

SECOND CONGRESS OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES OF SERBIA WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

(September 17-20, 2009, Kragujevac, Serbia)

REPORT

The *Second Congress of Physiological Sciences of Serbia with International Participation* was held at the Faculty of Medicine University of Kragujevac in Kragujevac in the period 17-20 September 2009. The Congress was organized by the *Serbian Physiological Society* and the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Kragujevac, and under the auspices of the *Federation of European Physiological Societies* (FEPS), the *International Union of Physiological Sciences* (IUPS) and the *International Society for Pathophysiology* (ISP). The congress obtained 21 points for continuous medical education from the *Union of European Medical Specialists* (UEMS). The *Ministry of Science and Technological Development*, the *Ministry of Health*, the *Municipality of Kragujevac* and several domestic and foreign sponsors supported the Congress. The Chairman of the Congress and the Program Committee was Dragan Djuric, *President, Serbian Physiological Society, Director, Institute of Medical Physiology "Richard Burian", School of Medicine University of Belgrade*, and Co-Chairmen of the Organizing Committee were Vladimir Jakovljevic, *Secretary General, Serbian Physiological Society, Vice-Dean, Faculty of Medicine University of Kragujevac* and Nebojsa Arsenijevic, *Dean, Faculty of Medicine University of Kragujevac*. Co-Chairmen of honour were Ole Petersen, *FRS, Secretary General, International Union of Physiological Sciences, Liverpool, UK* and Naranjan Dhalla, *FRSC, Executive Director and CEO, International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences, Winnipeg, Canada*. On behalf of the *Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts* the Congress was greeted by Vice-President Ljubisav Rakic, by the new elected Chancellor of the University of Kragujevac - Slobodan Arsenijevic, and by the ex-Chancellor of the same University Mirko Rosic. The Congress was also attended by Veselinka Susic, *Secretary of the Department of Medical Sciences of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts*. A collection of abstracts which were presented at the Congress were published in English (with a proper CIP index) – 186 abstracts were accepted and had been chosen by the Program Committee, 78 of which were presented orally (4 plenary presentations), 108 of which were poster presentations, 2 presentations were in commercial sessions, and 6 abstracts were not accepted. More than 90% of all abstracts were related to experimental (basic) biomedical research, and the others dealt with clinical physiology and applied research. A young author S. Stamenkovic from the Faculty of Biology University of Belgrade was awarded for the best poster presented. Of all abstracts 34 came from abroad, 33 of which were presented. Within the Congress an *International Satellite Symposium on Stem Cell Biology* was organized by the *Academy of Medical Sciences of the Serbian Medical Society* and the *Serbian Physiological Society*; it was chaired by Miodrag Stojkovic and Pavle Milenkovic, as well as several sessions on cardiovascular biology, experimental and clinical neurophysiology, endocrinology, neuroendocrinology, immunohematology, genetic epidemiology, integrative physiology of stress and exercise, pharmacological research and herbal extracts, hyperbaric and gravitational physiology etc. The Congress was attended by over 200 participants from the country and abroad; among the others there were representatives of the *International Union of Physiological Sciences*, the *International Society for Pathophysiology* and the *International Academy for Cardiovascular Sciences* who greeted the gathering, representatives of national societies of physiological sciences from the neighbouring countries, editors of the international journals *Canadian Journal of Physiology and Pharmacology*, *Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry*, *Acta Physiologica Hungarica*, as well as the researchers from the USA, Canada, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, France,

Hungary, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, Thailand, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Belarus, Russia and Serbia (in total 18 countries). During the Congress the *Serbian Physiological Society* presented the *Life Achievement Awards* to Emil Monos (Budapest, Hungary), Helmut Heinle (Tübingen, Germany), Tomislav Djokic (Kosovska Pristina/Kosovska Mitrovica) and *Scientific Contribution Award* to Miodrag Stojkovic (Kragujevac/Valencia, Spain). During the Congress special issue of the scientific journal *General Physiology and Biophysics* (Vol. 28, 2009) dedicated to the founder of the *Institute of Medical Physiology, School of Medicine University of Belgrade* Professor Richard Burian (1871-1955) was promoted by the guest editor Vladimir Strbak (Bratislava, Slovak Republic). Highly creative spirit of the Congress was enriched by two painting exhibitions of Tomislav Djokic (*Faculty of Medicine University of Pristina/ Kosovska Mitrovica*) and Sretko Divljan (*Faculty of Pedagogy in Jagodina University of Kragujevac*). According to the number of abstracts on basic medical research, the number of participants from abroad and science quality of the presentations, this was the most successful biomedical congress held in our country in the year 2009.

*The Report prepared by
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