

## SOCIETY OF MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTS OF THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL PROFESSOR IVAN BERKEŠ SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

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The annual activities of Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia are traditionally wrapped up in December with the scientific conference dedicated to the life and work of one of the most prominent figures in medical biochemistry science and profession in former Yugoslavia. In this way, on 3 December 2015, Serbian medical biochemistry professionals remembered for the eighteenth time, their esteemed mentor and founder, since professor Berkeš established post graduate program in medical biochemistry at the University of Belgrade School of Pharmacy. Under his leadership, several dozen candidates got their Master of Science and Doctoral degrees, and over 150 medical biochemists obtained their specialist degrees. Professor Berkeš authored over 200 papers in leading international and national journals, and several books.

The eighteenth in a row scientific conference »Professor Ivan Berkeš« was organized, as usual, by the Executive Director of the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia and the successor of professor Berkeš in leading and guidance of Serbian Medical Biochemistry in the last thirty years, professor Nada Majkić-Singh. The conference was held under the patronage of the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia, Scientific Foundation »Professor Ivan Berkeš«, and the Institute of Medical Biochemistry, Military Medical Academy. The chairs were professor Svetlana Ignjatović, dr Janko Pejović, and dr Zorica Šumarac. Representative of the Head of the Military Medical Academy, colonel professor Zoran Šegrt welcomed the gathering and expressed his great admiration for medical biochemistry profession and honor for being the host of this important event for the eighteenth time. After the welcoming word of the Vice-Dean for Education of the University of Belgrade School of Pharmacy, professor Marina Milenković, who emphasized the significance of professor Berkeš's work and the scientific conference, the awards of the Scientific Foundation were delivered to the best pharmacy students that graduated in the past

year. This was also the part of tradition, since Scientific Foundation »Professor Ivan Berkeš« was established by the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia to support and award valedictorians of the two graduate programs of the University of Belgrade School of Pharmacy. This year's laureates were Branislava Šupljeglav, Master of Pharmacy-Medical Biochemist, and Milan Milojević, Master of Pharmacy.

The scientific program of the Conference included presentations of doctoral thesis defended in the field of medical biochemistry at School of Pharmacy and School of Medicine of the Universities of Belgrade during the past year. The lectures in the first section were mostly dedicated to the research of the oxidative stress biomarkers. Dr Danijela Ardalić presented the results of her thesis on indicators of oxidative stress, lipid profile, and status of the enzyme paraoxonase 1 in pregnancy without complication and after delivery. Indicators of oxidative stress and inflammation in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease patients with co-morbidity was the topic of research presented by dr Ivana Stanojković. Dr Nevena Kardum's thesis investigated the impact of aronia juice on oxidative status' biomarkers and fatty acid profile in healthy subjects with or without risk factors for cardiovascular disease. Dr Danica Čujić presented her research of the effect of steroid hormones and their antagonists on galectins' level in human trophoblast *in vitro*. The second section was mainly dedicated to research of the enzyme genetic polymorphisms. The role of genetic polymorphisms of glutathione transferases in the development of Balkan endemic nephropathy was the topic of research presented by dr Zorica Reljić. The scientific conference was closed with the talk of dr Mirjana Miliwojević on the clinical relevance of osteopontin in diagnosis of ovarian tumors. All lectures initiated vivid discussion among the most recent PhDs and interested audience, which was essential for another successful conference worthy of the memory of a respected mentor and world-renowned scientist.



Nada Majkić-Singh addresses to the Scientific Conference participants



Participants on the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Professor Ivan Berkeš Scientific Conference



Colonel Professor Zoran Šegrt, Head of the Military Medical Academy welcome the Conference participants



Professor Marina Milenković, Vice-Dean of The Pharmaceutical Faculty addresses to the Conference participants



Laureat Branislava Šupljeglav with Nada Majkić-Singh and Zorica Šumarac



Laureat Milan Milojević with Nada Majkić-Singh and Zorica Šumarac



Laureats of the »Professor Ivan Berkeš Foundation« with Marina Milenković, Nada Majkić-Singh, Zoran Šegrt, Svetlana Ignjatović, Janko Pejović and Zorica Šumarac