

SOCIETY OF MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTS OF SERBIA

70 YEARS OF EXISTENCE AND WORK

Nada Majkić-Singh

Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia

This year, the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia (DMBS) is celebrating the 70th anniversary of its dedicated work. As a member of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) and the European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM), the Society has contributed to the advancement of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine both in Serbia and internationally.

The Society is also a member of the regional Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (BCLF).

Historical Development

The Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia (formerly the Yugoslavian DMBJ) was founded in 1955, although medical biochemists in Serbia began organising into professional associations shortly after World War II. In fact, even before 1950, laboratory experts were meeting within the Pharmaceutical Society of Serbia. Among the most active were Prof. Dr. Aleksandar Damanski in bromatology, Prof. Dr. Momčilo Mokranjac in toxicology, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pavle Trpinac in biochemistry.

The Section for Sanitary Chemistry, which brought together all three profiles of laboratory professionals, was established on January 1, 1951. This section was later renamed the Section for Medical Biochemistry of Serbia, with Professor Dr. Pavle Trpinac serving as its first president.

In May 1971, the Society of Medical Biochemists of Yugoslavia became the 28th member of the International Federation for Clinical Chemistry (IFCC). At that time, the president of the Society was Primarius Tatjana Plečaš-Drljača, a Serbian medical biochemist, while the president of the IFCC was Dr. Martin Rubin.



Profesor Pavle Trpinac





Primarius Tatjana Plečaš-Drljača

A detailed account of the development of medical biochemistry in Yugoslavia and later in Serbia can be found in two monographs: *The Development of Medical Biochemistry in Yugoslavia and Serbian Medical Biochemistry in the 21st Century – After 70 Years*.

This historical journey began in the latter half of the 12th century when the Serbian people began to shape their national culture at the Studenica Monastery. It continued with the founding of the first Serbian hospital by Saint Sava at the Hilandar Monastery on Mount Athos.

At the Sixth Plenary Session of the Association of Pharmaceutical Societies of Yugoslavia (SFDJ), held on May 15, 1955, in Split, a resolution was passed to establish a Section for Medical Biochemistry within the organisation. A decade later, at the Sixteenth Plenary Session on May 15, 1965, in Banja Luka, this section was formally reorganised and renamed the *Society for Medical Biochemistry* within the SFDJ. In recognition of these key events, and following a decision made by the Society on April 6, 1995, May 15 was officially designated as the **Day of the Society of Medical Biochemists of Yugoslavia**. After the dissolution of Yugoslavia, the Society briefly operated under the name *Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia and Montenegro*. It later adopted its current name, the *Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia*, under which it continues to function today. Notably, it remains the only professional association from the former Yugoslav region to retain uninterrupted full membership in both the International Federation for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) and the European Federation for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM).



EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY
AND LABORATORY MEDICINE

Mission

The goal of the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia (DMBS) is to bring together medical biochemists in order to improve and develop all branches of medical biochemistry within the healthcare sector. The tasks of the Society include standardising practices in clinical-biochemical laboratories, educating medical biochemists at all levels of education, encouraging scientific research, establishing work norms, and implementing, applying, and respecting the code of ethics for healthcare professionals. The DMBS proposes the standards established in the field of medical biochemistry to the relevant national institutions. One of the Society's tasks is to facilitate the exchange of experiences between its members and those of related organisations both in the country and abroad.

Organisation of the Society

The Society was renamed the **Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia (DMBS)** in 2006. The Executive Board and the Assembly govern it.

