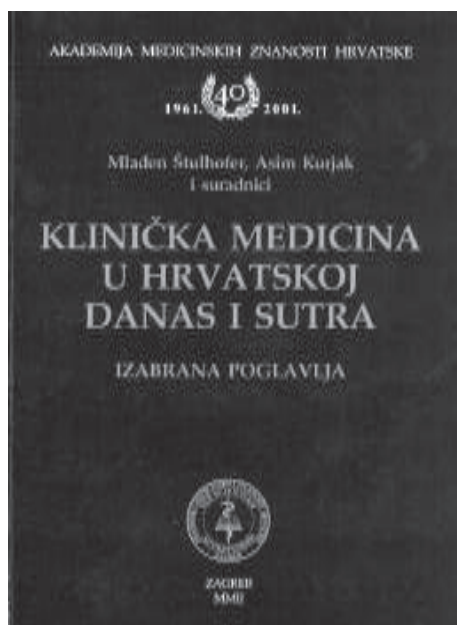


BOOK REVIEW



KLINIČKA MEDICINA U HRVATSKOJ DANAS I SUTRA / CLINICAL MEDICINE IN CROATIA TODAY AND TOMORROW, by Mladen Štulhofer, Asim Kurjak, et al., editors. Academy of Medical Sciences of Croatia, Zagreb, 2002
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Medicine is a fast developing science. It is believed that every 6 years the field of knowledge in this area changes by approximately 50%. New foundations are being set, ever more at biochemical levels. It is therefore necessary to evaluate current treatment procedures as well as future directions of advancement.

Last year, the Academy of Medical Sciences of Croatia celebrated its 40th anniversary. Throughout the year, the Academy of Medical Sciences of Croatia organized more than 40 scientific meetings. This book is dedicated to the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Academy. The editors, respectful Professors Mladen Štulhofer and Asim Kurjak decided to take a cross-sectional approach and to present recent developments in the most important fields of medicine. However, there are many medical fields that

can have the title of being of greatest importance in today's medicine. So, it was not easy for the editors to choose which specialties to include in the book.

Based on recent decoding of human genome, the editors decided that the first chapter be the one presenting the pathophysiologic basis of gene therapy. Facing the grim fact that Croatia is witnessing progressive depopulation, the next chapters are dealing with human reproduction, perinatology and pediatrics. These are followed by the chapters presenting current advances in immunology, transfusion medicine and transplantation medicine.

Recent mortality rates show that cardiovascular diseases account for over 50% of total mortality in Croatia, whereas stroke is the leading cause of mortality in Croatia, followed by acute myocardial infarction. So, chapters presenting recent developments in cardiology, cardiac surgery, neurology, vascular surgery and neurosurgery make an important part of this book.

Psychiatric care is gaining ever more significant role because it is estimated that in the year 2010 the most important illnesses of the modern society will be depressive disorders, and the next chapter offers recent developments in clinical psychiatry.

Then, there is a chapter dealing with orthopedic diseases because they represent frequent pathology in modern society. Subsequent chapters present recent advances in tuberculosis, diabetes, infectious diseases and clinical microbiology, followed by chapters on hematology and cytology. The chapters to follow present current developments in gastroenterologic endoscopy, endoscopic surgery, dermatovenerology, ophthalmology, otorhinolaryngology, oncology, radiology, dental medicine, and traumatology.

Although the selection of medical specialties included in the book and the schedule of chapters could be disputed, this book provides an all-around and up-to-date information on the condition of medicine in Croatia with all the grandeur as well as austerity. Recent advances and future trends in many fields of modern medicine are presented and discussed, making the book indispensable to any clinician for providing an insight to his/her medical field as well as to the fields other than his/hers primary one.

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