

## THE XVII ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE »PROFESSOR IVAN BERKEŠ«

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*Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia*

The 2014 Annual Scientific Conference »Professor Ivan Berkeš« was held on December 2nd at Military Medical Academy in Belgrade. This Annual Scientific Conference and Fund »Professor Ivan Berkeš« were established seventeen years ago to honour life and work of professor Ivan Berkeš. He was one of the founders of medical biochemistry in former Yugoslavia and left an indelible trace in the basis of our profession. At the Faculty of Pharmacy University of Belgrade professor Berkeš established the syllabus for post-graduate specialization in medical biochemistry. With over 200 publications, mentoring of 150 specialists in medical biochemistry and several tens of doctoral candidates, he immensely contributed to the development of clinical laboratory profession in Serbia. For the past seventeen years the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia (SMBS) and the Faculty of Pharmacy University of Belgrade honour his work through the Scientific Fund and Annual Scientific Conference as a sign of appreciation and respect for this remarkable teacher and eminent expert. The Conference is organized under the auspices of the SMBS, Scientific Foundation »Professor Ivan Berkeš«, Faculty of Pharmacy University of Belgrade, Institute for Medical Biochemistry of the Clinical Centre of Serbia, and Institute for Medical Biochemistry of the Military Medical Academy.

The XVII Annual Scientific Conference »Professor Ivan Berkeš« was opened traditionally with the welcoming address of prof. dr Nada Majkić-Singh, Executive Director of SMBS, the Brigade General prof. dr Marjan Novaković, Head of Military Medical Academy, and prof. dr Zorica Vujić, Dean of Faculty of Pharmacy University of Belgrade. Awards from the

Scientific Fund »Professor Ivan Berkeš«, given yearly to the two best graduate students from the Faculty of Pharmacy, were presented to Dušan Ružić, Master of Pharmacy, and Sanja Kandić, Master of Pharmacy-Medical Biochemist.

After the opening ceremony the scientific part of the Conference was traditionally dedicated to the presentation of doctoral thesis defended in the field of medical biochemistry at Faculty of Pharmacy during the past year. This year's doctorates were »The association of oxidative stress, inflammation and dyslipidemia in the pathogenesis of age-related macular degeneration« presented by dr Emina Čolak, »The importance preoperative and postoperative determination sepsis biomarkers for diagnosis and prognosis intraabdominal infections« by dr Tatjana Vodnik, »Influence of inherited and acquired factors on homocysteine blood level in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease« by dr Andjelo Beletić, »Gene expression analyses of antioxidative enzymes in rats' tissues and human blood: the influence of external factors and correlation with biochemical markers of oxidative stress« by dr Ana Ninić, »The significance of determination of symmetric-L-dimethylarginine and N-terminal pro B type natriuretic peptide in chronic kidney disease patients and renal transplant recipients« by dr Lidija Memon, and »Importance of pentraxin-3 determination in patients with angiographically proven coronary artery disease« by dr Vesna Vuković-Dejanović. The last lecture closed the XVII Annual Scientific Conference, leaving us assured in the bright future of medical biochemistry in Serbia thanks to the solid foundation professor Berkeš left us with.



Prof. dr Nada Majkić-Singh with awarded students.



From left to right: Sanja Kandić (awarded student), prof. dr Nada Majkić-Singh (Executive Director SMBS), Dušan Ružić (awarded student), General prof. dr Marjan Novaković (Head of Military Medical Academy), dr Zorica Šumarac (President of SMBS, coordinator on the Conference), dr Janko Pejović (coordinator on the Conference), and prof. dr Svetlana Ignjatović (coordinator on the Conference).