

## ENTERING THE NEW MILLENNIUM

With the end of this year, the second millennium will terminate and the third one will start. What do we expect from the new millennium? What can we expect? Will the people be wiser, more intelligent, more tolerant, and more careful, in a word, will they be better? Will the world become a place of better living, free from wars, poverty and misery, with less human suffering? Will the people have enough strength to change this 'valley of tears' into a 'valley of happiness' for every human being? I have to admit I doubt it. At the stroke of midnight between December 31, 2000 and January 1, 2001, the people will celebrate the New Year, the day and month will be changed on the calendar, number 1 will be added to the year and, in my opinion, all other things will mostly remain more or less the same. Is it a reason for us to be sad, is it a reason for despair?

According to my personal opinion, it is not. We really have a lot to await for, and there are great possibilities, opportunities and expectations only waiting for us to become a reality. Sometimes it may not be easy to realize them, however, should all of us make just a little effort, in the future we could make them real. The people will never be perfect, but the mankind is constantly improving (or I would just like to believe it). Everyone can make a little contribution to this constant improvement. No matter how petty this contribution may seem, it certainly helps.

For example, the editors of Acta clinica Croatica have decided to improve the quality of the journal. Some new editors have joined the team, the Editorial Board has been renewed, new members of the Editorial Council have been introduced (it is our pleasure to introduce three new members in this issue), the journal design has been improved, electronic web edition of the journal has been started, the appearance of the journal issues has become regular, the quality of published papers has improved, etc.

Of course, the journal has not thus become perfect, but all the actions the editors have made in recent years could also be considered their small contributions to the aforementioned 'constant improvement of mankind'. However, it is a permanent process rather than a one-time task.

With this issue, the 39th volume of the journal is completed. Beginning with the next year, volume 40 of Acta clinica Croatica will start. As forty years in the life of a man indicates a sort of turning point – the man is no longer young and he faces his 'prime of life' – this could well be extrapolated to the journal. Something must have been keeping the journal alive all these years. In case of Acta clinica Croatica, the editors believe the main reason is the quality of papers and good editorial work. However, without the high quality of the papers submitted for publication, the editors alone could not make the journal as good as it is. Therefore, this is an opportunity for the editors to express their great appreciation of the past and present contributions, and to welcome future ones. The editors 'edit' the papers and the journal as a whole, however, without a sufficient number of quality submissions they would have nothing to 'edit'. The editors are also grateful to the reviewers for their valuable comments that have greatly helped the authors improve the quality and readability of the papers. Reviewers' comments are irreplaceable in the editors' work as well as in the preparation of manuscripts for publication.

Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital, the founder and publisher of Acta clinica Croatica, will celebrate its 155<sup>th</sup> anniversary, as it was established in 1846. The editors believe the two coinciding anniversaries make a good reason for celebration indeed. And it is with these two valuable anniversaries we enter the third millennium and, despite all obstacles, we are looking forward to it.

*Zlatko Trkanjec*