BOOK REVIEW


It’s finally here. Students of the School of Dental Medicine have long been unfortunate not to possess a comprehensive textbook of surgery. The idea of writing a book that would aid students in preparing for the surgical exam has been conceived for quite a long time, and some 30 years ago such a text was published by the late professor Branko Oberhofer, chairman of the surgical department at that time. As medical knowledge and surgical procedures advance rapidly and unstoppably, the aforementioned text has inevitably turned inadequate with time. Although new scripts were written in 1995 by Professor Lucijan Negovetić and coworkers, during the following decades no appropriate textbooks emerged.

The ever-present need of issuing a new and modern surgical textbook has always been in the mind of the faculty of the Department of Surgery, University of Zagreb School of Dental Medicine. The book represents a combined result of three contributing factors: the tradition of teaching at the Department of Surgery, the clinical work and experience of the authors at the University Department of Surgery, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital, and probably most important, the recognition of the needs of dental medicine students. The book is based on the latest papers published by Croatian authors, including the authors of the book itself, as well as on the most recent papers published in the world literature.

The text may at first seem too comprehensive for dental medicine students, however, the authors’ wish was that some chapters and even the entire book be of assistance to medical students, students of high school of nursing, other healthcare professionals and surgery residents as well.

The book is divided into ten chapters, beginning with an introduction on general surgical problems and principles. Surgical diseases of the neck and neurosurgery follow. The chapters on thoracic, breast, heart and abdominal surgery cover the most important issues in modern surgical practice within these fields, and are easily read and understood. Vascular surgery and trauma have also gained the right of having their own chapters, recognizing the increase in the number of patients and advances in treatment modalities. The book finishes up with an overview of plastic and reconstructive surgery.

Thus, after a long time a good textbook of surgery has been produced which is intended primarily for students of dental medicine but is also valuable and helpful to other students, residents, healthcare professionals and non-medical readers who seek additional knowledge.

Björn Dario Franjić
Scientific basis of Teleneurology – Telestroke Model  
Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts,  
Zagreb, March 21, 2003

Although great progress has been made in neurology in the last decades, especially during the Decade of Brain 1990-2000, stroke remains one of the most common diagnoses in neurology. Despite great progress achieved in all fields of neurology, almost one third of patients succumb to stroke, approximately one third of patients suffer severe neurologic deficit after stroke, and only one third of patients recover in a way that they can regain normal life after stroke. Therefore, stroke is a huge medical as well as social and economic problem. In Croatia, stroke has been the leading cause of mortality and disability in the last few years. So, every attempt should be made to improve stroke prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation.

New computer and telecommunication technologies offer important advantages and possibilities in medicine and particularly in neurology. Teleneurology and telestroke are rapidly growing fields of modern medicine.

In accordance with all these facts, the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts organized the symposium entitled Scientific Basis of Teleneurology – Telestroke Model, which was held at the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts Palace on Friday, March 21, 2003. After welcome addresses by President of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Academician Ivo Štoljan, and manager of the Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital, Academician Zvonko Kusić, the working part of the conference began. Professor Vida Demarin, head of the University Department of Neurology, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital, and associate member of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, presented an interesting lecture on the scientific basis of the diagnosis and therapy of stroke, stressing out new insights and methods in the diagnosis and treatment, some of them being already used in daily practice. She pointed out that treatment of every stroke patient in special units for stroke patients, so-called stroke units, significantly decreased mortality and disability of stroke patients by more than forty percent.

In his lecture, Johannes Schenkel, M.D. from Department of Neurology Haarlaching Hospital, Ludwig Maximilian’s University Munich, Germany, presented organization of the TEMPIS project in eastern Bavaria. In TEMPIS, different smaller hospitals in eastern Bavaria are connected in a network using ISDN links with two University Hospitals. Every neurology department in smaller hospitals has the possibility to transmit data on stroke patients admitted to the hospital and to ask experts from University Hospitals for consultation. This project was started this spring in eastern Bavaria, and neurologists have great expectations.

Professor Vida Demarin held the next lecture on the basic principles of teleneurology and telestroke model, stressing out that teleneurology was the first in telemedicine starting in late fifties of the past century. Neurology with its sophisticated diagnostic procedures has great necessity for the usage of telemedicine technologies enabling transfer of various patient data. Today, most of medical data are digitalized, enabling them to be transferred through telecommunication networks. Since stroke is one of the most common diagnoses in neurology, there is a need to organize a network between neurology departments and to transfer patient data.

Assistant Professor Vesna Šerić, head of the Outpatient Department of the University Department of Neurology Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital, presented a lecture on utilizing computer and telecommunication technologies in the rehabilitation of stroke patients, pointing out that the use of computers could greatly improve the process of rehabilitation at rehabilitation departments as well as at patients’ homes.

