoring of 150 specialists in medical biochemistry and several tens of doctoral candidates, professor Berkeš left an indelible mark in clinical laboratory profession in Serbia. After his death in 1997, the Society of Medical Biochemists of Yugoslavia and the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Belgrade founded the Scientific Fund and Annual Scientific Conference named after him, as a sign of appreciation and respect for this remarkable teacher and eminent expert.



From left to right: Ivan Berkeš grandson of prof. dr Ivan Berkeš, prof. dr Nada Majkić-Singh – Executive Director of SMBS, awarded students – Biljana Škorić, Sanja Vučković; prof. dr Svetlana Ignjatović – Chair of the Conference, and dr Zorica Šumarac – President of the SMBS.

Awards from the Scientific Fund »Professor Ivan Berkeš« are given yearly to the two best graduate students from the University of Belgrade School of Pharmacy. This year's awards were presented to Biljana Škorić, Master of Pharmacy, and Sanja Vučković, Master of Pharmacy-Medical Biochemist. After the traditional welcoming address of Brigade General Prof. dr Marijan Novaković, Head of Military Medical Academy, and of Prof. dr Nataša Bogavac-Stanojević, Vice Dean of University of Belgrade School of Pharmacy, dr Zorica Šumarac, President of the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia, and prof. dr Nada Majkić-Singh, Executive Director of the Society and Organizer of Scientific Conference, presented awards.

Scientific program of the Conference was dedicated to the presentation of doctoral thesis defended in the field of medical biochemistry at Schools of Pharmacy and Schools of Medicine of the Universities of Belgrade, Niš, and Novi Sad during the past

year. This year's four doctorates were »Factor analysis and association of lipid, inflammatory, cardiac, and renal biomarkers with C-reactive protein in cardiovascular risk categorization« presented by dr Snežana Jovičić, (School of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade), »Biomarkers of apoptosis and cell signaling in colon cancer pathogenesis« by dr Aleksandar Veljković (School of Medicine, University of Niš), »Correlation of biomarkers of lipid status, oxidative stress, and lifestyle changes in a student population« by dr Dragana Pap (School of Medicine, University of Novi Sad), and »Application of multimarker approach to risk stratification among patients on dialysis« by dr Aleksandra Ignjatović (School of Medicine, University of Niš).

With this successful conference, medical biochemists of Serbia remembered once again, the legacy of professor Ivan Berkeš, whose students represent the core of science of medical biochemistry and clinical laboratory practice in Serbia today.



Scientific Conference Speakers (from left to right) – dr Zorica Šumarac (President of the SMBS), dr Aleksandra Ignjatović, dr Dragana Pap, prof. dr Nada Majkić-Singh (Executive Director of SMBS), dr Janko Pejović (Co-chair of the Conference), prof. dr Svetlana Ignjatović (Chair of the Conference), dr Snežana Jovičić, and dr Aleksandar Veljković.

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*News from the Society of  
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## MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTRY STUDENTS' PARTICIPATION IN THE SIXTH NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PHARMACY STUDENTS OF SERBIA

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Medical biochemistry students' organization of the University of Belgrade School of Pharmacy, Team of Medical Biochemists (TMB), is the full member of the Belgrade Pharmacy Students' Association (BPSA). BPSA gathers pharmacy students of the University of Belgrade School of Pharmacy and represents their connection to National Association of Pharmacy Students – Serbia (NAPSer), which is the full member of the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF) and European Pharmaceutical Students' Association (EPSA). NAPSer is the top organization of pharmacy students of Serbia, among whose activities are the international student exchange, development of clinical skills and patient

counselling events, following and comparison of curriculums of University Schools of Pharmacy in Serbia and the world, organization of congress, seminars, and workshops in order to enable professional development of pharmacy students according to current world trends in pharmacy. TMB's activities are consistent with BPSA's and NAPSer's, but adjusted to the field of interest and action of medical biochemistry students.

The most important event among NAPSer's activities every year is the National Congress of Pharmacy Students, held at the end of the year. The topic of last years' congress, held 20–23 December 2013 on the mountain Zlatibor, was »Pharmacy



Prof. dr Nada Majkić-Singh and dr Snežana Jovičić with medical biochemistry students, participants of the Sixth National Congress of Pharmacy Students of Serbia.

practice – chances and challenges«. TMB organized lecture and workshop for medical biochemistry students as part of the congress' program. Prof. dr Nada Majkić-Singh was a speaker on this occasion, with the lecture »Medical Biochemist – The Role in Healthcare System«. Prof. Majkić-Singh reminded the auditorium of the development of the profession of medical biochemist in Serbia, from the introduction of Medical Biochemistry course on University of Belgrade School of Pharmacy in 1939, through introducing the first vocational postgraduate training program for healthcare professionals in medical biochemistry in 1956, until the university graduate studies of medical biochemistry in 1986, and the 5-year studies according to Bologna principles. Also, the lecture presented the course of postgraduate training through vocational and PhD studies, and their harmonization with EFLM's EC4 Committee requirements for registration as European Specialists of Laboratory Medicine.

Continuing the discussion on this topic, dr Snežana Jovičić was the speaker and moderator of the workshop entitled »Education and the Role of Medical Biochemist – Serbia and the World«. In the first part, curriculum of medical biochemists' education in Serbia was compared with European countries, members of the EC4 Committee, and USA. The similarities and differences in the education were pointed out, as well as the employment possibilities in Serbia and abroad. Also, the skills and abilities necessary for successful carrier in medical biochemistry in different working environment (clinical laboratory, industry, commercial laboratory...) were summarized. Through panel discussion, students expressed their dilemmas concerning their future carriers, positions, and advancement within national healthcare and other educational systems.