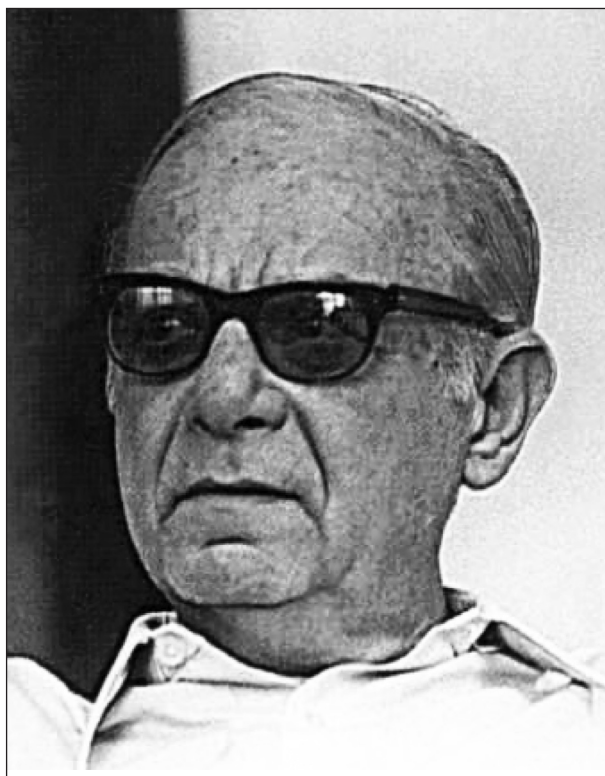
The Society carries out its activities through several Committees, including those for science, education, congress activities, standardisation, organisation and technology of laboratory services, quality control, quality management and accreditation, industry cooperation, history of medical and clinical chemistry, the ethics committee, and a committee for collaboration with IFCC, EFLM, BCLF, and related organisations both domestically and internationally.

The Society comprises regular members, associate members from companies, and student members, totalling approximately 700 members. There is also a growing interest in membership from other related natural and medical science disciplines.

As a member of all relevant international professional and scientific organisations for clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine (IFCC, EFLM, BCLF), the Society successfully fulfils its responsibilities on the global stage.

Professional Activities

Since its founding, the Society has been actively involved in all areas of clinical chemistry in accordance with the guidelines and strategic direction of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC). The main activities of the Society focus on education and the organisation of laboratory services, external quality control, as well as congress and publishing activities.



Prof. Dr. Ivan Berkeš

In cooperation with the Faculty of Pharmacy, the Society has developed educational programs at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels (master's, doctoral studies, and specialisations), including a 5-year medical biochemistry degree program and a 4-year specialist training program.

Professor Ivan Berkeš played a crucial role in establishing the specialisation in medical biochemistry in Yugoslavia, being a founder of medical biochemistry and clinical enzymology.

The Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia collaborates with the Ministry of Health in organising laboratory services at all levels of healthcare – primary, secondary, and tertiary – with the aim of implementing education plans, arranging services, procuring equipment, and more.

In 1965, the Society of Medical Biochemists of Yugoslavia introduced an external quality control program for laboratories known as YUNEQAS, which later continued under the name SNEQAS. This program enables the evaluation of laboratory performance and facilitates ongoing improvement in all clinical biochemistry laboratories throughout Serbia.

To advance and improve the quality of laboratory services, the Society, together with the Institute of Medical Biochemistry at the Clinical Center of Serbia and the Accreditation Body of Serbia (ATS), began implementing a quality management system in 2000 according to the ISO 9001 standard, as well as accred-

itation based on ISO 17025 and ISO 15189 standards.

The Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia has also been actively involved in the initiative to establish the **Chamber of Biochemists of Serbia**. This professional organisation brings together medical biochemists as healthcare professionals.

Publishing Activities

The Society undertakes significant publishing activities. Its members have contributed to the prepa-



ration of numerous professional guidelines in the field of medical biochemistry at both the national and, earlier, the federal level.

For over 25 years, the Society published the *Journal Jugoslovenska medicinska biohemija*, which was renamed in 2007 to the *Journal of Medical Biochemistry*.

The Society has also published a significant number of books and monographs by its members.

Notably, the monograph *Development of Medical Biochemistry in Yugoslavia* by N. Majkić-Singh, J. Đurđević, and J. Kavarić provides a comprehensive account of the evolution of medical biochemistry in our country, from the Middle Ages to the present day.

The monograph *Serbian Medical Biochemistry in the 21st Century* provides a detailed account of the development and importance of medical biochemistry in Serbia, as well as its cooperation with international organisations.

This monograph is significant as it describes the origin and development of the Central laboratory, specifically the Institute of Medical Biochemistry at the Clinical Centre of Serbia.

