



EDITORIAL / УВОДНИК

150th anniversary of the Serbian Medical Society – the year in review

As we look back at the year just wrapping up, we inevitably ponder on whether it met our expectations, and if it did answer our hopes, to what extent? In the wake of its 150th birthday, the Serbian Archives of Medicine welcomed the year 2022 filled with ancestral pride and joy the future is yet to bring. The Serbian Archives of Medicine is the official journal of the Serbian Medical Society (SMS), the oldest society of its kind in modern medical Serbian history, founded in Belgrade (Serbia), on April 22, 1872 (according to the Julian calendar), i.e. May 4, 1872 (according to the Gregorian calendar) [1, 2]. About this historic action of a group of medical doctors who were practicing in Belgrade and who were led by Dr. Vladan Đorđević, one could read in the Invited Editorial by the President of the SMS – Professor Radoje Čolović, Member of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts [3].

This year will be proudly remembered, first of all, as the one when Academician Čolović, as our President, was the recipient of the national Sretenje Order of the 1st Class that the Serbian President, Mr. Aleksandar Vučić, awarded the SMS, upon the recommendation of the President of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, on February 15, 2022 – the anniversary of Candlemas (Sretenje) Constitution of 1835 that Serbia celebrates as a national holiday (Figure 1) [4].

The 150th birthday of the SMS was marked by numerous events throughout 2022 with the first one held at the Ceremonial Hall of the Ser-

bian Academy of Sciences and Arts on May 4, 2022 – the day the Society was founded [1, 2, 3, 5]. In attendance were Mr. Ivica Dačić, President of the Serbian National Assembly, Prof. Marina Soković, Deputy-Minister of Education, Sciences and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia, Professor Zoran Radojičić, Mayor of the City of Belgrade and renowned paediatric surgeon at the Belgrade University Faculty of Medicine, Professor George Rakovich, renowned cardiothoracic surgeon from the University of Montreal (Canada), of Serbian descent and the official representative of North American MD group preserving traditional values of Serbian medicine and humanity, as well as other distinguished guests, academicians and members of the Society (Figure 2). Later on this year, the 20th Congress of Serbian Doctors, twice postponed since 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic, finally took place in Belgrade, November 25–26, 2022 [6].

The era we live in embraced electronic media in a comprehensive fashion nationally and internationally. Although the world is turning more and more aggressive in all walks of life, and is aiming to replace the paper editions of anything and everything, the SMS endeavours to maintain a healthy balance, unconcerned with global discussions even in the medical circles to completely cease publication as we know it. In that way, the SMS enables the May 4, 2022 anniversary at the Serbian Academy of



Figure 1. The national Sretenje Order of the 1st Class that the Serbian President, Mr. Aleksandar Vučić, awarded the Serbian Medical Society on February 15, 2022 – the anniversary of Candlemas (Sretenje) Constitution of 1835 that Serbia celebrates as a national holiday



Figure 2. Ceremonial Hall of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA) on May 4, 2022 – the day the Serbian Medical Society was founded in 1872. *Right to left:* Prof. Aleksa Marković, Dean of School of Dental Medicine, University of Belgrade, Academician Ljubomir Maksimović, SASA Vice-President, Prof. Zoran Radojičić, Mayor of the City of Belgrade, Academician Prof. Vladimir S. Kostić, SASA President, Mr. Ivica Dačić, President of the Serbian National Assembly, Academician Zoran Knežević, SASA Secretary-General, Prof. Marina Soković, Deputy-Minister of Education, Sciences and Technological Development RS, Academician Prof. Radoje Čolović, President of the Serbian Medical Society and Prof. George Rakovich from University of Montreal, Canada



Figure 3. The 150th anniversary stamp for the Serbian Medical Society designed by the Post of Serbia

Vladimir Kostić and Radoje Čolović, and Dr. Zoran Vacić, President of the SMS History of Medicine Division as keynote speakers.

Science and Arts to be followed live via its website, but the Anniversary Book dedicated to 150 years of the SMS [5] and the paper edition of the Abstract Book of the 20th Meeting [6] have been published, as well. The perseverance in maintaining its paper editions might have been misinterpreted as the SMS leadership's "old school" sentimental approach; still, in the energy-deficient times that the world faces due to geopolitical struggles in far Eastern Europe, the Society's position from earlier this year had turned to be more far-sighted than expected, for the Serbian Archives of Medicine are still readily available for our global readership and not depending on electricity cuts Serbia has been spared, so far, in contrast to the rest of the world.

One of the last in a long line of SMS 150th Anniversary celebrations will be the promotion of the Serbian edition of Emmerich Lindermeier's book *Serbien, dessen Entwicklung und Fortschritt im Sanitätswesen, mit Andeutungen über die gesammten Sanitäts-Verhältnisse im Oriente* [7]. The book was first published in 1876 in Timișoara (Romania). Chief of Staff of the First Serbian Military Medical Service for seven years, and joint Military and Civil Medical Services Chief of Staff the next 13 years, Dr. Emmerich Lindermeier's work is of great importance for the history of the development of Medical Services in Serbia in the 19th century. With promotion scheduled for December 23, 2022, in the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, the book will be introduced by academicians and professors:

Nation-wide support to the SMS as one of national oldest institutions was felt and well-noted all along 2022 and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the oldest national daily "Politika" and the Post of Serbia: the former for publishing daily excerpts of the 150th Anniversary publication over 30 days and the latter designed a 150th Anniversary stamp for the SMS (Figure 3).

As I write these lines on what would have been the 147th birthday of Mileva Marić-Einstein – a researcher in her own right who never got the credit she deserved – and as the world as we know it changes by the minute while we embrace the new 2023 with challenges of its own, last but not the least, as I wish you all a healthy and prosperous new year, I would like to remind you never to give up in publishing your own work irrelevant of your sex, gender, colour or creed for science should be free of bias towards all who bring progress no matter how small it seems.

Conflict of interest: None declared.

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