

## **SOCIETY OF MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTS OF SERBIA THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL PROFESSOR IVAN BERKEŠ SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE**

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Honoring life and work of Professor Ivan Berkeš, one of the founders of the medical biochemistry profession in former Yugoslavia, Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia organized for the twentieth time in December 2017, the traditional annual Scientific Conference. Professor Ivan Berkeš taught at Universities of Zagreb, Skopje and Belgrade. His work at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade, was crowned in designing the postgraduate specialization studies program, and in foundation of clinical enzymology as an independent discipline. Professor Berkeš was mentor to over 150 medical biochemistry specialists, and several dozen of PhD students. He authored over 200 papers in international and national journals, as well as of several books. Upon his death, in 1997, his former students gathered in the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia, established the Scientific Foundation »Professor Ivan Berkeš«. The Foundation traditionally awards the best students graduated at the Faculty of Pharmacy University of Belgrade and organize the Annual Scientific Conference where the doctoral dissertations defended in the field of medical biochemistry during the past year are presented.

The twentieth annual Scientific Conference was organized traditionally by Professor Nada Majkić-Singh, Professor Berkeš' student and associate, who contributed the most to the remembrance of his legacy. The Conference was held 7 December 2017 under the patronage of the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia, Scientific Foundation »Professor Ivan Berkeš« and the Faculty of Pharmacy University of Belgrade. It gathered over 200 participants – students, older colleagues who were the students of Professor Berkeš, young graduated medical biochemists, and teachers of the Faculty of Pharmacy. Traditional guests were the family members of Professor Berkeš – his son and grandson, with their families.

Professor Nada Majkić-Singh opened the Conference, with the opening welcome and word on its history and significance. On behalf of the Faculty of Pharmacy, the participants were welcomed by the Vice Dean, professor Nataša Bogavac-Stanojević. After the opening words, the choir of students »The Raskovnik« performed, adding the festivity to the event. The opening ceremony was closed by awarding the valedictorians of the two graduate programs of the Faculty of Pharmacy University of Belgrade – Tamara Antonić, Master of Pharmacy-Medical Biochemist, and Sandra Tešić, Master of Pharmacy. Prof. Nada Majkić-Singh and Professor Marina Milenković, the Vice Dean for Education, handed the awards to this year's laureates.

Professor Svetlana Ignjatović and Professor Vesna Spasojević-Kalimanovska chaired the scientific part of the Conference. The program encompassed all of the three fields of the medical biochemistry curriculum – medical biochemistry, toxicological chemistry and sanitary chemistry. In the first part, the results of the ongoing scientific projects of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Ministry of Science, Education and Technological Development were presented. The speakers were Professor Aleksandra Zeljković (»Assessment of LCAT and CETP activities as a tool for estimation of structural and functional properties of HDL particles«) and Professor Mirjana Bećarević (»Diagnostic and therapy of antiphospholipid syndrome«). The second part was dedicated to the presentation of doctoral thesis presentations. Dr Marina Pjanović presented her work on bone formation markers and vitamin D in pregnancy. Metabolic and immunological effects of administration of two *Lactobacillus* strains in mice fed a high fat diet were presented by dr Ana Đurić. The Conference was closed with the presentation on the study on rats of cadmium and polychlorinated biphenyls mixture toxicity by dr Aleksandra Buha-Đorđević.



Choir of students of Faculty of Pharmacy »Raskovnik«; the conductor Djordje Perović, on the piano Vladimir Vujović.



Family of professor Berkeš and audience at the Conference.



Laureate of the »Professor Ivan Berkeš« Scientific Foundation, Tamara Antonić (in the middle) with professor Marina Milenković (left) and professor Nada Majkić-Singh (right).



Laureate of the »Professor Ivan Berkeš« Scientific Foundation, Sandra Tešić (in the middle) with professor Marina Milenković (left) and professor Nada Majkić-Singh (right).



Participants in the scientific part of the Conference with laureates (from left to right): assistant Milica Miljković, professor Aleksandra Zeljković, professor Vesna Matović, professor Vesna Spasojević-Kalimanovska, professor Nataša Bogavac-Stanojević, Tamara Antić, professor Marina Milenković, professor Nada Majkić-Singh, Sandra Tešić, professor Mirjana Bečarević, professor Svetlana Ignjatović.



Professor Nada Majkić-Singh i Sofija Majanović with students from TMB.