Zlatko Jelačić from the Croatian Academic Research Network (CARNet) and Zlatko Beš from the Multimedia Center, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital, presented the possibilities and advantages offered by the modern telecommunication and computer science to neurologists in interesting lectures: Benefits of videocon-
ferencing technologies in teleneurology and Elements of network cooperation in teleneurology.

Assistant Professor Zlatko Trkanjec, University Department of Neurology Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital, presented a lecture on the use of the Neuronet software that has been used in daily practice for more than seven years at the University Department of Neurology Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital.

At the end of the conference it was concluded that the most efficient way to treat stroke patients is treatment in stroke units that should be organized in every Croatian hospital. CARNet has built a telecommunication network that connects every large town in Croatia. Every attempt should be made to connect hospitals in Croatian towns with CARNet network and future stroke units that will be organized in hospitals. In this way all future stroke units will be included in the network enabling them to transfer all data on every stroke patient. Expert consultations and opinions could thus be easily obtained on any diagnostic or therapeutic dilemma. In this manner the highest possible quality of diagnosis and treatment will be ensured in future stroke units, providing for every stroke patient the most sophisticated care. When this Telestroke model becomes operational, we do hope that stroke mortality figures will start to decline.

Zlatko Trkanjec
6TH International Conference on Stroke and 3RD Conference of the Mediterranean Stroke Society

Monte Carlo, Monaco, March 12-15, 2003

The 6th International Conference on Stroke and 3rd Conference of the Mediterranean Stroke Society was held in Monte Carlo, Monaco, March 12-15, 2003, with more than 600 participants from all over the world. This Conference is already widely known as the Heart & Brain Congress, hosting many prominent neurologists and cardiologists considering the associations between heart disease and stroke. A special plenary session was dedicated to atrial fibrillation and patent foramen ovale (PFO) as risk factors for stroke, but also to the similarities and differences of heart and brain attack.

The Conference started with lectures covering stroke imaging (especially penumbra). The next plenary session was dedicated to the epidemiology and prevention of stroke, with special lectures on antithrombotic therapy, endarterectomy, carotid stenting, hypertension, lipids and other emerging risk factors, but also to lifestyle and vitamins. Finally, the last day was dedicated to acute therapy of stroke, introducing world leading experts presenting organized stroke care, e.g., Canadian and European (Stroke Unit) style, news in acute stroke therapy, and stroke treatment with i.v. thrombolysis as well as with hyperthermia. We learned about Telestroke project – inter-hospital telematic project for the early cure and continuous assistance to stroke patients in the Genova region, Italy.

Croatia was represented at the Conference by two papers from the University Department of Neurology, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital, Zagreb, and two papers from the University Department of Neurology, Osijek University Hospital, Osijek. Posters presented by Conference participants were daily viewed and on the last day, the best poster was awarded.

We are proud to report that the prize for the best poster went again (like in 2001) to Croatia – Davor Jančuljak from the Osijek University Hospital, for the poster entitled “Duration of diabetes mellitus and occurrence of ischemic stroke” by D. Jančuljak, J. Palić, D. Vukašinović, I. Bradvica, S. Soldo-Burković, B. Radanović, D. Kadojić, M. Čandrić and R. Palić.

Tomislav Breitenfeld
HISTORICAL REVIEW

In the years preceding World War I, physicians from the Zagreb hospitals started their determined struggle for the establishment of a dissecting department. As stated in the report, they “... submitted a resolute petition to the royal government to establish a dissecting department...” They were fully supported by the Croatian Medical Association which adopted a resolution at the assembly in June 1913, demanding the following: (a) foundation of a national hospital; (b) organization of due care for the sick and the frail; (c) foundation of a hospital for patients with lung tuberculosis; and (d) foundation of a dissecting department for Zagreb hospitals.

A proposal for the foundation of a dissecting department to be located at the Sestre milosrdnice Hospital and to serve the needs of all Zagreb hospitals was extensively elaborated in the resolution. On discussions that were previously held at the Croatian Medical Association, it was generally stated that the existence of a dissecting department was one of the major preconditions for any serious scientific research. Towards the end of 1913, the Dissecting Department of the Health Institutes of the City of Zagreb was founded at our Hospital. For more than thirty years, the Dissecting Department was headed by Dr Ljudevit Jurak, subsequently founder of the Department of Pathology and professor of Pathologic Anatomy at the Zagreb University School of Veterinary Medicine. He was an excellent pathologist and great man for his high moral qualities.

As member of the international commission that investigated the massacre of Polish officers in Ukraine in 1940, and as an eyewitness of the then Soviet Union Red Army crime, he was executed by firing squad in 1945. As a tribute to Professor Jurak, the University Department of Pathology has been named after him since 1991, whereas the Ljudevit Jurak International Symposium on Comparative Pathology has been regularly held since 1991.

