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Medical Biochemists of Serbia*

THE TWENTY FIFTH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE „PROFESSOR IVAN BERKEŠ“

SOCIETY OF MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTS OF SERBIA

*Nada Majkić-Singh, Fund President
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The Twenty Fifth Annual Scientific Conference »Professor Ivan Berkeš« was co-organized and hosted by the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade. It gathered over 100 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 – this year Ivan Berkeš's, his grandson. This traditional meeting of students and Professors of the Faculty of Pharmacy, honoring the legacy of one of its most distinguished professors was held on 11. December 2025. Prof. Dr. Nada Majkić-Singh, traditionally the organizer, with her opening words greeted the participants and reminded us of the history, the idea of foundation, and the significance of the Conference, as well as of the life and work of the Professor Ivan Berkeš, whom it honors.

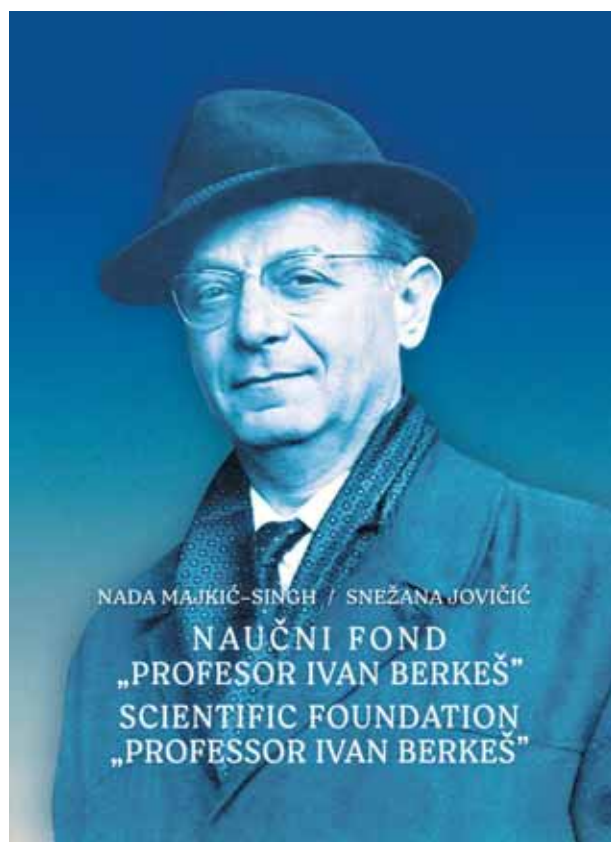
Appreciating the work of their teacher and a renowned expert Professor Dr Ivan Berkeš, the Society of Medical Biochemists of Yugoslavia (now the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia) and the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade, created the Scientific Foundation »Professor Ivan Berkeš« in 1997 and established the »Annual Scientific Conference« dedicated to the life and work of Professor Ivan Berkeš. The scientific foundation was established on the proposal of the Professor Dr Nada Majkić-Singh, also a long-term organizer of the Annual Scientific Conferences. Beginning in 1998, Scientific Conferences have been presenting masters and doctoral theses of members of the Society and related disciplines during the previous year. On November 16th, 2010, the Thirteenth Annual Scientific Conference dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the birth of Professor Ivan Berkeš was held in Belgrade, during which experts from Belgrade (N. Majkić-Singh), Zagreb (S. Margetić) and Skopje (S. Efreмова-Aaron), the cities where Professor Ivan

Berkeš lived and worked, gave their lectures. Also, diplomas and money awards were traditionally presented by the Scientific Fund »Dr Ivan Berkeš« to the best students of the Faculty of Pharmacy in Belgrade: Zora Četković and Jelena Joksić.

The purpose of the Scientific Foundation is to award monetary awards and diplomas to the best graduates of the Faculty of Pharmacy in the previous year, of both study profiles (graduate pharmacist-medical biochemist and graduate pharmacist; now: master of pharmacy-medical biochemist and master of pharmacy), who were the quickest to graduate and with the highest average grade. So far, Twenty-fifth Scientific Annual Conferences have been held, with fifty eight laureates of the Fund who were awarded diplomas and monetary awards, with their biographies presented in the Monograph.

In 2020, the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia marked the 110th anniversary of the birth of Professor Ivan Berkeš, on which occasion the Monograph – LIFE AND WORK OF PROFESSOR IVAN BERKEŠ and FOUNDATION LAUREATES were prepared: WHERE ARE THEY AND WHAT ARE THEY DOING TODAY? (Authors: Nada Majkić-Singh and Snežana Jovičić). This Monograph has been presented during XXII Serbian Congress of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine in September 2022, and during this Scientific Conference the short review has been presented.