DMBS maintains significant cooperation with members of the Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (BCLF) and, as a member of EFLM, participates in organising the 16th EFCC (EFLM) Symposium for the Balkan region.

Congress Activities

The first professional and scientific meeting of medical biochemists in Yugoslavia was held in 1955 in Zagreb, and the first Congress of Medical Biochemists of Yugoslavia also took place in Zagreb in 1963. Each subsequent congress marked a new level



JUGOSLOVENSKA MEDICINSKA BIOHEMIJA

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Нада Мајкић-Синг • Јелена Ђурђевић • Јован Каварић

РАЗВОЈ МЕДИЦИНСКЕ БИОХЕМИЈЕ У ЈУГОСЛАВИЈИ

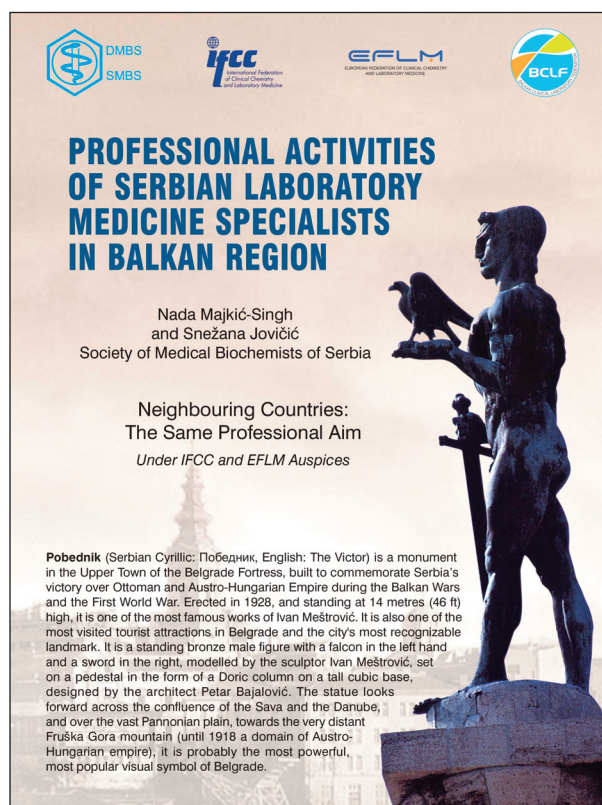
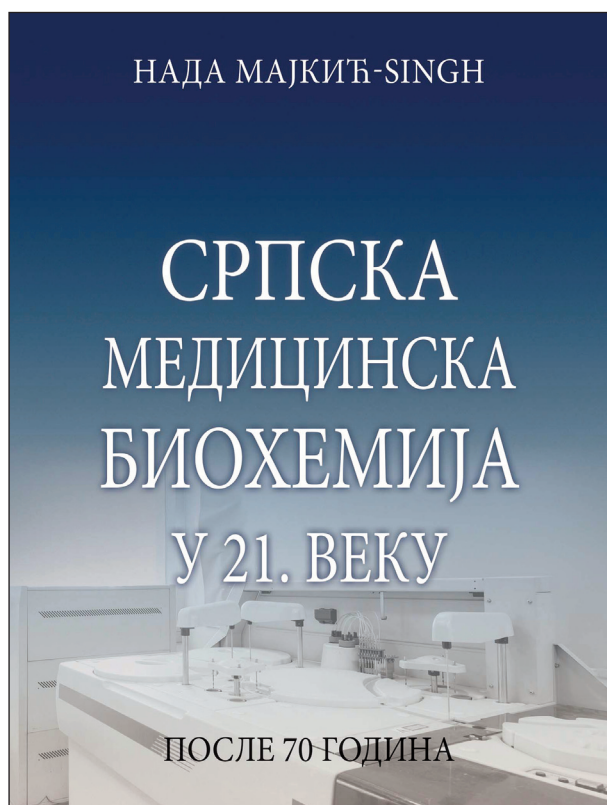


Nada Majkić-Singh

CENTRALNA LABORATORIJA & INSTITUT ZA MEDICINSKU BIOHEMIJU KLINIČKOG CENTRA SRBIJE



1952 U reči i slici 2002



of quality and visible progress in the profession's development.

