

12th SCIENTIFIC MEETING “RIJEKA AND ITS RESIDENTS IN THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE”

12. ZNANSTVENI SKUP »RIJEKA I RIJEČANI U MEDICINSKOJ POVJESNICI«

On 11 November 2011, Theology in Rijeka, the local chapter of the Zagreb University Catholic Faculty of Theology hosted the 12th Scientific Meeting “Rijeka and its Residents in the History of Medicine”. The organisers were the Croatian Scientific Society for the History of Medical Culture, the Rijeka University School of Medicine Department of Social Sciences, and Theology in Rijeka, the local chapter of the Zagreb University Catholic Faculty of Theology. The meeting was held under the auspices of Primorsko-goranska County, the City of Rijeka, Archdiocese of Rijeka, Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia, and the Rijeka University Foundation. The 23 presentations and 32 authors from Croatia, Slovenia, and Serbia have once again confirmed the international character of this meeting.

The opening speech by Professor Ante Škrobonja, the Organisation Committee chair, was followed by the address of the meeting's host Božidar Mrakovčić, PhD, dean of Theology in Rijeka.

The first session, entitled “Medical elements in the sacral tradition of the Rijeka Archdiocese”, was opened by Ante Škrobonja (Rijeka), who reviewed the results of a five-year project whose aim was to collect, organise, evaluate and present pieces of medical information in the history of the Rijeka Archdiocese. Through the construction timeline of the Church of St Roch, Amir Muzur compared the settlement and church history of Volosko with the history of Opatija and its Church of St Jacob. Igor Eterović (Rijeka) and Robert Doričić (Lovran) took a look at elements of medicine in the Church of St George in Lovran. Eterović presented their findings of frescos and preserved Glagolitic inscriptions on the church's sanctuary, focusing on the iconography of patron saints against diseases.

Ana Lesac (Rijeka) presented a study she co-authored with Ante Škrobonja (Rijeka) on the epigraphic and iconographic elements of Barbara Frankopan's reliquary kept in the treasury of the sanctuary of Our Lady of Trsat in Rijeka. They also presented an anatomical analysis of the relics. Božidar Mrakovčić (Rijeka) touched on the religious values of health and illness through history books and prophecies of the Old and New Testament. Milan Špehar (Rijeka) took a look at health and illness through the perspective of Christian theology. He underlined the role of prayer for good health, healing and vows / vocational offerings. Marko Medved (Rijeka) gave a historical review of clerical institutions in Rijeka and their close relation to the development of local healthcare institutions. He underscored the importance of fraternities and of the town hospital vicariate, established in 1928. The first session concluded with a presentation by Franjo Velčić (Rijeka) dedicated to the bishop of Krk Ivan Antun Sintić (1792–1837). Bishop Sintić was active in treating the residents of the islands of Krk, Rab, and Pag from snake and other animal bites.

The second session started with a presentation by two authors from Zagreb, Darija Hofgräff and Stella Fatović-Ferenčić. Hofgräff presented a study that completed and amended the biography of a Rijeka-born physician Dragutin Schwarz (1903–?). Ana Alebić-Juretić (Rijeka) gave a historical review of meteorological measurements in Rijeka, starting with the first weather station head Emil Stahlberger and his successor Peter Salcher. Dorotea Modrčin (Rijeka) gave a brief historical review (co-authored by Amir Muzur) of the health resort for children "Villa Italia" that was located at today's Children's Hospital Kantrida during Italian civil administration and proposed a revision of the dates related to the hospital's establishment. Ana Lesac concluded the second session with a historical review she co-authored with Mirna Juretić (Rijeka) about the development of maxillofacial surgery in Rijeka.

The last session was dedicated to the history of medical culture of the Croatian Littoral and Istria and included a few independent presentations. Duša Fischinger (Ljubljana) presented the biography of Opatija's physician Franz Tripold (1865–1956), who worked at the turn of the 20th century. Dr Tripold headed Opatija's weather station and was the head physician of the Volunteer Fire Department of Opatija. This study was co-authored by Janez Fischinger (Ljubljana) and Aleš Fischinger (Ljubljana). Barbara Fischinger presented a study on the establishment and work of Opatija's weather station, co-authored by Aleš Fischinger and Janez Fischinger, all from Ljubljana. This weather station has been operational since 1886 and measurements have followed the same schedule since 1873. The last pres-

entation of the morning session was held by Đorđe Milović (Rijeka), who presented the Statute of Šibenik dating back to the 13th century. Milović noted that the statute brings a number of public health regulations. The study was co-authored by Grozdana Milović-Karić.

The afternoon session started with a presentation by Robert Doričić (Lovran), who spoke about the use of medical terms in nearly extinct Vlački and Žejanski language. He presented preserved anatomical terms, names of diseases and elements of ethnomedicine. Urška Železnik (Kopar) presented a study co-authored by Darko Darovec (Kopar) about a sanitary cordon (quarantine line) to ward off the threat of plague in Istria in the 18th century. Železnik described the location and the structure of the quarantine line that ran along the Venetian and Austrian border in Istria. Raul Marsetič (Rovinj) took a look at hygienic and health issues related to burials within the town walls of Pula at the turn of the 19th century and how they were dealt with. Rino Cigui (Rovinj) gave a brief review of the circumstances that favoured the spread of malaria across the Istrian peninsula and then focused on malaria in Pula in the 1870s and the epidemics in 1879. Zlatko Đukić (Osijek) presented a study, co-authored by Livija Kovač-Đukić (Osijek) about the influence of infectious diseases on sailing in the antique times, and concluded that low level of hygiene took the greatest toll in human lives. Jovan Maksimović (Novi Sad) gave a historical review of 150 years of



Opening words of the meeting chair in the great hall of Theology in Rijeka

Predsjedavajući tijekom otvorenja skupa u velikoj dvorani Teologije u Rijeci .

(Foto / Photo by: Duša Fischinger)



Participants of the 12th Scientific Meeting "Rijeka and its Residents in the History of Medicine"

Sudionici 12. znanstvenog skupa "Rijeka i Riječani u medicinskoj povjesnici"

(Foto / Photo by: Duša Fischinger)

midwifery and obstetrics in northwest Croatia and spoke about the establishment of the School for Midwives and Maternity Hospital in Zagreb. The study was co-authored by Marko Maksimović (Novi Sad). A study presented by Eduard Pavlović (Rijeka) and co-authored by Ljubomir Radovančević (Zagreb) gives a review of the understanding of heart and brain through history, and of the unresolved dispute about the seat of the soul in this context. The meeting concluded with a presentation by Lejla Peternjel-Uran (Izola), co-authored by Zvonka Zupanič-Slavec about the 450th anniversary of Koper physician and inventor Santorio Santorio (1561–1638), who is considered the pioneer of quantitative medicine.

Sessions were followed by a discussion, and Professor Ante Škrobonja, chair of the Croatian Scientific Society for the History of Medical Culture, and Professor Amir Muzur, head of the Rijeka University School of Medicine Department of Social Sciences briefly wrapped up the meeting.

The 12th Scientific Meeting "Rijeka and its Residents in the History of Medicine" met the organiser's expectations and, considering the number of participants, ranks the third greatest gathering in its history. The number and variety of presentations have once again confirmed the topicality of the history of medical culture of Rijeka and the wider area in the scientific community.

Robert Doričić