In 2020, the year of the global pandemic the activities of the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia (SMBS) were suspended. Planned activities, like the national congress and the Belgrade Symposium for Balkan region were postponed, and the annual scientific conference »Professor Ivan Berkeš« did not take place. However, the year 2020 was also the year of the 110th anniversary of the birth of Professor Ivan Berkeš. On this occasion, SMBS



published a monograph dedicated to professor Berkeš's life and work, to the review of the previous scientific conferences organized to honor his legacy, also to the Foundation »Professor Ivan Berkeš«, and to the laureates of its annual award. The authors of the monograph are Professor Nada Majkić-Singh, the founder of the Foundation and its *spiritus movens*, and Snežana Jovičić, who, as the IFCC eNewsletter liaison member, was writing a series of articles covering the conference over the past years.

Professor Ivan Berkeš established medical biochemistry as a modern scientific and diagnostic discipline of medicine and pharmacy in Yugoslavia and Serbia. Under his guidance generations of medical biochemists were educated at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Belgrade. But not only. As a versatile individual (he was passionate in music, art, history, and philosophy, and spoke five languages) he inspired his students with his charismatic personality. Professor Berkeš graduated and completed his Ph.D. thesis in Zagreb, Croatia. He worked at several universities in former Yugoslavia – at the Faculty of Medicine in Zagreb, Faculty of Medicine in Skopje (North Macedonia), and Faculty of Pharmacy in Belgrade (Serbia), where he was elected Senior Professor in medical biochemistry and was a long-term director of the Institute of Biochemistry until his retirement. For nearly 20 years Professor Ivan Berkeš invested all his efforts into the methodological research in clinical biochemistry, general and clinical

enzymology. This work resulted in numerous specialists, master, and doctoral theses. During his working years, professor Berkeš published several books and over 200 scientific papers in renowned journals in Yugoslavia and worldwide. He was actively engaged in the Federal Committee for Medical Biochemistry and the Section of Medical Biochemistry of the Pharmaceutical Society of Serbia.

Appreciating the work of their teacher and a renowned expert, Professor Ivan Berkeš, upon the proposal of Professor Nada Majkić-Singh, in 1997 the Society of Medical Biochemists of Yugoslavia at the time, now the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia, and the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade, established the Scientific Foundation and the Annual Scientific Conference »Professor Ivan Berkeš«. Beginning in 1998, Scientific Conferences have been presenting masters and doctoral theses in medical biochemistry and related disciplines defended during the previous academic year. Also, the best graduate students in pharmacy and medical biochemistry of the Faculty of Pharmacy in the previous academic year have been awarded the monetary awards of the Scientific Foundation. The monograph reviews all the twenty-one scientific conferences that took place so far, concluded with the last one, held in December 2019. Also, presents the biographies of all the forty-eight laureates of the Scientific Foundation, informing us briefly about their careers in pharmacy and medical biochemistry, in Serbia and worldwide. The 2020 Scientific Conference could not take place because of the restrictions imposed by the global pandemic that prevented us from gathering. However, the Foundation did not miss to hand the well-deserved awards to the best students of the Faculty of Pharmacy in 2020, Milena Simić (Master of Pharmacy-medical biochemist) and Milan Beljkaš (Master of Pharmacy). SMBS congratulate them on their first success, wishing them fruitful careers in pharmacy and medical biochemistry, like the ones their predecessors have. We hope that the 2020 would be the only year in which the Scientific Conference did not take place, and that the memory of Professor Ivan Berkeš will be alive for many years to come through the activities of Scientific Foundation, annual Scientific Conference, and many young laureates of the Foundation award.

After opening address of Prof. dr Nada Majkić-Singh, the Found President following the welcoming address of the Vice Dean for Teaching of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Prof. Dr. Jelena Đuriš, the Fund President Prof. Dr. Majkić-Singh, presented the awards of the Foundation. Diploma and money awards were traditionally presented by the Scientific Fund »Dr Ivan Berkeš« to the best students of the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade, and this year recipients were Marko Ivanković (Master of Pharmacy-Medical Biochemists) and Uroš Sretenović (Master of Pharmacy).



