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## Jajić I, Jajić Z. The Development of Rheumatology Through Two Millennia

Zagreb: Birotisak; 2008 (Croatian and English edition). 460 pages; ISBN (English edition) 978-953-6156-38-2; price: € 53.00

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**Field of medicine:** Rheumatology.

**Audience:** This book is published in both Croatian and English language, which makes it unique in the international literature. It is recommended not only to rheumatologists but also to other related specialists and medical science historians, and might be useful for further development of this field of medicine in the world.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the book is to present the development of knowledge in rheumatology during two millennia, from the initial concepts of *rheuma* in ancient Greece to the year 2000 when rheumatology became a field of medicine.

**Content:** The first part, Overview of Historical Events presents historical events in international rheumatology beginning from the early history and explains the Greek concept of *rheuma* (flux). Also, this part introduces the terms rheumatology and rheumatologist and describes the development of rheumatology specialization, establishment of national rheumatology associations in Europe and the USA, and the first medical conference on rheumatic diseases held in 1932 in New Orleans (followed by national congresses of rheumatologists and international meetings). Foundation of the International League Against Rheumatism including 4 regional leagues: European (EULAR), American (PANLAR), Asian-Pacific (APLAR), and African (AFLAR), and all major events and activities related to particular leagues are also described. This part also gives an overview of the most important international rheumatology journals and their history. An important part of the historical overview gives chronologic survey of classifications and nomenclature of rheumatic diseases, diagnostic

criteria, the first professors of rheumatology at universities, and Nobel Prize winners for medicine related to rheumatology.

The most extensive, second part, entitled Authors Who Contributed to the Development of Rheumatology, on 372 pages with more than 1000 illustrations, presents in alphabetic order 2343 authors who contributed to the development of rheumatology in the world, not only rheumatologists but also epidemiologists, pathologists, immunologists, biochemists, oculists, dermatologists, medical historians, pediatricians, nuclear medicine specialists, gastroenterologists, radiologists, and other specialists engaged in rheumatology. Their biographic data, specialty, a short list of their publications with original literature data, and a photograph of the majority of them are provided.

The third part, entitled From the History of Development of Croatian Rheumatology, presents a short overview of historical events in the development of rheumatology in Croatia.

A detailed Index of Authors and Index of Terms can be found at the end of the book. The book was reviewed by Academician Zvonko Kusić and Academician Dragan Dekaris.

**Highlight and limitations:** In making of this book, Ivo Jajić and Zrinka Jajić, professors of rheumatology at the School of Medicine University of Zagreb, Croatia, collaborated with national and university libraries from Europe and USA, and with colleagues from all over the world, which makes this a unique publication in international and Croatian literature.