- Today, the Society regularly organises:
- Congresses (every two years)
- The annual Scientific Conference »Professor Ivan Berkeš«

Updates in Laboratory Medicine, as well as courses for continuing medical education.

As a member of the Balkan Clinical Laboratory Federation (BCLF), the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia has organised three BCLF congresses to date: the 4th in Budva (1996), the 11th in Belgrade (2003), and the 20th in Belgrade (2012).

Plenary lectures from these congresses were published as a monograph titled *Advances in Laboratory Medicine* (DMBJ, 1996) and in the *Jugoslavenska medicinska biohemija* journal (Vol. 23, No. 3, 2004).

- Under the patronage of IFCC and EFCC, the Society organises the annual Symposium for the Balkan Region.
- Sixteen symposia have been held on current topics in clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine.
- All materials have been published in the *Journal of Medical Biochemistry*.

A significant monograph titled *Professional Activities of Serbian Laboratory Medicine Specialists in Balkan Region – Neighbouring Countries: The Same Professional Aim* by N. Majkić-Singh and S. Jovičić documents all 16 Belgrade Symposium for the Balkan Region events (Belgrade, 2022).

To date, the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia has organised twenty-three congresses. On the occasion of its 55th anniversary, the Society is organising the 17th Congress of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine, along with the 6th EFCC Symposium for the Balkan Region, featuring significant participation from experts of IFCC, EFCC, and BCLF.

Scientific Fund »Professor Ivan Berkeš«

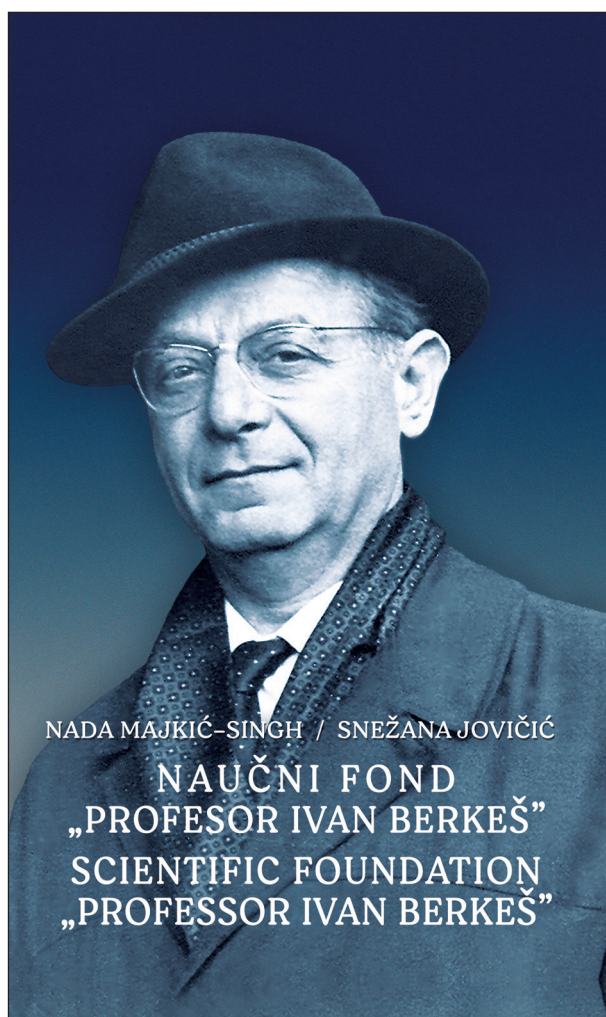
In 1997, the Society established the *Fund and Scientific Conference Professor Ivan Berkeš*, dedicated to the founder of medical biochemistry and clinical chemistry in Yugoslavia and Serbia. This conference is held annually in Belgrade (with twenty-four scientific conferences held so far). On these occasions, awards are presented to the most successful students of the Faculty of Pharmacy, specifically to pharmacy graduates specialising in medical biochemistry. The biographies of all 60 award recipients are documented in the monograph *Scientific Fund Professor Ivan Berkeš* (Belgrade, 2021).