Marko Ivanković je rođen 22. 5. 2001. godine u Nišu gde je završio Osnovnu školu »Kralj Petar I« i Gimnaziju »Bora Stanković« sa odličnim uspehom i dobitnik je Diplome »Vuk Karadžić«. Nakon toga, 2020. godine, upisao je Farmaceutski fakultet u Beogradu, smer Farmacija – medicinska biohemija. Diplomski rad pod mentorstvom prof. dr Aleksandre Zeljković, koji je napisao na temu »Neholesterolski steroli u trudnoći: povezanost sa gojaznošću pre trudnoće i neonatalnim ishodima«, odbranio je oktobra 2025. godine na katedri za Medicinsku biohemiju, čime studije završava sa prosekom 9,94. Tokom studija bio je dobitnik državne stipendije, kao i stipendije za izuzetno nadarene studente koje dodeljuje Ministarstvo prosvete, kao i godišnje nagrade koju fakultet dodeljuje najboljim studentima integrisanih akademskih studija tokom svih pet godina studija. Takođe, dobitnik je nagrade Naučnog fonda »Profesor Ivan Berkeš« kao najbolji student Farmaceutskog fakulteta na smeru Farmacija – medicinska biohemija. Učestvovao je u brojnim projektima, domaćim i internacionalnim, kao što su: CEEPUS program (Portorož, 2024), 17. NAPSer kongres (Zlatibor, 2024), ESC kongres (Beograd, 2025), SEP program razmene (Lisabon, 2025), 70. EPSA Generalna skupština (Salamanca, 2025) i brojni projekti održani na samom fakultetu. Naučnoistraživački rad kojim je diplomirao takođe je predstavljao na XVII Mini-kongresu studenata Farmaceutskog fakulteta i 63. Kongresu studenata biomedicinskih nauka Srbije u Vrnjačkoj Banji. Bio je član fakultetskog Hora »Raskovnik«, kao i volonter Javnog zdravlja i Tima medicinskih biohemičara u okviru organizacije BPSA.

Marko Ivanković was born on May 22, 2001, in Niš, where he completed Elementary School »Kralj Petar I« and Grammar School »Bora Stanković« with outstanding academic performance, being awarded the »Vuk Karadžić« Diploma. In 2020, he enrolled at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade, majoring in Pharmacy – Medical Biochemistry. His

Graduate thesis, supervised by Prof. Dr. Aleksandra Zeljković, entitled »Non-cholesterol sterols in pregnancy: association with pregestational obesity and neonatal outcomes«, was defended in October 2025 at the Department of Medical Biochemistry, with a final GPA of 9.94/10. During his studies, he was a recipient of the state scholarship, the scholarship for exceptionally gifted students awarded by the Ministry of Education, and the annual faculty award for the best students of integrated academic studies, throughout all five years of study. He also received the Scientific Fund Award »Professor Ivan Berkeš« as the best student of the Faculty of Pharmacy in the Pharmacy – Medical Biochemistry program. He participated in numerous national and international projects, including the CEEPUS program (Portorož, 2024), the 17th NAPSer Congress (Zlatibor, 2024), the ESC Congress (Belgrade, 2025), the SEP exchange program (Lisbon, 2025), and the 70th EPSA General Assembly (Salamanca, 2025), as well as various faculty-based projects. His research work was presented at the XVII Mini-Congress of Pharmacy Students and the 63rd Congress of Biomedical Science Students of Serbia (Vrnjačka Banja). Beyond academics, he was a member of the Faculty Choir »Raskovnik«, and volunteered in Public Health initiatives and the Medical Biochemists Team within the BPSA organization.



Uroš Sretenović je rođen 11.04.2001. godine u Bariču gde je završio osnovnu školu »14. Oktobar«. Nakon toga je upisao srednju medicinsku školu – »farmaceutsko-fizioterapeutska škola« u Beogradu koju je završio 2020. Iste godine upisao je Farmaceutski fakultet Univerziteta u Beogradu, smer farmacija na kojem je diplomirao u oktobru 2025. godine sa prosečnom ocenom 9,55. Diplomski rad pod nazivom »Farmakogenozijsko ispitivanje lista dunje, Cydonia

oblonga Mill. (Rosaceae)» odbranio je na katedri za farmakognoziju pod mentorstvom docentkinje dr sc. Jelene Kukić-Marković. Dobitnik je nagrade Naučnog fonda »Profesor Ivan Berkeš« kao najbolji student Farmaceutskog fakulteta na smeru farmacija koji je diplomirao u školskoj 2024/2025. godini. Tokom studija bio je 2 puta nagrađivan Godišnjom nagradom Farmaceutskog fakulteta najboljim studentima. Stipendista je Fonda za mlade talente Republike Srbije-Dositeja za školsku 2024/2025. godinu i 2 puta je bio stipendista Ministarstva prosvete, nauke i tehnološkog razvoja Republike Srbije. Takođe je bio dobitnik projekta »studentske nagrade« opštine Obrenovac 2 puta. Trenutno obavlja pripravnički staž u apotekarskoj ustanovi »Apoteka Beograd«.

