



Reflection on 60 Years of Psychiatric Advancement: from Alcoholism to Archives of Psychiatry Research

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When *Alcoholism* first emerged six decades ago in 1965, pioneered by its first editor-in-chief Vladimir Hudolin, it represented a truly avant-garde vision in the socialistic landscape of Yugoslavia. Professor Hudolin gathered around himself a number of most prominent researchers in the field of alcoholism and related addictions, mainly from countries which can culturally be considered western, which was certainly a massive achievement in light of the fact of predominant socialist ideas in his country. Another first was the fact that all articles were published in “foreign” languages (with Croatian abstract) since the very first issue, from Italian to German, Czech, French and English. It also has to be mentioned that around that time Hudolin was also elected as a president of the World Association of Social Psychiatry, reflecting his status in the world psychiatry. In the coming years English language predominated as the authors preferred its use and that practice prevailed to this day. However, those were not the only contributions from the first editor-in-chief, as during the sixties, seventies and into the eighties those authors grouped around him regularly published highly influential papers regarding alcoholism, and by doing so the journal was considered one of the leading scientific and educative resources in the whole field of addictions. In 1987 Branko Lang succeeded Hudolin as the editor-in-chief and largely continued in his footsteps, just as Vladko Thaller from 1994, both carrying Hudolin’s legacy and ideas towards the

new millennium. However, the end of the eighties and onwards were the trying times around and in the middle of Croatian War of Independence when Serbian forces invaded and partially occupied Croatia, attacking even its capital and journal’s home city – Zagreb. Successful defence, victory and freshly achieved independence allowed Croatia to regain its position in the Mediterranean and Central Europe, where it culturally belongs and has belonged during over a thousand years of its history. It also allowed a shift from socialism to what is commonly referred to as western values, but it did not happen overnight and to a certain extent is still ongoing even though Croatia is now a full member of the European Union and its citizens use euro as their currency. This digression of sorts is important as it highlights the trying times during the turn of the century (and millennia for that matter) for almost every sector in the country, health and science not being exceptions. Those years witnessed a significant decline in scientific productivity and even international collaboration with resources and energy being shifted into essential processes such as saving lives on a scale only wars and catastrophes generate. Everything stated, along with a sort of widespread and self-explanatory national exhaustion, evident region-wide turning inward and even complacency of journal’s leadership with what has previously been achieved led to the rise of ideas that the *Alcoholism* should be discontinued as it seemed that it has served its purpose. Insecurities about

journal's status reached their highs during the leadership of Danijel Buljan as editor-in-chief, even though he was hardly to blame and he and the journal indeed endured in the pace set by the founder. Evident decline was eventually stopped and even overturned in 2015 by the next editor-in-chief, Dalibor Karlović who realised the benefits of modern technologies, allowing the journal to reach worldwide readership via internet and journal's electronic version with all volumes and issues from volume 48 being available online. The other significant novelty that occurred in 2015 was the name change of the journal to *Alcoholism and Psychiatry Research* as Karlović, as several of his predecessors, faced significant challenges in securing a satisfactory number of quality articles due to journal's focus on domestic and regional authors solely in the field of alcoholism and related addictions. Therefore, he strived to broaden the scope of the journal to encompass whole psychiatry and to some extent related disciplines, such as psychology and social work. From that point onward we saw a steady increase of interest directed to the journal, which warranted another name change in 2019 when *Archives of Psychiatry Research* was introduced. That coincided with appointment of another editor-in-chief – Vjekoslav Peitl in a matter that Karlović and Peitl are now joint editors-in-chiefs. Something that seldom occurs but this decision proved to be an exceptional one as every one of journal parameters and metrics during the last five years reached all-time highs and continue to rise, with goals firmly set onto inclusion in MEDLINE, Pubmed and even Web of Science Core Collection. Furthermore, this allowed significant acceleration and strengthening of the editorial process while supporting selection of only high-quality manuscripts that strictly adhere to ethical and journal guidelines. Beside the partial digitalisation and journal's

web site, online manuscript submission service was one of the most important factors in achieving these goals. Nowadays, *Archives of Psychiatry Research* continues as a print journal with its electronic version published simultaneously and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future.

It needs to be said that as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of our journal that it has become the longest continually published psychiatric journal and one of the longest continually published biomedical journals in Croatia and bordering countries – an achievement which makes us immensely proud. During this sixty year long journey the journal assembled 59 volumes with 122 issues (4 supplement issues) and 945 articles, never failing to deliver on the underpinnings and promises of its founder. Now, as we look to the future, we acknowledge the ongoing challenges and opportunities in psychiatric research. The expanded scope of our journal has during the last five years allowed us to rapidly grow in volume and quality, while improving the high standards of the editorial process. That is why from its 60th volume *Archives of Psychiatry Research* will be published in more than two issues annually, which marks another significant milestone in journal's history.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the authors, reviewers, editorial board members, and readers who have been integral to the growth and success of our journal. As we commemorate six decades of psychiatric advancement, we reaffirm our dedication to advancing knowledge, challenging conventions, and advocating for the well-being of individuals facing psychiatric challenges.

Together, let us continue to illuminate the path ahead, guided by the spirit of inquiry, compassion, and progress in ever intriguing field of psychiatry.