

## IN MEMORIAM

Professor Ivo Jajić, MD, PhD  
(1932-2010)



On June 10, 2010, retired Professor Ivo Jajić, MD, PhD, a physiatrist and rheumatologist, departed this life and his funeral by his close family members took place on Mirogoj Cemetery on June 11, 2010.

Ivo Jajić was born in 1932 in the village of Bristvica near Trogir, wherefrom his rich professional and scientific work had brought him high positions and respectful recognitions.

He completed secondary school for x-ray technicians in 1951 and graduated from the Zagreb University School of Medicine in 1960. He served his internship in Virovitica, where he worked as family physician until his residency in physical medicine and rehabilitation in Split Thermal Resort and Zagreb from 1962 to 1965. Upon completion of his residency in 1965, he worked at Split Thermal Resort for some time. From 1968, he worked as head of the Department of Drug Testing, Lek Pharmaceutical Industry. From 1972, he was head of the Department of Rheumatic Diseases and Rehabilitation, University Department of Orthopedics, Zagreb University School of Medicine, and from 1985 until his retirement in 2001 he was head of the University Department of

Rheumatology, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital; while headed by Prof. Jajić, this Department was appointed Reference Center for Inflammatory Rheumatic Diseases of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of the Republic of Croatia.

Prof. Jajić defended his doctoral dissertation in the field of rheumatology in 1972; was appointed Assistant Professor at the Zagreb School of Medicine in 1976, and Professor in 1981. Sub-residency in rheumatology he completed in 1978.

Prof. Jajić's professional activities were primarily focused on the epidemiology and immunogenetics of rheumatic diseases, spondyloarthropathies, algodystrophic syndrome, hypertrophic osteoarthropathy, rheumatic polymyalgia and giant cell arteritis in particular. He received professional training at several European centers and headed scientific projects of the Ministry of Science and Technology. Prof. Jajić published more than 400 scientific and professional papers with over 1000 citations in Science Citation Index. He alone or as coauthor (mostly with his daughter Zrinka) published a number of books (monographs, hand-

books and textbooks) in the field of rheumatology and psychiatry, thus having significantly contributed to the Croatian professional literature; one of his books has also appeared in English.

Prof. Jajić described some new signs and clinical diagnostic tests, while his special field of interest were radiological changes in rheumatic diseases. Prof. Jajić had contributed greatly to the education of physicians and other medical professionals, having unselfishly transferred to them his rich knowledge and experience. He was active as lecturer and organizer of a number of national and international congresses, symposia and courses in rheumatology and psychiatry. In 1980, he initiated the foundation of the Registry of Rheumatic Diseases in Croatia, which, unfortunately, failed to develop properly.

Prof. Jajić was chairman of the Section of Rheumatology, Croatian Medical Association (CMA) 1977-1985; chairman of the Yugoslav Association of Rheumatologists 1982-1986; chairman of the Croatian Society of Rheumatology 1996-1998; founder and first chairman of the Section of Vertebrology, CMA (now Croatian Society of Vertebrology) 1986-1989; honorary member of the Croatian Society of Rheumatology and Croatian Society of Vertebrology; honorary member of a number of European rheumatology societies; and full member of the British Society of Rheumatology. He was Croatian representative and member of international scientific and professional organizations. In 1982, he was elected full member of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Croatia. He headed Chair of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Zagreb University School of Medicine 1996-1998; he also organized and headed postgraduate study in physical medicine and rehabilitation.

Prof. Jajić initiated publication of a professional journal *Fizikalna medicina i rehabilitacija*, at first as a newsletter of the Croatian Society of Physiotherapists, then as a journal of the Croatian Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation; he acted as Editor-in-Chief from the journal launching in 1984 until 1998. In addition, he was Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Reumatizam* (1990-1998) and member of editorial boards of several other journals.

Prof. Jajić received Ruđer Bošković Award for Scientific Work in 1987; Ladislav Rakovac Award from CMA in 1993; and City of Zagreb Award in 2000.

Having promoted nonprofessional organization of patients with rheumatic diseases, Prof. Jajić launched the foundation of the Society of Zagreb Rheumatics in 1982, which under his leadership grew into the Croatian League against Rheumatism in 1992; he headed it from the foundation until his retirement, then he was its honorary chair. In 1989, Prof. Jajić initiated publication of the journal *Reuma* (entitled *Reumatičar* for the first few years), intended primarily for education and consultation of rheumatic patients and potential patients, thus having greatly contributed to the popularization and awareness of the importance of rheumatic diseases in general. In this context, his handbooks on particular rheumatic diseases should be noted.

We will remember Professor Ivo Jajić for his great love and works he bequeathed to the Croatian rheumatology and psychiatry, not only in terms of organization, development and publications, but also through appropriate care for rheumatic patients.

We are deeply grateful to Professor Jajić for it.

*Simeon Grazio*