Reference

Tanja Sušec
INTERNET GUIDANCE

Cardiovascular diseases, heart attack and stroke are currently the leading causes of mortality in the world, and have been predicted to remain so by 2020. Therefore, a project launched as early as 1980 under the umbrella of the World Health Organization, known as MONICA Project (MONitor trends in Cardiovascular diseases) is highlighted here. The project has been conducted at 32 centers from 21 countries, covering the population aged 25-64, and has to date included ten million male and female subjects in total. The address below contains a list of all related publications, one handbook, and other material. Data are available at:

http://www.who.int or

*************

In addition to relevant information on the Association, its members, activities, etc., the British Medical Association (BMA) web address also contains a section dealing with ethics issues. Their Ethics Committee has eighteen members, including physicians, philosophers, sociologists, lawyers, and patients. The Committee has prepared a set of instructions, guides, and other printed material on all serious and difficult ethics problems and, what is most important, is in charge to answer physicians’ questions. Ethics related advice and other material are available at:

http://bma.org

REMEMBER, OUR WEB ADDRESS IS:

http://www.acta-clinica.com

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEB PAGE?
IF NOT YET, PLEASE, DO IT TODAY.

HAVING ANY COMMENTS ABOUT THE JOURNAL?
SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO OUR E-MAIL ADDRESS:

editor@acta-clinica.com
INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

AIM AND SCOPE
Acta Clinica Croatica is a peer reviewed general medical journal that publishes original articles that advance and improve medical science and practice and that serve the purpose of transfer of original and valuable information to journal readers. Acta Clinica Croatica is published four times a year.

SUBMITTING OF A MANUSCRIPT
All manuscripts should be written in English. Instructions to authors are in accordance with the text: International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. N Engl J Med 1997; 336:309-15., and with Instructions to authors that can be found on web page: http://www.icmje.org.
Submit manuscript in triplicate accompanied by a manuscript on a disk, floppy disk (3.5-inch, 1.44 MB, IBM formatted), or compact disk – CD in generally used word processing formats (MS-Word for Windows is preferred, although manuscripts prepared using any other IBM-compatible wordprocessor are acceptable) to:
Editorial Office, Acta Clinica Croatica, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital, Vinogradsk 29, HR-10 000 Zagreb, Croatia.

AUTHORSHIP
All persons designated as authors should qualify for authorship, and all those who qualify should be listed. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content. All others who contributed to the work who are not authors should be named in the Acknowledgments. All authors should take responsibility for the integrity of the whole work, from inception to published article. Manuscripts should be accompanied by a covering letter signed by all authors including a statement that the manuscript has been read and approved by all the authors, and a statement about any financial or other conflict of interest. A statement of copyright transfer to the journal must accompany the manuscript.

PREPARATION OF MANUSCRIPT
Type or print out the manuscript on white bond paper ISO A4 (212 × 297 mm), with margins of 35 mm. Type or print on only one side of the paper. Use double spacing throughout, including the title page, abstract, text, acknowledgments, references, individual tables, and legends. Number pages consecutively, beginning with the title page. Put the page number in the lower right-hand corner of each page.
The text of manuscript should be divided into sections: Title page, Abstract and Key words, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgment, References, Tables, Legends and Figures.

Title page
The title page should carry: the title of the article (which should be concise but informative) and a short running title of the manuscript; full name of author(s), with academic degree(s) and institutional affiliation; the name and address of the author responsible for correspondence about the manuscript including his/her E-mail address.

Abstract and Key Words
The second page should carry an abstract (of no more than 250 words). The abstract should state the purposes of the study or investigation, basic procedures, main findings, and the principal conclusions. It should emphasize new and important aspects of the study or observations. Below the abstract authors should provide 3 to 10 key words or short phrases that will assist indexers in cross-indexing the article and may be published with the abstract. Terms from the Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) list of Index Medicus should be used for key words.

Introduction
State the purpose of the article and summarize the rationale for the study or observation. Give only strictly relevant references and do not include data or conclusions from the work being reported.

Methods
Describe selection and identify all important characteristics of the observational or experimental subjects or laboratory animals clearly. Specify carefully what the descriptors mean, and explain how the data were collected. Identify the methods, apparatus with the manufacturer’s name and address in parentheses, and procedures in sufficient detail to allow other workers to reproduce the results. Provide references to established methods and statistical methods used. Describe new or substantially modified methods, give reasons for using them, and evaluate their limitations. Identify precisely all drugs and chemicals used. Use only generic name of drugs. All measurements should be expressed in SI units.

Ethics
Papers dealing with experiments on human subjects should clearly indicate that the procedures followed were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional or regional responsible committee on human experimentation and with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975, as revised in 1983. Never use patients’ names, initials, or hospital numbers, especially in illustrative material. Papers dealing with experiments on animals should indicate that the institution’s or a national research council’s guide for the care and use of laboratory animals was followed.

