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## **Dr Ivan Pintar and His Contribution to the Development of History of Medicine in Slovenia**

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The Medical School of the Ljubljana University has a long lasting tradition in teaching the history of medicine. Since 1934, all students of medicine and dentistry in Slovenia have attended the courses in history of medicine which were and still are mandatory. The first years of lectures on the history of medicine at the Ljubljana University Medical School coincided with the struggle for the establishment and recognition of a full medical curriculum in Slovenia. Dr Ivan Pintar (1888-1963), the first lecturer of the history of medicine (1934-1963), was a man of great ethical and national values and an ardent advocate for the promotion of Slovene contribution to medical culture in Slovenia, former Yugoslavia, and Europe. Pintar's concept of history of medicine included general historical, sociological, ethical, cultural, psychological, biotechnical, and other aspects. During 30 years of his endeavors, he did a pioneer work in the research on the history of medicine in Slovenia. For many years he was the editor of the Medical Chamber Bulletin, chairman of the Slovene Medical Society, and the founder of the Section for the History of Medicine in 1951. He wrote the first Slovene textbook on the history of medicine and published many articles on prominent physicians from Slovenia. He paved the way for the new generation of medical historians in Slovenia. Owing to him, contemporary Slovene physicians and dentists are aware of the importance of professional tradition. They know how to use the past experiences for new achievements.

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