FIRST SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF YUGOSLAV NEPHROLOGISTS,
STRUGA, REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, 26-28.IX 1977
– INTRODUCTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEPHROLOGY
– IN FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

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Abstract: The first scientific meeting of nephrologists in Yugoslavia with international participation was held in Struga, Republic of Macedonia, on Lake Ohrid, 26 to 28 September 1977. During the Third Symposium on Endemic Nephropathy, which was held in Nis on 5 to 8 November 1975 at the Radon Hotel, representatives of the nephrology sections of the republics founded the Yugoslav Society of Nephrology. Academician Vojislav Danilovic from Belgrade was elected as the Association's first President. It was decided that the first scientific meeting of Yugoslav Nephrologists be held in Struga, Macedonia, 1977, and the first Nephrology Congress in Belgrade in 1979. It was also agreed that congresses be held every four years, and to organize scientific meetings between congresses. In this way, the Nephrology Association of Yugoslavia gained the opportunity for a lot of activities every two years. The Proceedings of the First Scientific Meeting of Yugoslav Nephrologists contained 6 plenary lectures and 84 papers presented during the three sections of the scientific meeting, 31 about hypertension and kidneys, 19 about immunology in nephrology and 34 about dialysis. The first scientific meeting of Yugoslav nephrologists with international participation was the first major review of the achievements of Nephrology in Yugoslavia, assessment of its results, work incentives and the creation of a vision for future development. The meeting strengthened the ties among the colleagues, new acquaintances were created, and new ideas for further cooperation appeared.

Key words: Scientific meeting, nephrologies, Yugoslavia, Struga, R. Macedonia, hypertension, dialysis, immunonephropathology, artificial intelligence.
There was a rapid development of nephrology in the second half of the twentieth century. This development was particularly stimulated by the introduction of renal biopsy, which allowed the investigation of kidney diseases and their classification, as well as by two revolutionary therapeutic methods—dialysis (haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis) and kidney transplantation.

The International Society of Nephrology (International Society of Nephrology) was formed in 1960. That same year the First International Congress of Nephrology was held in Geneva and Evian.

The academician Vojislav Danilović described the Balkan Endemic Nephropathy (BEN) in Serbia in 1957.

The application of haemodialysis in the treatment of patients with renal insufficiency and the study of BEN strongly influenced the development of nephrology in our country.

In 1970, a Nephrology Section of the Macedonian Medical Association was formed. The Institute of Nephrology and Haemodialysis in Niš was founded by a decision of the Medical Faculty of 13 January 1972, and became operational in 1973. The first director was Strahinjić Spira.

The first Department of Nephrology was created in 1975 in Skopje, and the first director was D. Hrisoho. Over time, in other university centres of the former Yugoslavia departments, clinics and institutes of nephrology were established.

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In July 1977 the first two kidney transplantations were performed in Skopje. A father and a brother donated kidneys.

First scientific meeting of Yugoslavian nephrology

The first scientific meeting of nephrologists of Yugoslavia de facto was a prelude to the development of nephrology in former Yugoslavia.
The first scientific meeting of nephrologists of Yugoslavia with international participation was held in Struga, on Lake Ohrid, 26 to 28 September 1977. This scientific meeting was the first major review of nephrologists of Yugoslavia with the participation of eminent nephrologists from Europe and the United States. It was a great stimulus for the development of nephrology in our region and beyond. The Organizing Committee Chairman of the meeting was Prof. Dr. Dimitar Hrisoho from Skopje, the Secretary-General was Dr J. Jovannovski, and Dr. Sonja Dzikova was the Technical Secretary. Members of the Organizing Committee were G. Masin, M. Polenakovic and K. Zafirovska. The scientific papers presented at the meeting were partially published in the Proceedings of the First Scientific Meeting, in the edition of Documents, c/12, 1977, of the Galenika pharmaceutical factory in Belgrade. Six plenary lectures and 84 papers presented in three sections were printed in the 723 pages of the Proceedings of the First Scientific Meeting of Nephrology. Those 90 papers partly reflected the level of nephrology in Yugoslavia in 1977. The Proceedings were published by the Yugoslav Association of Nephrology in cooperation with the Nephrology section of the Macedonian Medical Association and the Clinic of Nephrology, Medical Faculty, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. Here some lectures and articles from the Proceedings are mentioned.

