

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

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As the professor of University of Belgrade Faculty of Pharmacy, professor Ivan Berkeš was one of the founders of the medical biochemistry profession in former Yugoslavia. His immense contribution was in designing the postgraduate specialization studies program, and in foundation of clinical enzymology as an independent discipline. Under his mentorship, over 150 medical biochemists became specialists. Professor Berkeš was also a world-renowned scientist, with the authorship of over 200 papers in international and national journals, as well as of several books. The community of medical biochemists and the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia honor his life and deed, since his death in 1997, through the work of the Scientific Foundation »Professor Ivan Berkeš«. The Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia and the Foundation traditionally award the best students of the Faculty of Pharmacy University of Belgrade and organize the Annual Scientific Conference.

The Nineteenth Annual Scientific Conference »Professor Ivan Berkeš« was held on 1 December 2016, under the patronage of the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia, Scientific Foundation »Professor Ivan Berkeš«, and the Institute of Medical Biochemistry of the Military Medical Academy. The participants of the Conference were welcomed by the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the Military Medical Academy, colonel professor dr Nebojša Jović who expressed his great admiration for medical biochemistry profession and honor for being the host of this important event for the nineteenth time, and the Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Belgrade, professor dr Zorica Vujić, who emphasized the significance of professor Berkeš's work and of this conference. This year's laureates of the annual award of the Foundation were the valedictorians of the two graduate programs of the Faculty of Pharmacy University of Belgrade – Aleksandra Tijanić,

Master of Pharmacy-Medical Biochemist, and Marija Banićević, Master of Pharmacy.

The scientific program of the Conference included presentations of doctoral thesis defended in the field of medical biochemistry at Faculty of Pharmacy University of Belgrade, Faculty of Biology University of Belgrade, and Faculty of Medicine University of Niš during the past year. Dr Neda Milinković presented the results of her thesis on the significance of the determination of biomarkers of bone resorption and formation in patients with end stage renal disease. Association between COMT, TNF- $\alpha$ , TNFR1, IL-1, and IL-10 genetic polymorphisms with a risk of early preeclampsia and it's complication was the topic of research presented by dr Tijana Krnjeta, who was herself the laureate of the Foundation in the past. Dr Gordana Dmitrašinović presented her thesis on the effect of magnesium on parameters of hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal and hypothalamic-pituitary-gonadal axis activity in rugby players. The first section was closed with the presentation of dr Vesna Subota on immunomodulatory effects of anticoagulant warfarin in rats. The second section was opened with research results of dr Milica Despotović on polymorphisms in genes involved in inflammatory, antioxidative and immunoregulatory processes in patients with bronchial asthma. Another past laureate of the Foundation, dr Miron Sopić, presented his thesis on gene expression of adiponectin receptors AdipoR1 and AdipoR2, and adiponectin levels in blood of coronary disease patients and chronic kidney disease patients. The scientific conference was closed with the talk of dr Jasmina Ivanišević on the examination of inflammatory, oxidative stress and lipid status parameters in sarcoidosis patients. 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 professor Ivan Berkeš.



Colonel prof. dr. Nebojša Jović, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the Military Medical Academy, welcoming the audience with the chairs of the Conference, from left to right: prof. dr. Nada Majkić-Singh (Executive Director of SMBS), prof. dr. Svetlana Ignjatović, prof. dr. Janko Pejović, and dr. Zorica Šumarac (President of SMBS).



Prof. dr. Zorica Vujić, Dean of the Pharmaceutical Faculty of Belgrade University welcoming the audience of the 19<sup>th</sup> Scientific »Professor Ivan Berkeš« Conference.



Aleksandra Tijanić, Master of Pharmacy-Medical Biochemist, the laureate of the Foundation, with prof. dr Nada Majkić-Singh and dr Zorica Šumarac.



Marija Banićević, Master of Pharmacy, the laureate of the Foundation, with prof. dr Nada Majkić-Singh and dr Zorica Šumarac.



The chairs of the Conference with laureates and lecturers, dr Vesna Subota and dr Miron Sopić.



The audience of the 19<sup>th</sup> Scientific »Professor Ivan Berkeš« Conference in Military Medical Academy Hall.