

Foreword

Dear Readers,

In front of you, there is a special issue of *Jahr*, in which we publish presentations and discussion from the round table entitled “The current moment of Croatian health-care system”, held on January 22, 2010, at University of Rijeka Medical School and organized by Department of Social Sciences and Medical Humanities and the Rijeka branch of Croatian Bioethics Society. The aim of the conference was to examine scientific, professional, social, ethical, and cultural perspectives of the most topical questions and problems of Croatian health-care system. Sixty participants accepted the invitation to the conference: representatives, directors, and board members of health-care institutions; leaders of labor unions, professional associations in health care, associations for patients’ rights, and the association of lawyers in health care; heads of the health-care departments of the Primorsko-goranska County and of City of Rijeka; members of Croatian Parliament, as well as directors of private health-care institutions. Arriving from Rovinj, Požega, Zagreb, Klenovik, Novi Marof, Osijek, Popovača, and Zadar, being part of various levels of organizational structure of health-care institutions in Croatia, the participants contributed to a mansided consideration and practical solving of health-care system problems. As the organizers of the conference, we therefore express deep gratitude to all of them.

A specialty of the conference was the presence and active participation of students of the second year of the program “Organization, planning, and management in health care” – a profession that will face precisely those problems the conference was all about. Following the conference concept and inspired with the discussion, the participants defined the “Rijeka Appeal for a Rational and Ethical Health Care” and sent it off to the major decision makers in health care and, via public media, to a broader audience. The contentual and methodological perspectives stressed in the “Appeal” have confirmed the usefulness and correctness of the application of integrative bioethics upon the analysis of the present state of Croatian health care as well as upon conceiving the recommendations to overcome that state.

The published thoughts and attitudes have been authorized by the participants of the conference. The order of presentations and discussion has been determined according to the chronology of the conference.

We express our deepest gratitude to the Primorsko-goranska County whose financial support has been crucial for this publication, in particular to Mr. Zlatko Komadina, the County Prefect, Mrs. Nada Turina-Đurić, the Vice County Prefect, and to Mr. Branko Škrobonja, the head of the County Prefect Office.

In contrast to the journal general policy, this part of *Jahr* is published only in Croatian, without providing the English translation, due to the specific character of the exposed topics. The main result of the conference – the “Rijeka Appeal”, however, as well as short summaries of the presentations, are offered in English as well.

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