Academician V. Danilovic from Belgrade presented "An overview of previous research investigations of etiology and pathogenesis of endemic nephropathy and directions for future research." JS. Cameron from London spoke about the treatment of glomerulonephritis. D. Hrisoho from Skopje gave a lecture entitled "Artificial intelligence – possibilities clinical assessment in nephrology," and V. Jovanovic from Belgrade and his associates presented a lecture entitled "Adequate Dialysis." Dr. Fon-Brentano from Paris spoke about haemofiltration as an alternative method for the treatment of end stage renal disease. P. Ivanovic from Chicago and his associates spoke on the application of haemodialyzators of large area and shortening the time needed for dialysis. At the meeting, there were also presentations by the famous nephropathophysiologists M. Burg from Bethesda (USA) on the movement of electrolytes through the tube and R. Klute from Freiburg, founder and publisher of the journal Clinical Nephrology, about nutrition in patients with renal insufficiency. Unfortunately, the lectures were not submitted for printing. The famous Bulgarian Academician Puhlev and his associates took part in the discussions on endemic nephropathy, but likewise did not submit lectures for print.

31 lectures are printed in section I ("Hypertension and Kidney"). Presenting certain diagnostic and therapeutic procedures which were the first experiences in our region, and therefore their importance is greater. There are
papers about malignant hypertension (D. Stanulović), the impact of hypertension on the brain (P. Kartin and F. Hrastnik), about hypertensive encephalopathy of nephrogen origin in children (R. Kotevska et al.), the changes in the retina in children with hypertension of renal origin (N. Smiljanić et al.), the EPH (oedema, proteinuria and hypertension) gestosis in pregnant women in correlation to hypertension (M. Zgrabić et al.), arterial blood pressure in endemic nephropathy (S. Strahinjić et al.), hypertension in polycystic kidneys (V. Ilic and S. Micic), the longitudinal approach programme of monitoring patients with arterial hypertension (K. Zafirovska et al.) and about normal blood pressure values in children of preschool and school age (A. Cvoric et al.). Experiences are given with experimental renovascular hypertension, which was acquired by the colleague N. Ilic in the U.S.A. Diagnostic and therapeutic aspects of renovascular hypertension attracted great attention at this scientific meeting. We have mentioned just some of the reported and published works, which demonstrates the great interest of nephrologists in a better understanding of the diagnosis and treatment of all forms of hypertension.

19 lectures are printed in Section II ("Immunology in Nephrology"). There are presentations of modern immunological methods in the diagnosis of kidney disease, a description and treatment of immune conditioned kidney disease, and immune aspects of transplantation. M. Polenakovic presented his own experience in immunohistochemical studies of glomerular lesions and emphasized the importance and necessity of applying the immunofluorescence method in the diagnosis of glomerulonephritis. A. Vizjak et al. presented the immunofluorescence findings in proliferate glomerulonephritis, M. Sindjic wrote about light microscopic and ultrastructural aspects of immune nephropathy, and G. Stavric and M. Polenakovic presented their own experiences on morphological aspects of immune glomerulopathy in adults. These texts, with many illustrations, are a kind of small atlas of the morphology of kidney disease, the first one of its kind in our country. Emphasis is placed on entities where immune-morphological diagnosis is important, as in IgA nephropathy. D. Ferluga et al. provide an analysis of morphological changes in renal biopsies in 24 patients with IgA glomerulonephritis. D. Dojcinov from Bulgaria and his colleagues write about the study of glomerulonephritis with the IgA immunofluorescence method, and M. Polenakovic and associates of the clinical-immunological studies of IgA nephropathy. Sv. Razbojnikov from Bulgaria and his colleagues write about the studies of lupus nephritis with the immunofluorescence method. D. Djukic and associates present that the Australia antigen is a possible cause of extra membranous glomerulonephritis, and the first author presents the possibility of a diagnosis of "dense deposit disease" without a biopsy. S. Susha and
associates gave a lecture entitled "Immune Aspects of Endemic Nephropathy", and V. Nikolic et al. gave a lecture on "The Effect of Immunosuppressive Therapy on the Length of Remission in Children with Idiopathic Nephrotic Syndrome, Steroid-dependent". M. Popovic-Rolovic presented the complement system as a mediator of immune responses in kidney disease, and V. Nikolic and colleagues reported on the proving of nephrotic factors and the attempt at their isolation. A. Kaštelan presented the immunological aspects of renal transplantation, S. Boskovic and colleagues published their own experiences of tissue compatibility and the survival of the transplanted kidney, V. Vuzevski from Amsterdam presented the pathology of kidney transplantation (acute organ rejection), and J. Grgas and associates, based on personal experience, wrote about chronic haemodialysis, blood transfusions and sensitization. Our nephrologists showed that they were following modern world medical issues in the field of immunology and kidney transplantation.

