BOOK REVIEW

ZBORNIK STRUČNIH RADOVA ALKOHOLÒSKOG GLASNIKA, PRIRUČNIK (HANDBOOK OF PROFESSIONAL PAPERS FROM ALCOHOLITY NEWSLETTER), Vesna Golik-Gruber, editor; published by Croatian Association of Clubs of Treated Alcoholics and Zagreb Union of Clubs of Treated Alcoholics, University Department of Psychiatry, Sestre milosrðnice University Hospital, Zagreb, 2003; ISBN 953-99124-0-7 (Association), ISBN 953-99124-0-2 (Union)

A number of books on alcoholology have been published in Croatia to date, primarily those by Hudolin and Lang, followed by Gudelj, Wölf, Zihrl, and recently by Thaller and Horvat. All these were classic textbooks intended either for the physicians or for treated alcoholics. It was only with the appearance of Al-Bulletin, Al-Club and especially Alcoholity Newsletter that broad topics have been dealt with, along with professional contributions on the wide spectrum of alcoholism related topics, arising from practice and written exactly for treated alcoholics. The high quality and value of these contributions have prompted the idea to gather them in the form of a handbook, thus to be available in daily practice. This has been based on the precious and widely read periodical Alcoholity Newsletter edited by Vesna Golik-Gruber, M.D., M.S., who has also taken the role of Handbook editor, selected articles from the Newsletter and classified them according to particular topics, thus additionally highlighting the wide spectrum of topics and intriguing features of some topics not tackled before.

The Handbook of Professional Papers from the Alcoholity Newsletter is a book of 420 pages, bringing professional contributions by 117 authors, renowned Croatian experts in the field of alcohollogy. In addition to the professional concepts and theories, practical solutions and latest achievements in the field of alcoholism in Croatia are presented. The Handbook is an example of a multidisciplinary approach in the treatment of alcoholism, and of psychiatry in a community, offering papers on the following topics: The risk of dependence substance abuse; Illegal drugs; Other dependences (gambling, coffee, sex, internet); Social environment and alcohol; Alcohol in the eyes of religious communities; Alcohol and arts; Alcohol and sports; Alcohol at work place; Alcohol and traffic; Alcohol and forensics; Individuals at high risk; Alcohol and children; Women and alcohol; Alcoholism in the elderly; Diagnosis of alcoholism and health problems; Treatment of alcoholism; Social work in alcoholism; Rehabilitation of alcoholics; Clubs of Treated Alcoholics; Prevention of alcohol induced disorders; Alcoholism prevention through mass media; History of alcoholology; In memory of great Croatian alcoholologists.

The Handbook will primarily be an aid in the work of Clubs of Treated Alcoholics, especially when dealing with the individuals joining the clubs without previous hospital treatment and education, or ‘Treated Alcoholics programs. It will also prove highly useful to other professionals such as social workers, psychologists, special therapists, and school pedagogues.

Darko Breitenfeld
International Postgraduate Course: Summer Stroke School – Healthy Lifestyle and Prevention of Stroke

Dubrovnik, Croatia, June 9-14, 2003

Organizers: Inter-University Center Dubrovnik, Academy of Medical Sciences of Croatia, Croatian Stroke Society, and School of Medicine, University of Zagreb

Traditionally, the host of yet another International Postgraduate Course: Summer Stroke School – Healthy Lifestyle and Prevention of Stroke was Inter-University Center Dubrovnik. A great contribution to the Course was given by its directors who are eminent professionals in the field of stroke throughout the world: Professor Vida Demarin, M.D., Ph.D., University of Zagreb, Croatia; Professor Roman Haberl, M.D., Ph.D., University of Munich, Germany; Professor Kurt Niederkorn, M.D., Ph.D., University of Graz, Austria; Professor Tanja Rundek, M.D., Ph.D., Columbia University, New York, USA; and Professor Zlato Tikanjek, M.D., Ph.D., University of Zagreb, Croatia.

This year, the Course was attended by more than 30 participants from different parts of Croatia, Germany, Israel, Switzerland, United States of America, Slovenia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Course encouraged cooperation, knowledge and experience exchange among participants, and gave an insight into the epidemiology, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cerebrovascular diseases in different parts of the world.