Uroš Sretenović was born on 11.04.2001. in Barič where he finished elementary school »14. Oktobar.« After that he enrolled in medical high school- »farmaceutsko-fizioterapeutska škola« in Belgrade which he graduated from in 2020. In the same year, he enrolled at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade in the pharmacy major, where he graduated in October 2025. with an average grade of 9,55. He defended his graduate thesis titled »Pharmacognostic investigation of quince leaf, *Cydonia oblonga* Mill. (Rosaceae)« under the mentorship of docent dr. sc. Jelena Kukić-Marković. He is the recipient of the »Professor Ivan Berkeš« science fund award as the top student in the Pharmacy program who graduated in the 2024/2025 academic year. During his studies, he was twice awarded the Faculty of Pharmacy's annual award for the best students. He is a scholarship recipient of the Fund for young talents of the Republic of Serbia-Dositeja for the year 2024/2025 school year and has twice been a recipient of a scholarship from the Ministry of education, science and technological development of the Republic of Serbia. He was also a two-time recipient of the Obrenovac Municipality's »Student award« project. Currently he is doing an internship at the »Apoteka Beograd« pharmacy.

The scientific program was completed by five lectures held by doctors of medical sciences-pharmacy, who defended their doctoral theses or other scientific investigation in the previous years, and one Specialist of Medical Biochemistry. The topics of the lectures were precisely from the topics of their research. The first lecture titled »The importance of oxidative stress and the kynurenine pathway of tryptophan metabolism in the onset and development of multiple sclerosis in the population of Serbia« was presented by Marija Vasić who received her doctorate at the Department of Medical Biochemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade. Second lecture titled »Cholesterol synthesis and absorption markers and sphingolipid profile in preeclampsia« was presented by Tamara Antonić who received her doctorate Department of Medical Biochemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade. Third lecture titled »Inflammatory markers and qualitative and quantitative high-density lipoprotein particle characterization in preeclampsia risk assessment« was presented by Gorica Marković who received her doctorate at the Department of Medical Biochemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade. Fourth lecture titled »The influence of methionine sulfoxide reductase A on the occurrence of COPD« was held by Vera Milovanović who received her doctorate Department of Medical Biochemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade. The final lecture was held by Slađana Menković, EuSpLM, from research from her specialist medical study titled »Significance of glycoalbumin determination in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus«, Department of Medical Biochemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade.

The continuity of this conference is based on respect for the past, but also on the awareness that young and new PhDs of the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Serbia are the pillars of the future of pharmaceutical and medical laboratory science in Serbia. This is exactly a confirmation that science and the profession are closely connected, which also strengthens their quality.



Professor Nada Majkić-Singh opening the Twenty fifth Annual Scientific Conference »Professor Ivan Bekeš«.



Ass. Prof. Neda Milinković welcoming address to the Conference participants.



Professor Nada Majkić-Singh inviting the Faculty Vice Dean Professor Jelena Đuriš to address the Conference participants.



Professor Jelena Đuriš, Vice Dean for Teaching of the Faculty of Pharmacy welcoming address to the participants.



Professor Nada Majkić-Singh presenting the Scientific Conference Monograph »"Professor Ivan Berkeš«.



The Twenty fifth Annual Scientific Conference participants.



Professor Nada Majkić-Singh presenting the Found Award to Marko Ivanković.



Marko Ivanković receiving Fund Award.



Uroš Sretenović receiving Fund Award.



Jelena Đuriš, Uroš Sretenović, Nada Majkić-Singh, Marko Ivanković and Neda Milinković.



Ass. Prof. Neda Milinković opening the Scientific Conference Program.



Dr Marija Vasić presenting the lecture.



Dr Tamara Antonić presentig the lecture.



Dr Gorica Marković presenting the lecture.



Dr Vera Milovanović presenting the lecture.



Slađana Menković presenting lecture.



Conference lecturers with Nada Majkić-Singh and Neda Milinković.



Fund Laureates Uroš Sretenović and Marko Ivanković with lecturers and Nada Majkić-Singh and Neda Milinković.



Conference participants.