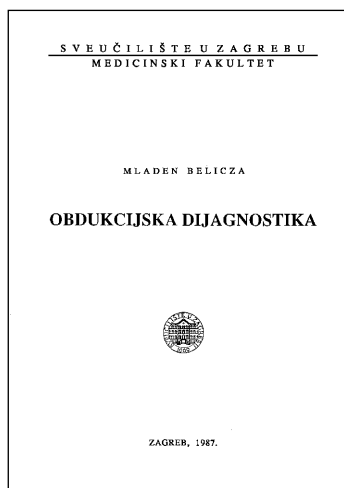


## ON NOTABLE BOOKS IN OUR HISTORY



In the foreword to his textbook entitled *Obdukcijska dijagnostika* (Autopsy Diagnosis), first published in 1987, Mladen Belicza, our distinguished professor and head of the Department of Pathology, says "... novel concepts in medicine have made real breakthroughs, thus it is a difficult task indeed to write concisely any medical textbook". At that time, he could well rely on profound understanding of all physicians, students and lecturers. Nowadays, however, the issue is not discussed anymore because developments occur ever faster, while the fields of research in medicine are infinite.

In spite of this consideration, the textbook first printed in 1987<sup>1</sup> and the next editions in 1991<sup>2</sup> and 2005<sup>3</sup>, has been essential in the education of medical students.

The first edition of the book was primarily intended to present to the students the fundamentals of autopsy diagnosis and its role in the continuous education of physicians, as illustrated by the book motto: "*Mortui vivos docent*". The introduction section is followed by twenty-three chapters, an appendix bringing an excerpt from the Act on Health Care and Health Insurance from 1980, and bibliography. Second edition was printed three years later, with due amendments



based on technological development, while the way of reasoning and decision making is discussed to a much greater extent than autopsy technique, as stated by Professor Belicza. Therefore, Academician Franjo Kogoj's words are taken here as a motto: "Looking is very far from seeing". Third edition, which appeared in 2005, was prepared by Professor Belicza together with Dr Davor Tomas. This edition also points to the role of autopsy diagnosis in the light of new legal provisions. Thus, this textbook has been continuously used by ever new generations of medical students for nearly four decades, explaining them autopsy diagnosis, its place in the field of pathology and medicine in general, thus witnessing its history and development.

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