34 papers are published in section III ("Dialysis"). They show that the use of haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis in the treatment of patients with terminal renal failure prolong life in patients with the disease, while also creating a new pathology of patients living with an artificial kidney. The exceptional importance of this treatment encouraged a lot of research to be done that addresses different aspects of this therapy. A. Smetiško writes about the early rehabilitation of patients on chronic haemodialysis. G. Masin points out the important determinants in the individualisation of dialysis, and S. Stefanovic and colleagues write about the treatment of anaemia in patients on chronic haemodialysis. The adequacy of dialysis, hypertension, amino acids metabolism, enzymes, catecholamines, bone changes, metastatic calcification, pericarditis, viral hepatitis and dementia are just some of the subjects of presentations about problems in the application of dialysis. There are also presentations about vascular access, its importance for successful dialysis and life in patients, and comparing the effects of treatment with haemodialysis and transplantation.

The first scientific meeting of Yugoslav nephrologists with international participation was the first major review of the achievements of Nephrology in Yugoslavia, an assessment of the results, work incentives and the creation of a vision for future development. The meeting strengthened the ties among colleagues, new acquaintances were created, and new ideas for further cooperation appeared.
Figure 1 – First scientific meeting of Yugoslav Nephrologists
(Proceedings)
Figure 2 – V. Danilovic – Belgrade (left) and D. Hrishoho – Skopje (right)

Figure 3 – From left to right in the first row: JS. Cameron – London, R. Kluthe – Freiburg, I. Tadzer – Skopje and D. Hrisoho – Skopje
Figure 4 – From left to right: in the first row: M. Macanovic – Sarajevo, V. Molnar – Zagreb, in the second row: S. Strahinjic – Nis, in the third row: M. Radonjic – Zagreb, R. Hrisoho – Skopje and V. Danilovic – Belgrade

Figure 5 – From left to right in the first row: R. Kluthe – Freiburg, I. Tadzer – Skopje, D. Hrisoho – Skopje, F. Brentano – Paris, P. Ivanovich – Chicago, M. Polenakovic – Skopje
Figure 6 – From left to right: S. Susa – Belgrade, M. Sindjic – Belgrade, M. Polenakovic – Skopje

Figure 7 – From left to right: R. Kluthe – Freiburg, P. Ivanovich – Chicago, V. Danilovic – Belgrade, N. Calic-Perisic – Belgrade, A. Puhlev – Sofija
Резиме

ПРВ НАУЧЕН СОСТАНОК НА ЈУГОСЛОВЕНСКИТЕ НЕФРОЛОЗИ, СТРУГА, Република Македонија 26–28. ИХ 1977 – ВОВЕД ВО РАЗВОЈОТ НА НЕФРОЛОГИЈАТА ВО ПОРАНЕШНА ЈУГОСЛАВИЈА

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Апстракт: Првот научен собир на нефрологите во Југославија со меѓународно участво се одржа во Струга, Република Македонија, на Охридското Езеро, од 26–28 септември 1977 година. Во текот на Третиот симпозиум за ендемична нефропатија, кој се одржава во Ниш од 5–8 ноември 1975 година, во хотел Радон, претставници на отделите за нефрологија на републиките го основаа Југословенското нефролошко здружение. Академик Воислав Даниловиќ од Белград беше избран за прв претседател на Здружението. Беше одлучено првот научен собир на југословенските нефрологи да се одржи во Струга во 1977 година, а првот нефрошк конгрес во Белград во 1979 година. Исто така, беше договорено конгресите да се одржуваат на секои четири години, и да се организираат научни средињи меѓу конгресите. На овој начин, Југословенското нефролошко здружение се здоби со можност за многу активности на секои две години. Зборникот од Првата научна средба на југословенските нефроологи содржи 6 пленарни предавања и 84 трудови презентирани во текот на трите секции на научната средба, 31 за хипертензија и бубрези, 19 за имунологијата во нефрологијата и 34 за дијализа. Првот научен собир на југословенските нефроологи со меѓународно участво беше првот голем преглед на постигнувањата на нефрологијата во Југославија, оцена на резултатите, мотивацијата за работа и креирање на визија за иднинот развој. Состанокот ги зајакна врските межу колегите, беа создадени нови познанства и нови идеи за понатамошна соработка.

Ключни зборови: научен собир, нефроологија, Југославија, Струга, Р. Македонија, хипертензија, дијализа, имунонефропатологија, вештачка интелигенција.

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