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**XVIII SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ‘RIJEKA AND  
ITS CITIZENS IN MEDICAL HISTORY’  
('RIJEKA I RIJEČANI U MEDICINSKOJ POVJESNICI')**

XVIII. Scientific conference ‘Rijeka and its Citizens in Medical History’ (‘Rijeka i Riječani u medicinskoj povjesnici’) was held in Rijeka on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Organized by the Croatian Scientific Society for the History of the Health Culture (Hrvatsko znanstveno društvo za povijest zdravstvene kulture) the mentioned conference is held annually in Rijeka on the second Friday in November each year since the millennial year 2000. Until now more than 350 presentations were given by 480 participants from Croatia and abroad. Conference is aimed at the historians of medicine from the Mediterranean and the countries of Central Europe. Conference abstracts are regularly published in the individual conference’s abstract books, while the majority of the papers is also printed *in extenso* in the society’s journal Acta medico-historica Adriatica (AMHA).

This year’s conference was, as became customary during the previous few years, held in the Croatian State Archive in Rijeka, whose building dates from the years of the Habsburg Monarchy, when it was used as the dynasty’s official residence during its members’ visits to the Kvarner region, and as such thus provides a suitable space for the conference presentations. One of its curiosities is a preserved statue of the late king and emperor Franz Joseph, which due to the later historical outcomes, became his only preserved statue in the entire Republic of Croatia and as such is kept in the main lobby. Conference itself was divided into two parts separated by a coffee break: the morning one dedicated to the themes from the history of medicine of Rijeka and its surrounding and the afternoon one dedicated to topics concerned with the general history of medicine. Nine morning presentations covered themes from the

morbidity and mortality in Rijeka, Kvarner and Istria during 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, over historical interconnections between medicine and religion, towards the achievements of the physicians connected to Rijeka (Ivo Margan, Ljubica Bosner, Zvonimir Maretić). Eleven afternoon presentations spanned topics from Slovenia and Croatia to Serbia and Greek Ionian Islands and from the chemistry handbooks over the medical nursing in Ljubljana and the public health in Karlovac towards the Spanish flu epidemic, thus commemorating its 100th anniversary.

There were 30 participants overall, coming not just from Rijeka and Croatia, but from Slovenia and Serbia as well, thus clearly testifying conference's international outreach in accordance with its already stated above aim of bringing together the historians of medicine from the Mediterranean and the countries of Central Europe. Their different interests have come into the fore especially during the heartfelt discussion which has developed after all the presentations were held and have continued even during the concluding lunch. In the end I would like on behalf of all the organizers and on my own behalf to invite all the interested historians of medicine to join us on the next year's conference on the same place and at the same time.

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Non MeSH: 'Rijeka and Its Citizens in Medical History', Croatian Scientific Society for the History of Health Culture, Rijeka

More on the conference itself could be read in: Doričić, R; Eterović, I. 'Scientific Conference Rijeka and its Citizens in Medical History 2000–2016' ('Znanstveni skupovi Rijeka i Riječani u medicinskoj povjesnici 2000. – 2016.'). *Acta Med Hist Adriat* 2017; 15 (Suppl. 1); 19–24.