

OROFACIAL DISEASES – A SCIENTIFIC APPROACH

Hrvoje Brkić

Department of Dental Anthropology, School of Dental Medicine,
University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

The first symposium on orofacial diseases was held in November 2011. It was organized by the Department of Medical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts and its Committee for Orofacial Diseases. The symposium was dedicated to the current knowledge on orofacial diseases in Croatia. A number of prominent experts in this field held very interesting lectures, bearing in mind the importance of the multidisciplinary approach to the contemporary issues of orofacial diseases.

There are 9 committees dedicated to particular issues in the human, dental and veterinary medicine within the Department of Medical Sciences, which was established as an independent Department within the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts 60 years ago. The idea that dental medicine within the Department of Medical Sciences of the Academy should be more represented matured at the beginning of 2011. Therefore the new committee was established – Committee for Orofacial Diseases.

The Committee's agenda will encompass diverse scientific-professional issues of the pathological ongoings in the orofacial area. In the research and publishing activities, as well as in the presentations on the scientific conventions, etiologic, differential-diagnostic, therapeutic, protective and other aspects of the teeth diseases, parodontal area, oral mucosa, temporomandibular joints as well as peripheral anatomic structures and organs will be treated. Special attention will be paid to the causes and effects of the oral and general health. In this way the interdisciplinary cooperation with the experts of the other biomedical disciplines will be permanently developed. For this reason the members of the Committee have brought the decision to organize the 1st scientific symposium entitled „Current knowledge on orofacial diseases in Croatia“, held at the Academy Library on Friday, 18th September 2011.

With this symposium the Committee members have contributed to the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts and they have presented themselves to the scientific community. Besides the Department of Medical Sciences of the Academy and its Committee for Orofacial Diseases, the co-organizer of the symposium was also the School of Dental Medicine, University of Zagreb, and the chairpersons of the symposium were professor Jelena Aurer-Koželj, professor Vjekoslav Jerolimov and professor Hrvoje Brkić.

The symposium programme dealt with diverse topics from the area of orofacial pathology, which have been entirely written down, i.e. published in this issue of the journal RAD of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Medical Sciences. The last year symposium was the first scientific meeting of this Committee. We are convinced that this kind of scientific conventions will be held continuously, and that the work of the Committee for Orofacial Diseases will be more and more important and widely accepted in our medical and wider public.