The opening lecture was given by Professor Demarin who presented activities that took place since the last year’s Course. Results of several studies such as ELSA and LIFE were presented.

The results of the Croatian questionnaire on risk factors and telestroke project in Croatia were presented by Professor Tikanjek, Zagreb. The important roles of atrial fibrillation and vascular dementia were presented by Professor Bornstein, Tel Aviv. An interactive case-report lecture was held by Professor Haberl, Munich. His group presented their new telemic pilot project of an integrative stroke care in eastern Bavaria – TEMPI. Professor Kalousek highlighted the importance of MRI in the evaluation of stroke. Topics such as emboli detection compar-
ison with coagulation and clinical parameters, rare stroke-like syndromes, visual evoked response in patients with carotid disease, prevention of cerebrovascular events, influence of stress on stroke outcome, and many others were discussed during other lectures.

Throughout the week several workshops took place. This year, primary interest was focused on the management of stroke risk factors, diagnosis and treatment, and improvement of stroke outcome. The lecturers and other participants stressed the need of organizing specialized stroke units to take care of stroke patients. Strong evidence exists that treatment in stroke units significantly reduces stroke mortality and post-stroke disability. In every country there should be a network of stroke units enabling every stroke patient to arrive to the nearest stroke unit in less than three hours. It would be advisable to perform thrombolysis for ischemic stroke in stroke units, but even treatment in stroke units without thrombolysis has beneficial effects on stroke patients. Also, the need of continuous education, assessment and monitoring of work in stroke units was pointed out. It would be advisable to connect all stroke units in a country or region into a network using modern telecommunication and information technology that would enable exchange of data about each patient and getting an expert opinion in doubtful patients.

The condensed, rich and multifaceted professional program of the Course was enriched by several social events: a welcome party, gala dinner, and a concert at Rector Palace, providing the participants with pleasant opportunities for friendly and informal gathering.

*Sandra Morović*
In the year 2000, I wrote in this section how it had just happened in 1900 that women were finally granted the right of enrolling in medical studies in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy.

Now, we publish the directive from 1903 allowing female physicians to perform medical practice independently and under the same conditions as their male counterparts. As the directive says, it was issued “on the basis of the decision made by His Majesty on June 1, 1903”, whereas the directive was dated June 28, 1903. The dates are strictly cited, as it was the year when a great change occurred, namely, Dragutin Khuen-Hedervary, the governor, was replaced by Teodor Pejačević. As Pejačević took power on July 4, the above mentioned directive was signed by Khuen-Hedervary, whose rule provoked strong national resistance in Croats, who accused him of leading an anti-Croatian politics and considered him one of the worst Croatian governors. However, the enlightenment and culture flourished at his time, primarily owing to extraordinary personalities such as Archbishop Strossmayer and Izidor Kršnjavi as well as to the overall social progress in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, which had thus—in spite of some sporadic resistance and different reasoning—legalized and implemented one of the basic civilian rights of every member of a society, i.e. the right to equity in education, profession and employment.

References
2. Liečn Viestn 1903;25:264.

Tanja Sušec
INTERNET GUIDANCE

This is the first time that a web address containing an entire book be recommended here. The book is “The Gross Physiology of the Cardiovascular System” by Robert Anderson, a cardiologist and cardiac surgeon. The book is excellently presented in the electronic form. The supreme features of the book are extraordinary figures, charts, graphs as well as the text that is conveniently presented and easy to search. Considering its main topic and high quality, the book will certainly be found very useful not only to cardiologists and surgeons but also to medical students and others interested in the cardiovascular system physiology.

http://cardiovascular.cx

The American Medical Association offers a number of useful web addresses that are excellently prepared for search. Another feature of these addresses is their up-to-dateness, as they are regularly supplemented and updated on a monthly basis. One of the novel and very helpful addresses is “Virtual Mentor”. The very title suggests it has been intended for medical students and young physicians who need a tutor. This base has been created by the Ethics Resource Center of the American Medical Association, which promotes ethical principles of the American Medical Association. This is done through the interpretation of numerous intriguing case reports, opinions and decisions from experienced and renowned experts as well as recommendations and guidelines facilitating decision making in serious and complicated cases. This base can also prove valuable to all those engaged in educational activities, offering an array of excellent examples and their interpretations.

http://virtualmentor.org

Tinja Sušec

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Acknowledgments
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