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Medical Biochemists of Serbia***THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOCIETY OF MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTS OF SERBIA***Contributed by Snežana Jovičić**Center for Medical Biochemistry, Clinical Center of Serbia, Belgrade  
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to the IFCC eNews Working Group*

The Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia (SMBS) celebrated its 58th anniversary on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013. On that day in 1955, the Alliance of Pharmaceutical Societies of Yugoslavia (APSY) during its 6<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session, held in Split, decided to establish the Section for Medical Biochemistry. The Section was renamed 10 years later, on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1965, during the 16<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of APSY held in Banjaluka, to Society of Medical Biochemists within the APSY. After six years, in May 1971, the Society became the 28<sup>th</sup> member of the IFCC. From its beginnings, Section's activities were directed towards the education of medical biochemists, especially concerning the development of a curriculum for post-graduate education of laboratory specialists, thanks to which the specialist studies in medical biochemistry were introduced in 1960. Later, the Society pursued the establishment of a separate graduate program of Medical Biochemistry at the University School of Pharmacy. The Society continuously worked on the improvement and advancement of clinical laboratory profession. One of the activities was the launching and implementation of the external quality assessment scheme in 1972. In 1989, the Society left the APSY and became independent, since its membership included medical biochemists with various graduate education and not only in pharmacy. After the disintegration of Yugoslavia, the Society of Medical Biochemists of Yugoslavia was renamed once again and became the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia. SMBS continues to be actively involved in the advancement of clinical laboratory profession in Serbia through directing its work towards government institutions. It was actively involved in the formation of the Chamber of Biochemists of Serbia, a professional organization of medical biochemists and clinical chemists with mandatory membership. The SMBS organizes several courses in Continuous Medical Education every year, as well as the annual EFLM Symposium for Balkan Region, and the nation-



From left to right, Executive Director, prof. dr Nada Majkić-Singh and SMBS President, dr Zorica Šumarac, with the long time Secretary of SMBS, mr Olivera Janković.

al Congress of Medical Biochemists of Serbia biannually. The Society is a member of the IFCC, EFLM and Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (BCLF), where our members contribute to the work of these international organizations through various committees and working groups. The SMBS publishes the Journal of Medical Biochemistry, the official journal of the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia with inter-

national peer-review. The Journal publishes original scientific and specialized articles on all aspects of clinical chemistry, medical biochemistry and the related scientific disciplines where chemistry, biochemistry, molecular biology and immunochemistry are dealing with the study of normal and pathologic processes in human beings. The Journal is published four times a year and its 2012 impact factor is 1.084 (<http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/jomb>).

The SMBS celebrated its 58<sup>th</sup> anniversary in new offices with guests from organizations to whose work it has contributed and which have aided its work – Dean and professors of the University School of Pharmacy in Belgrade, Director of the Chamber of

Biochemists of Serbia, Director of the Chamber of Pharmacists of Serbia, President of the Pharmaceutical Association of Serbia, and many representatives of the clinical laboratory industry. During this gathering, Executive Director and longtime President, Prof Dr Nada Majkić-Singh reminded the guests about the Society's beginnings and growth. Also, on this occasion, the Society's renewed web page was presented (<http://www.dmbj.org.rs>) by the newly elected President Dr Zorica Šumarac, emphasizing that it will improve and facilitate communication with members through numerous new contents. After more than half a century of fruitful work, the SMBS continues to be the leader and support for clinical laboratory professionals in Serbia.



Prof Dr Nada Majkić-Singh addresses the gathering.



Throughout the evening, guests were reminded of the past years with slide show of photographs made during numerous activities of the Society.