Statistics
Describe statistical methods with enough detail to enable a knowledgeable reader with access to the original data to verify the reported results. Whenever possible, quantify findings and present them with appropriate indicators of measurement error or uncertainty. Specify any general-use computer programs used.

Results
Present your results in logical sequence in the text, tables, and illustrations. Do not repeat in the text all the data in the tables or illustrations; emphasize or summarize only important observations.

Discussion
Emphasize the new and important aspects of the study and the conclusions that follow from them. Do not repeat in detail data or other material given in the Introduction or the Results section. Include in the Discussion section the implications of the findings and their limitations, including implications for future research, but avoid unqualified statements and conclusions not completely supported by the data. Relate the observations from your study to other relevant studies. State new hypotheses when warranted, but clearly label them as such.

Tables
Type or print out each table with double spacing on a separate sheet of paper. Do not submit tables as photographs. Number tables consecutively in the order of their first citation in the text and supply a brief title for each. Give each column a short heading.

Figures
Figures and illustrations should be professionally drawn and photographed. Make sure that letters, numbers, and symbols should be legible even when reduced in size for publication. Each figure should have a label pasted on its back indicating the number of the figure, author’s name, and top of the figure. Figures should be numbered consecutively according to the order in which they have been first cited in the text. If
photographs of people are used, either the subjects must not be identifiable or their pictures must be accompanied by written permission to use the photograph. All illustrations and figures could be submitted on disks: floppy disk (3.5-inch, 1.44 MB, IBM formatted), or compact disk – CD in appropriate, generally used picture formats. The preferred formats are JPEG and TIFF, although any format in general use that is not application-specific is acceptable. Make sure that minimum resolution should be 300 dpi. Up to two color illustrations are acceptable for each manuscript free of charge.

Abbreviations
Use only standard abbreviations. The full term for which an abbreviation stands should precede its first use in the text unless it is a standard unit of measurement.

Acknowledgments
List all contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship, such as a person who provided purely technical help, writing assistance, or a department chair who provided only general support. Financial and material support should also be acknowledged.

References
References should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text. Identify references in text, tables, and legends by Arabic numerals in superscript.

References should be cited in the style based on the formats used by the Index Medicus. The titles of journals should be abbreviated according to the style used in Index Medicus (http://www.nlm.nih.gov).

References to papers accepted but not yet published should be designated as "in press". Authors should obtain written permission to cite such papers as well as verification that they have been accepted for publication.

Examples of reference citations are listed.

EXAMPLES OF REFERENCE CITATIONS

ARTICLES IN JOURNALS

More than six authors:

Organization as author

No author given

Article not in English

Volume with supplement

Issue with supplement

Volume with part

Issue with part

Issue with no volume

No issue or volume

Pagination in Roman numerals

Type of article indicated as needed

Article containing retraction

Article retracted

Article with published erratum

BOOKS AND OTHER MONOGRAPHS
Personal author(s)

Editor(s) as author

Organization as author and publisher

Chapter in a book

Conference proceedings
Kimura J, Shibasaki H, editors. Recent advances in clinical neurophysiology. Proceedings of the 10th International Congress of EMG and

Conference paper

Scientific or technical report

Dissertation

Patent

OTHER PUBLISHED MATERIAL
Newspaper article

Audiovisual material

Legal material
Public law:

Unenacted bill:

Hearing:

Map

Dictionary and similar references

UNPUBLISHED MATERIAL
In press

Electronic Material
Journal article in electronic format

Monograph in electronic format

Computer file

EDITORIAL PROCESS
After submission of the manuscript, the author may receive a letter confirming manuscript receipt. All manuscripts received are anonymously sent to at least two reviewers. Acta Clinica Croatica is committed to promote peer review quality and fairness. The reviewers are asked to treat the manuscript with confidentiality. Authors are welcome to suggest up to five potential reviewers for their manuscript (excluding co-authors or collaborators for the last three years), or to ask for the exclusion of reviewer(s) and the reasons for it. The Editorial Board may or may not accept authors’ suggestions regarding reviewers. Usually one to three months after submission the authors will receive the reviews. Generally, the instructions, objections and requests made by the reviewers should be closely followed. The authors are invited to revise their manuscript in accordance with reviewers’ suggestions, and to explain amendments made in accordance with the reviewers’ requests. The articles that receive more than one reviewers’ recommendations for “major review” are sent, after revision to the same reviewer, who makes the final recommendation about the revised article. Based on reviewers’ suggestions and recommendations, the Editorial Board makes final decision about acceptance of submitted article. Authors may receive a letter confirming the acceptance of submitted article for publication. Corresponding author will receive page-proof version of article to make final corrections of possible printing errors. The authors will receive 20 free reprints of the published paper free of charge.