

## ON NOTABLE BOOKS IN OUR HISTORY

The book *Prometni traumatizam* (Road Traffic Traumatism), written by our physicians and other professionals involved in the management of road traffic traumatism, was printed in 2012 by Medicinska naklada from Zagreb. Professional editor is Professor Krešimir Rotim, MD, PhD, neurosurgeon and head of the Clinical Department of Neurosurgery, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital Center. In his Foreword, Prof. Rotim says: "We have constructed new highways, new cars are more available than ever before, safety equipment is a standard in all new cars and legal regulations on road traffic safety have been tightened up, yet traffic accidents have assumed epidemic proportions". Unfortunately, nothing has changed since the book appeared four years ago and we have just witnessed the 'black week' of traffic accidents.

The purpose of this textbook was to reinforce prevention of traffic injuries and their management. The above mentioned Foreword emphasizes that the intention is to familiarize young people and students with this issue as the leading cause of death in children and young people; especially striking is the fact that driving at illegal speed and alcohol, along with inadequate experience are the most common causes of traffic accidents. The introduction section is followed by the general one on the mechanism of these injuries, first aid at the site of accident, management of polytrauma patients, complications and causes of death. This is followed by the chapter on radiological diagnosis in road traffic traumatology with a special section on various types of the most common injuries. Chapter 5 deals with physical therapy and rehabilitation of these patients and Chapter 6 with psychiatric disorders caused by road traffic accidents. The textbook has 100 pages with illustrations and glossary, thus it can serve as a brief, condensed source of information on road traffic injuries to all those involved in their treatment, including ambulance teams, general practitioners, students, and professionals of all specialties taking part in solving these problems. As Prof. Rotim says, various professionals were included in writing



this book, having unselfishly exchanged their experience and knowledge. Besides Prof. Rotim, the following professionals from our Hospital were included: Prof. Branka Maldini, PhD, anesthesiologist; Prof. Goran Roić, PhD, radiologist; Prof. Mario Zovak, PhD, surgeon; Prof. Simeon Grazio, PhD, physiatrist; Assist. Prof. Dalibor Karlović, PhD, psychiatrist; and Marta Borić, MD, neurosurgeon. The coauthors from other hospitals were Prof. Naranda Aljinović, PhD, from Clinical Department of Maxillofacial and Oral Surgery, Dubrava University Hospital; and Zlatko Kolić, MD, from Clinical Department of Neurosurgery, Rijeka University Hospital Center. Mention should be made of all the coauthors not only because they all deserve it but in order to show how complex this problem is, requiring fast and highly professional response of numerous health professionals, whereby their close collaboration has the pivotal role for successful management of the problems caused by road traffic accidents. As the serious situation in road traffic continues and the number of traffic accidents fails to reduce in spite of the 'black statistics' and warnings, textbooks like this one are of utmost importance, con-

tributing to solving the problem of road traffic traumatism. On the other hand, road traffic accidents are not just a public health problem but a problem involving the public at large, thus requiring serious approach not only through the activities of traffic police and judicial system but also through properly designed and systematic education of the Croatian population.

The section dedicated to health education and providing professional medical knowledge offers well for-

mulated and effective solutions, which makes this textbook a precious contribution to our medical literature.

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### Reference

1. Rotim K. Predgovor. In: Rotim K, *et al.* Prometni traumatizam. Zagreb: Medicinska naklada, 2012; p. V. (in Croatian)