



Editorial

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This special issue of *Periodicum biologorum* supplements and extends the research presented at the 5th Croatian Congress of Pharmacology and the 2nd Congress of Croatian Physiological Society, with international participation, held in Osijek on September 19 – 22, 2007 at the Faculty of Medicine, University of J.J. Strossmayer and hotel »Osijek«.

The congress was organized by both the Croatian Pharmacological Society and Croatian Physiological Society since a great number of participating scientists are members of both Societies. Actually, pharmacology and physiology are interconnected disciplines since the methods of research are similar. Besides, our members cooperate in education of students in various fields of biomedicine. Thus, the members of both societies are intensively and enthusiastically engaged in teaching pharmacology and physiology at all levels of academic education at Universities of Zagreb, Split, Rijeka and Osijek.

The congress included 11 symposia (*Cell signaling, Organic anion and cation transporters in mammalian organs, Diagnosis and treatment of patients with chronic hepatitis C, Neurobiological basis and treatment of posttraumatic stress disorder, Pathophysiology and treatment of Alzheimer's disease, Diabetes and stress, Natural sources of pharmacology active compounds, Pharmacogenomics, Clinical pharmacology, Regulation of blood pressure and microcirculation, Diving physiology*), a Round table (*Regulation of medicine products in Croatia*), a Workshop (*The role of the health care professionals in adverse reaction reporting and pharmacovigilance system in Croatia*) and two poster sessions. About 300 members participated in various congress activities and about 10% of these were guests from abroad including prominent Croatian scientists.

The abstracts of the 5th Croatian Congress of Pharmacology and the 2nd Congress of Croatian Physiological Society as well as this special issue of *Periodicum biologorum* show that our membership is equally dedicated to promoting physiological and pharmacological research at both local and international level. We hope that all these activities will result in new initiatives and ideas for future joint projects. It is our hope that through this meeting and other activities, we can increase society's awareness of, and interest for physiology and pharmacology in order to promote research and improve patient care.

Finally, we wish to express our warmest thanks to the Editorial Board of *Periodicum biologorum* for kindly offering us the opportunity to present results of our research in a single thematic volume.

Guest editor