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**Forty years of the Academy of Medical Sciences
of the Serbian Medical Society**

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Forty years of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the Serbian Medical Society

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Recently, a gathering in tribute to forty years of the Academy of Medical Sciences (AMS) as a constitutive part of the Serbian Medical Society (SMS) was held at the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts. This was an opportunity to review its establishment, basic principles, and results (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Logo of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

World War, gradually, with the increased number of medical doctors educated in Serbia and new health services, the number of specialized sections in the SMS grew, in order to deal with the ever-increasing amount of information in medical practice and science. The idea that an academy of medical sciences should be formed was discussed at a broad level in medical centers and the Association of Medical Societies in former Yugoslavia in 1960s, but a united academy was never formed. Within the SMS, an initiative council was formed to establish basic principles for the Medical Academy (MA). At the assembly of the SMS held on 15 December 1976, the MA was officially formed [1]. The first members were introduced and elected according to the SMS Statutory decision and its high criteria. In 1977, as a substructure of the MA, scientific groups were formed and named Scientific Group for Surgery, Scientific Group for Internal Medicine, and Scientific Group for Preventive Medicine. Multidisciplinary Scientific Group was formed in 1994, and later, in 1999, it was linked to the Scientific Group for Preventive Medicine, forming the Scientific Group for Preventive and Multidisciplinary Medicine. In the same year, at the Assembly of the MA, new constitutive parts were formed in Vojvodina and Niš. The Medical Academy changed its name to Academy of Medical Sciences of the Serbian Medical Society in 2000 [2, 3].

Members of the AMS may be regular, associate, honorary, and foreign. Election criteria are similar to those for the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts. The overall number of members at

present is 298, out of which 132 members are regular, 79 associate, 61 honorary, and 26 foreign, which is around 1% of the total number of SMS members (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Diploma of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

The basic principles of AMS activities are determined in Article 10 of the SMS Statutory proposals as stated below:

The Academy shall perform the following tasks and works in realization of professional and scientific research work of the Society:

- It shall monitor and encourage the development of scientific work of basic, developmental and applied research in all fields of scientific-research work that are of interest for medicine and dentistry;
- It shall perform continuous education of physicians from its scope of work;
- It shall popularize and help the application of the scientific work results within the medicine and dentistry group;
- In the scope of its scientific programs, it shall make and propose the standards for accomplishment of the newest achievements in the field of medicine and dentistry;
- It shall perform the public influence in the field of science promotion and the adoption of new standards of general interest;
- In the scope of its activity it shall establish the cooperation with other relevant institutions and authorities to which it shall propose standards for introduction of the scientific research results into practice;

- It shall make proposals for harmonization of educational curricula, scientific and professional training in medicine and dentistry;
- It shall cooperate with other agencies and institutions at home and abroad to facilitate faster and easier implementation of the scientific and research results into practice
- It shall achieve affiliation with other related academies in the region and abroad.

The activities of the AMS and operational issues are closely regulated by the Rule of Procedure accepted by the Assembly of the AMS and approved by the Presidency of the SMS.

During the past 40 years, the activities of the AMS included the organization of 858 scientific and professional events, which encouraged the development of scientific research, its implementation in practice, and education in every area of medicine.

The AMS is also engaged in publishing activities and possesses a library of 484 books and 81 special issues which were published by the AMS or donated by members. Special publishing activities include editing books with content of presentations held at scientific meetings. These editions are evaluated by the AMS Editorial Board, as well as independent reviewers.

Annual information on the entire scope of activities, members, reports, and plans for the next year has been regularly published since 2001. This appears to be useful for keeping all members informed. The website about the AMS is incorporated into the web presentation of the SMS. Activities of the AMS and its bodies are public and open to public media.

The aim of AMS activities has been continuously achieved by the enthusiastic approach of its members over the years. We are looking forward to continuous contribution of the AMS to the basic values of the SMS, not only as a professional but also a cultural value of the Serbian society.

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