

Dear Reader!

This Editorial is a conventional, typical one for the end of a year when people usually look back and sum up what happened in the past 365 days. And the last year was a very turbulent and exciting one for not only the Croatian kinesiologists but for the Croatian academic community in general.

We proudly produce in this issue the report on the 4th International Conference on Kinesiology "Science and Profession – Challenge for the Future", Opatija, September 7-11, 2005, which was a success, and on the Editorial Board meeting with 24 participants, members and guests. Over 350 delegates from 27 countries from four continents participated in the three-day conference work and were able to hear the 30 eminent speakers who had been invited. For the first time several young researchers under 33 years of age received the Young Researchers Award. The positive and praiseworthy comments concerning the organisation, structure and contents of the Conference are a challenge for the organiser, the Faculty of Kinesiology University of Zagreb, to make even greater efforts in the organisation of the 5th Conference in 2008.

*On the Sunday, September 11, 2005, the traditional meeting of the international **Kinesiology** Editorial Board was held with 14 foreign and 10 domestic members. On the agenda were the following items: cooperation among the members in the last decade, submission and review procedures, issues concerning article categorisation, and ways of improving the journal. Particularly profound and constructive in the discussion were the contributions of Ken Hardman, Gudrun Doll-Tepper, Jozsef Tihanyi and Włodzimierz Starosta. We do appreciate everything the members of the international board have already done and look forward to future cooperation.*

The first opportunity will be the competition for the new scientific project and programme grants that will take place at the beginning of 2006. For the first time in Croatia a large scale inclusion of foreign researchers into the research teams is encouraged. This radical change of academic behaviour opens the doors wide for international cooperation and it coincides with the general introduction of the Bologna Process in Croatian higher education. Contacts established or strengthened through

*the conferences on kinesiology, or the ECSS Congresses, or many others will be hopefully materialised through concrete research projects and programmes. It is our expectation that many new scientific original articles will originate from these enterprises both for the **Kinesiology** and the other journals worldwide.*

*In the new evaluation of the scientific journals published in Croatia, which was performed by the responsible state and university bodies of the Republic of Croatia, the journal **Kinesiology** has remained among the very top-quality significant international scientific journals indexed in the world relevant bibliographic or full-text bases. The articles published in it are acknowledged in the process of academic progression. The intention of the Editorial Board is to submit **Kinesiology** for inclusion in an additional pair of relevant bibliographic bases in the field of human biology and social sciences.*

*Not less exciting were the successes of Croatian athletes in the last year – the Davis Cup title won in December, the skiing titles of Janica Kostelić, the World Championships silver medal of the Croatian national handball team, the successes of the athletes with disabilities, the great sporting achievements of cadets, juniors and seniors in table tennis, swimming, artistic gymnastics (again after a long time), rowing, the national football team qualified for the FIFA World Cup, etc. These are sport achievements in which much effort and knowledge is built in. We dare to say that a certain contribution was given by both the journal **Kinesiology** and the Faculty of Kinesiology. Both institutions facilitate the dissemination and transfer of knowledge, scientific information, findings and inferences into a wider academic and professional community, thus firmly supporting the decision making in the national system of sports.*

This issue consists of ten interesting scientific articles. They can be classified into several thematic groups. In the first group is the article by Kuu and associates which deals with age-related changes in the contractile properties of plantar flexor muscles in middle-aged physically active women. In the second group is an article which deals with school children - the article from the

Czech Republic (Suchomel) defines the somatic characteristics of children with a low and high level of motor performance. The third topic is introduced by the article by Tihanyi Hős in which self-esteem of adults is investigated under the influence of systematic, guided fitness training. However, most articles can be classified into the fourth thematic group related to the field of sport. Zenić and Grčić-Zubčević propose a model of ability grouping in swimming which may improve the efficiency of the teaching process in swimming. Claessens and associates analyse body proportions of elite male junior rowers in relation to performance or competition level, rowing style and boat type. Supej and associates scientifically verified the strong influence of changing conditions on the ski slalom course on sporting performance. In the article dealing with basketball Jukić and associates defined the latent structure of preparedness and of the process of sport preparation on the basis of a large number of physical conditioning contents. Two articles dealt with tennis: Mavvidis and associates investigated the differences in speed of the ball between forehand and backhand strokes,

whereas Filipčić and Filipčić established the relationships of tennis-specific motor abilities and competition efficiency of young female tennis players. The last theme is introduced in the article by Časlavova and Berka on the organisation and management of sport clubs in the Czech Republic. This experience is applicable to all the European countries in transition.

Very favourable for the journal is the growing number of the articles submitted for publication in the **Kinesiology** journal, for which we wish to express our gratitude to the authors. Still, we do encourage you, dear reader, and your colleagues to send new contributions. Your quality papers will make the **Kinesiology** journal a visible and sought-after scientific journal. For our part we will do our best to improve, namely accelerate the process of reviewing and publishing, as well as the way of communication between the journal and the authors, on the one hand, and reviewers on the other, thus meeting the highest possible editing standards.

Dear reader, we hope you will enjoy this issue of our journal.

Editors