

## NEWS

### **Eighteenth Congress of the European Neurological Society**

**Nice, France, June 7-11, 2008**

The 18<sup>th</sup> Congress of the European Neurology Society (ENS) was held on June 7-11, 2008 in Nice, France. Renowned experts and scientists from all over the world presented recent studies in basic research, epidemiology, diagnosis and management in neurology. This year was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first ENS meeting that was held in 1988 also in Nice, the capital of the French Riviera, fifth largest city in France and one of its leading convention centers.

President of the Organizing Committee was Professor G. Moonen from Department of Neurology, University of Liege, Belgium, and Chairperson of the 18<sup>th</sup> ENS Congress was Professor Claude Desnuelle from the School of Medicine in Nice.

The Congress venue was the Nice Acropolis Congress Center. Scientific program consisted of workshops, teaching courses and interactive case presentations, presidential symposia, oral sessions and five poster sessions. The attendees also had an opportunity to find up-to-date information on novel treatments in neurology through numerous satellite symposia in the field of multiple sclerosis, dementia, narcolepsia, Friedreich's ataxia and Parkinson's disease as well as on the new perspectives in the use of IVIG in neurologic disorders.

The Congress was very successful and teaching courses were especially interesting and useful to neurology residents.

Nice is a unique and vibrant Mediterranean city that has plenty to offer to the visitor year-round. Taking a stroll in Nice, seeing the Modern Art Museum, the Old Town, the Colline du Château or the Promenade des Anglais, or enjoying a trip along the breathtaking coastline from Saint Tropez to Menton, all sound like an invitation to enter the world-famous legends of the French Riviera.

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## HISTORICAL REVIEW



Forty years have elapsed since the death of Professor Ante Šercer, MD, one of the most prominent physicians of Croatian medicine in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Professor Šercer was longstanding head of the University ENT Department at our Hospital (1946-1966). He was the leading figure of Croatian medicine and healthcare as a physician, teacher and researcher, from 1929 when he took the position of the head of University ENT Department, Zagreb University School of Medicine, until his death in 1968. He was appointed Professor at Zagreb University School of Medicine in 1932.

Until the beginning of World War II, Professor Šercer travelled a lot, paying visits to the renowned European ENT Departments, while also investing much of his time in research. Professor Šercer published 170 articles, 109 of them in the leading international journals<sup>1</sup>. He was member of Collegium O.R.L.A.S., the international scientific ENT organization from 1929, and full member of the Yugoslav Academy of Science and Arts, now Croatian Academy of Science and Arts from 1937, as the first physician-full member.

Among the many works bequeathed to us by Professor Šercer, in this brief note mention should be made of

his book on plastic surgery of the nose, written in 1962 and published in German by the famous publisher Thieme from Stuttgart, and his two-part ENT textbook with 1268 pages and 1800 drawings and photographs. In 1954, Professor Šercer was appointed Editor-in-Chief of our first Medical Encyclopedia, issued in ten volumes.

Professor Šercer came to our Hospital in 1946, first as head of ENT Department, where he educated about seventy ENT specialists<sup>2</sup>, transferring to them his great surgical skills and knowledge, always ready to embark upon some novel research in the fields of ENT, plastic surgery and audiology. His activity at our Hospital was crowned by the ENT Department proclamation as University ENT Department, Zagreb University School of Medicine, in 1964 (teaching activities had been performed from 1955) and launching the first professional ENT journal, *Symposia Otorhinolaringologica Jugoslaviaca*, in 1966.

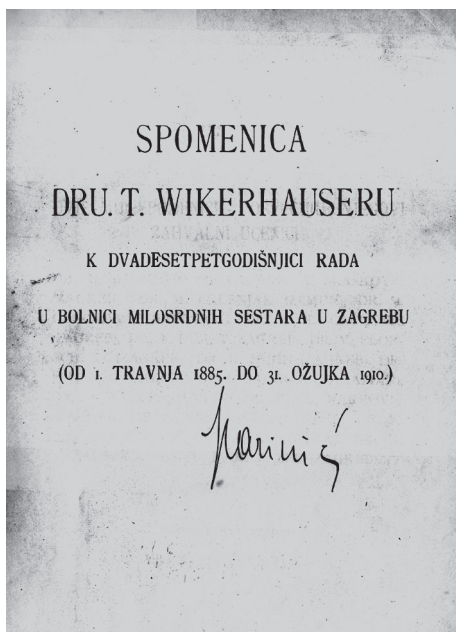
Like other Croatian intellectuals, Professor Šercer suffered distress of the World War II and post-war period; however, these difficulties did not leave trace on his huge opus, since Professor Šercer had faithfully followed his maxim: "The success of honest work relies on our faith, work is our passion, and clinic is our love".

### References

1. PADOVAN I. Život i djela Ante Šercera. Zagreb: Nakladni zavod Globus, 1997; p. 17.
2. PETRIC V, ŠIMUNJAK B, ZURAK K, GRBEŠIĆ M. Povratak Ante Šercera u Bolnicu milosrdnih sestara (1946.-1966.). In: PEGAN B, editor. Stota obljetnica hrvatske otorinolaringologije 1894.-1994. Zagreb: Klinika za otorinolaringologiju i cervikofacijalnu kirurgiju Kliničke bolnice "Sestre milosrdnice", 1996; p. 68.

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## ON NOTABLE BOOKS IN OUR MEDICAL HISTORY



### TESTIMONIAL TO DR. T. WICKERHAUSER ON THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS WORK AT SESTRE MILOSRDNICE HOSPITAL IN ZAGREB (FROM APRIL 1, 1885 TO MARCH 31, 1910)

In the year 1910, Dr. Teodor Wickerhauser celebrated twenty-fifth anniversary of his work at our Hospital.

In the same year, his disciples issued a Testimonial in his honor, in token of gratitude and respect to their teacher.

The Testimonial was edited and the foreword and Dr. Wickerhauser's *curriculum vitae* written by his disciple and successor, Dr. Miroslav Čačković. The Testimonial also provided a list of physicians working at the Hospital Department of Surgery, bibliographies of papers of our and other surgeons, Dr. Wickerhauser's disciples, and – most important – professional papers showing that Croatian surgery of the time tackled and performed difficult surgical procedures with good results, owing to the endeavors invested by Dr. Wickerhauser and his disciples. Statistical data on the number and types of procedures, anesthesia, laparotomies, etc. are highly relevant for our Hospital.

Professor Wickerhauser was an excellent surgeon and teacher; he enabled his disciples to acquire appropriate surgical skills while allowing them to develop specializations they preferred. Such an approach resulted in a variety of specialties founded by his disciples, to mention only Mašek, Hühn, Durst and others.

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, new hospitals and surgical departments were established all over Croatia, all headed by Wickerhauser's disciples. They filled the Testimonial with their papers, confirming the statement of Professor Lujo Thaller, our historian, that Wickerhauser had established a school of surgery that was at the European level by the surgeons' knowledge and skills.

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