

The New Future

Report from the 7th Congress of the World Association of Croatian Physicians



Dr Bošnjak is the Director of Laboratory of Cellular Biology, Department of Anesthesiology and Professor of Physiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He received a PhD degree in Physiology also at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. Dr Bošnjak is leading a group of basic- and physician-scientists and the studies in his laboratories are coordinated as a major effort to understand the mechanisms by which anesthetics and related drugs modulate cardiac and smooth muscle electrophysiology.

Professor Željko J. Bošnjak, the new President of the World Association of Croatian Physicians.

The 7th Congress of the World Association of Croatian Physicians (WACP) took place at Stubičke Toplice, Croatia, May 2-4, 2002. It was organized by the WACP, Croatian Medical Association (CMA), Croatian Association of Dentists, and Swiss Medical Section of the Alma Matris Alumni Croaticae. The scientific program occupied most of the conference time, but participants' feelings and thoughts were focused on the future of the WACP. This was because the conference attendance was poor (both from Croatia and abroad), and organization casual. J. Bill, once a very ambitious Secretary, did not show up, whereas the President I. Baća, just dropped by to apologize for obligations which prevented him from staying at the Congress. He was handsome and tanned as ever, and everybody knew that these virtues he got from the very same obligations which urged him to leave. Thus, all tasks ended up on the shoulders of the second Secretary, I. Bokan, who endured all, heroically, stoically and with all success that such a meeting could achieve.

Everybody loved WACP, for the beauty of its basic meaning and great deeds accomplished in the past, especially during the 1991-1995 Homeland War (1). Everybody did all possible to secure the WACP future. Most tried to accomplish this by praising the Association, remembering old days, and dreaming of bright future. Only I. Bokan and A. Tucak stood firmly on the ground and invested all their love, wit, and stamina into the elections of the new WACP officers, those who would revive the Association and guide it to the peace-time victories. The persons listed below indeed sound as the team that will score for future.

President:

Professor Željko J. Bošnjak, Milwaukee (WI), USA;

Vice Presidents:

Professor Ivan Đikić, Uppsala, Sweden (for Europe);

Professor Ante Tucak, Osijek, Croatia (for Croatia);

Secretaries:

Dr Josip Bill, Würzburg, Germany;

Dr Davor Vugrin, Lubbock (TX), USA;

Dr Maša Morsan, Zagreb, Croatia.

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Knowing great professional, scientific, organizational, and patriotic achievements of Ž. Bošnjak, one is bound to expect that WACP will gain a new momentum and regain the function it has had during the war and in early post-war times. One should also hope that his team will follow his lead and make his hard task easier. Believing that we are at the start of the new times for the WACP, we can only say: "*Vivat, crescat, floreat.*" However, this cannot be achieved solely by the efforts of the new leadership – the key to success lies in the proverb favorite to WACP's oldest yet most active and devoted member, Ž. Dolinar: *Viribus unitis!* (2). Without love, care, and efforts of all of us, those at home and abroad, WACP will not survive or, at least, will not live a life worth living. The Homeland War was fought for one cause only: that we become able to take our destiny into our own hands. The war is over, and our destiny will be decided by our deeds only.

Matko Marušić

1 Baća I, Bokan I, Barko V, Marušić M, Novak D, editors. Chronicle of World Association of Croatian Physicians 1991-1997. Zagreb: Croatian Medical Journal; 1999.

2 Marušić M. *Viribus unitis*: report from the Third Meeting of the World Association of Croatian Physicians, Pula, Croatia, May 19-21, 1994. *Croat Med J* 1994;35:188-92.