Vladimir Dobričić receiving Fund Award



Jelena Pantić receiving Fund Award



NADA MAJKIĆ-SINGH / SNEŽANA JOVIČIĆ

NAUČNI FOND
„PROFESOR IVAN BERKEŠ”
SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATION
„PROFESSOR IVAN BERKEŠ”

Professor Ivan Berkeš

Other Activities

The Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia established the **Magistra Milica Marković Fund** out of respect for one of its members. Through this fund, the Society awards medical biochemists for outstanding professional achievements, as well as successful laboratories.



Primarius Milica Marković

The Society also operates the *Centre for Continuing Medical Education*, which is responsible for organising and delivering ongoing educational programs for medical biochemists.

The *Ethical Committee of the Society* oversees the implementation and adherence to ethical standards and the code of conduct for its members. At the same time, the Awards Committee identifies and nominates individuals and organisations for the Society's honours. These recognitions are given to those who have made significant contributions to the advancement of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine in Serbia and internationally. The DMBS awards *Certificates of Appreciation*, *Letters of Thanks*, and *Honorary Diplomas*. Many awards have been presented to members for their dedication and efforts in advancing the Society. The Society has also granted Honorary Diplomas to distinguished global experts and colleagues who have repeatedly participated in the Society's congresses and supported its activities. Among them are Stoyan Danev, Victor Blaton, Mario Plebani, Jose M. Queralto, Mario Werner, Mathias M. Müller, Jean-Clod Libeer, Graham H. Beastall, Gerard Siest, Mauro Panteghini, Tomris Ozben, Andrea Rita Horvath, Simone Zerah, David Goldberg, and Khosrow Adeli.



Prof. dr. Nada Majkić-Singh and Jon Čoban



Professor Victor Blaton

Award ceremony on the occasion of the Society's seventieth anniversary

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Society of Medical Biochemists, on May 15, 2025, *Certificates of Appreciation* were awarded to deserving organisations that have contributed to the development of the Society, as well as Letters of Acknowledgement to the Society's associate members:

Faculty of Pharmacy

Association of Pharmaceutical Societies of Serbia

Department of Medical Biochemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade

Military Medical Academy

Faculty of Medicine, University of Belgrade

Ministry of Health of the Republic of Serbia

Makler

Ljubomir Štrbac

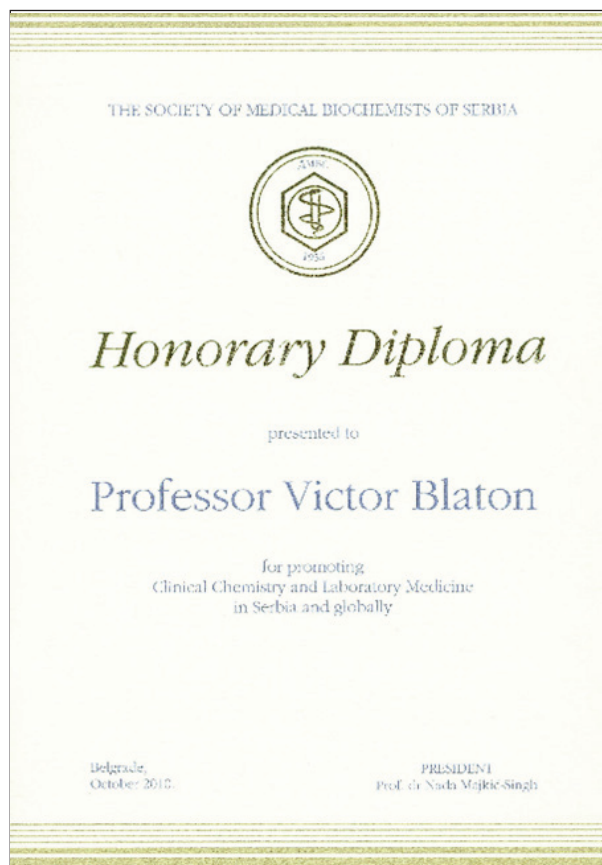
Team of Medical Biochemists, Student Organization of the Faculty of Pharmacy

