

EDITORIAL: OUR FIRST FIFTY YEARS

In this year, Acta Clinica Croatica is celebrating its 50th anniversary. In 1962, the first issue of our journal Acta Clinica Croatica was published; it was named Anali bolnice "Dr. M. Stojanović".

Fifty years ago, the world was very different from the world of today. Many things we use today in everyday life had not yet been discovered. For example, there were no cellular phones, fax and photocopy devices, there was no Internet, the first satellite was launched in 1957, the first human travelled into the space on April 12, 1961, the first laser was constructed in 1960, computers of those days were only used in university research centers and were of an almost building-size, and a liter of gasoline was cheaper than a liter of mineral water, while nobody was speaking of ozone holes, global warming and climate changes, etc.

Most of the diagnostic and therapeutic options now widely used in daily practice were not available at the time the first issue of our journal was published. Most of pharmaceuticals used today had not yet been available or were at the very beginning of investigation, e.g., beta-blockers, calcium antagonists, H₂ antagonists, ACE inhibitors, statins, antipsychotics, levodopa, etc. Most of antibiotics had not yet been invented, the first cytostatics were introduced in the 1960s, oral contraceptives in 1956, the first benzodiazepine in the 1960s, etc. In those days, there were no computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, PET and SPECT, while the scintigraphic, endoscopic and ultrasonic methods were at their very beginnings. On the other hand, smoking was even encouraged as a style of life.

However, the physicians of the time also did their best, using all their knowledge, technology and dedication to the benefit of their patients. They published their discoveries, descriptions of diseases and other contributions in journals, and discussed their findings and observations at congresses, thus adding considerably to the progress of medical sciences. Some of our

colleagues began their careers in those days, witnessing the great progress the science and medicine have made in the last fifty years.

In the last five decades, the overall knowledge of the mankind has rapidly grown, as well as the knowledge in medicine. Recently, it has been estimated that the complete medical state-of-the-art changes approximately every five to ten years. Publications in various journals contribute to this ever-growing medical knowledge. The scientific medical communities exchange the knowledge, discoveries, observations and hypotheses through papers that appear in journals.

Acta Clinica Croatica is one of the journals that have brought a huge number of papers over the last fifty years, including original scientific papers, professional papers, review articles, case reports, conference presentations, comments, letters to the editor, news, etc., and topical supplements have appeared occasionally. Also, many things have changed in the journal: for the first 10 volumes it was named: Anali bolnice "Dr. M. Stojanović", from 10th to 29th volume it was named Anali Kliničke bolnice "Dr. M. Stojanović", and from 1992 it has the present name, Acta Clinica Croatica. Also, the graphic appearance of the journal has changed; many renowned experts from various fields of medicine from all over the world have decided to become members of the journal Editorial Board, the electronic web-edition of the journal has started with free access to all contents of the journal since 2000. The editors have made great efforts to improve the quality of the journal, and their endeavors were internationally recognized: since 2008, Acta Clinica Croatica is fully indexed in Index Medicus/Medline/PubMed, in Science Citation Index Expanded, and Journal Citation Reports, and for 2009 Acta Clinica Croatica gained its impact factor for the first time.

All of these things could not be possible without the valuable contribution from our authors who have

shown their commitment to publish their papers in Acta Clinica Croatica for fifty years and diligent work of our reviewers who made every effort to improve the papers before publishing. We do believe that authors will continue submitting their high-quality papers and that reviewers will keep on reviewing those papers, thus maintaining and improving the journal quality.

The journal Acta Clinica Croatica has passed a long way from its beginnings in the early 1960s, witnessing the great progress in medicine in the last fifty years. Taking into account developments in recent years, we think there is a bright future for Acta Clinica Croatica in the years to come.