Montenegrin Society of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine

Association of Medical Biochemists of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Association of Medical Biochemists of the Republic of Srpska

Association of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine of North Macedonia



Acknowledgements to Associate Members of DMBS

Makler

Abbott

Vicor

Roche

Euromedicina

Hermes-Pharma

Promedia

ДРУШТВО МЕДИЦИНСКИХ БИОХЕМИЧАРА СРБИЈЕ



70 ГОДИНА
ДРУШТВА МЕДИЦИНСКИХ БИОХЕМИЧАРА СРБИЈЕ

Повеља

Љубомиру Штрбцу,
директору фирме Маклер,
Београд

У знак признања и захвалности
за значајан допринос раду и развоју
Друштва медицинских биохемичара Србије

ДИРЕКТОР ДМБС


Проф. др Нада Мајкић-Сингх

У Београду,
15. мај 2025. година

ПРЕДСЕДНИК ДМБС


Доцент др Снежана Јовичић

ДРУШТВО МЕДИЦИНСКИХ БИОХЕМИЧАРА СРБИЈЕ



70 ГОДИНА
ДРУШТВА МЕДИЦИНСКИХ БИОХЕМИЧАРА СРБИЈЕ

Захвалница

HERMES-PHARMA d.o.o.

У знак признања и захвалности
за значајан допринос раду и развоју
Друштва медицинских биохемичара Србије

ДИРЕКТОР ДМБС


Проф. др Нада Мајкић-Сингх

У Београду,
15. мај 2025. година

ПРЕДСЕДНИК ДМБС


Доцент др Снежана Јовичић



Cordinators: Nada Majkić-Singh and Neda Milinković



President DMBS Snežana Jovičić opening Meeting



Nada Majkić-Singh address to Meeting



Meeting participants



Nada Majkić-Singh presenting data about Seventy years of the SMBS



Nada Majkić-Singh presenting data about Seventy years of the SMBS



Coordinators: Snežana Jovičić and Neda Milinković



Snežana Jovičić inviting winners of the SMBS Award



Nataša Bogavac-Stanojević, Pharmaceutical Faculty Dean



Branislava Miljković, president SFUS



Aleksandra Stefanović, Department of the Medical Biochemistry Pharmaceutical Faculty



Bratislav Dejanović, Military Accademy



Marija Plješa Ercegovac, Medical Faculty



Mirsad Đerlek, Secretary of the MHRS



Ljubomir Štrbac, director of the Makler company



Anastasija Petrović, TMBSOFF



Tanja Antunović, president CSCHLB



Jozo Ćorić, UMBBIH



Draženka Grubač, UMBRS



Ljubomir Štrbac, company Makler



Neda Milinković and Isidora Crnčević, Abbott



Neda Milinković and Mira Panjković, Vicor



Neda Milinković and Vladana Hrabar, Roche



Neda Milinković and Mila Čačić, Euromedicina



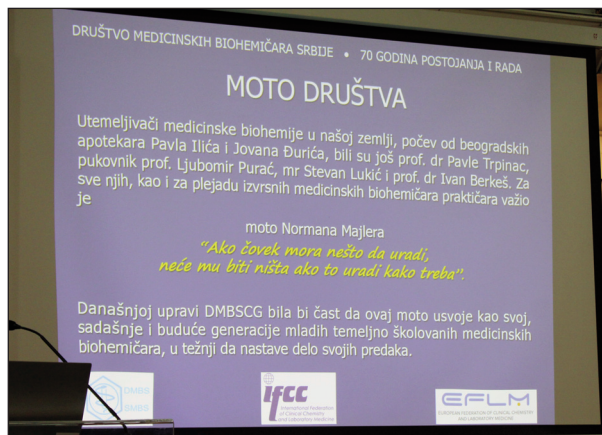
Neda Milinković and Vesna Opsenica, Hermes-Pharma



Ivana Moljković, Hotel M



Nada Majkić-Singh



Society Moto