

JOSIP MATOVINOVIĆ SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION IODINE PROPHYLAXIS – EXPERIENCES AND DILEMMAS

Zagreb, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, May 20, 2009

The Josip Matovinović Scientific Symposium with International Participation Iodine Prophylaxis – Experiences and Dilemmas was successfully held on May 20, 2009 in the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Zagreb. There were 134 participants from all parts of Croatia, from the neighboring countries Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, and from Italy and Belgium. The Symposium was organized by the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Department of Medical Sciences; Croatian Thyroid Society, Croatian Medical Association; and University Department of Oncology and Nuclear Medicine, Reference Center for Thyroid Diseases of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of Republic of Croatia, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital.

The Symposium had two parts, the ceremonial one when the Josip Matovinović Award was presented to the most distinguished Croatian scientists for their special contribution in the field of thyroidology, and the official, scientific part, which consisted of six lectures delivered by renowned European and Croatian experts in the field of iodine prophylaxis, Aldo Pinchera from Pisa, Italy; Daniel Glinoe from Brussels, Belgium; Sergej Hojker from Ljubljana, Slovenia; and Zvonko Kusić, Ivica Kostović and Tomislav Jukić from Croatia.

The Symposium was opened by academician Zvonko Kusić as Secretary of the Department of Medical Sciences, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, president of the Croatian Thyroid Society and president of the Symposium Organizing Committee. Among Symposium participants there were distinguished guests: academician Pavle Dešpalj, Vice-President of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts; academician Slavko Cvetnić, Secretary General of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and

Arts; other academicians; Professor Ivan Šimonović, minister of justice; Professor Mate Granić; Professor Mate Mihanović, Director of Sveti Ivan Psychiatric Hospital; Professor Antoinette Kaić-Rak, head of the WHO Office in Croatia; Dr. Željko Baklaić, Director of the National Institute of Public Health; academician Husref Tahirović, member of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Academy of Sciences and Arts; Dr. Stanko Težak, President of the Croatian Society of Nuclear Medicine, Croatian Medical Association; Professor Mate Ljubičić, Deputy President of the National Health Committee; Professor Dragutin Komar, Dean of the School of Dental Medicine, University in Zagreb; Professor Jadranka Božikov, Director of Andrija Štampar School of Public Health; and directors of many other health institutions.

Symposium participants were addressed by Dr. Hrvoje Minigo, President of the Croatian Medical Chamber; Professor Željko Metelko, President of the Croatian Medical Council and President of the Croatian Endocrinological Society; Professor Aleksa Bjeliš, President of the University in Zagreb; Professor Dražen Vikić Topić, State Secretary at the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports; and Dr. Ante Zvonimir Golem, State Secretary at the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

In his foreword, academician Zvonko Kusić said:

“This Symposium is taking place after a similar one dedicated to iodine deficiency and goiter, held in 1999 in this same hall. It was 3 years after the increase of iodine amount in the salt done in 1996.

A study performed in those days showed that goiter had not yet been eradicated in our country and there was still mild iodine deficiency that was successfully corrected by the new act. Even then, the first favorable results could be seen. In the meantime, the

investigations have shown continuous progress in iodine deficiency elimination. Croatia has crossed the path from severe iodine deficiency through moderate iodine deficiency, so that it could reach iodine sufficiency and become one of the countries that have shown best results in resolving this important public health problem. This Symposium has been organized so that the present state could be evaluated and also to focus on another important topic, i.e. the issue of sufficient iodine intake in pregnant women. During pregnancy, iodine requirements increase and it is important for the psychomotor development of infants as well as for the prevention of psychomotor disorders. An important question that still remains unanswered is additional iodine supplementation during pregnancy. There are examples of countries with sufficient iodine intake in the general population while reporting insufficient iodine intake in pregnant women. Also, even if there is adequate iodine intake in pregnancy,



The Josip Matovinić medal

there is always a significant percent of pregnant women that have iodine intake lower than optimal.

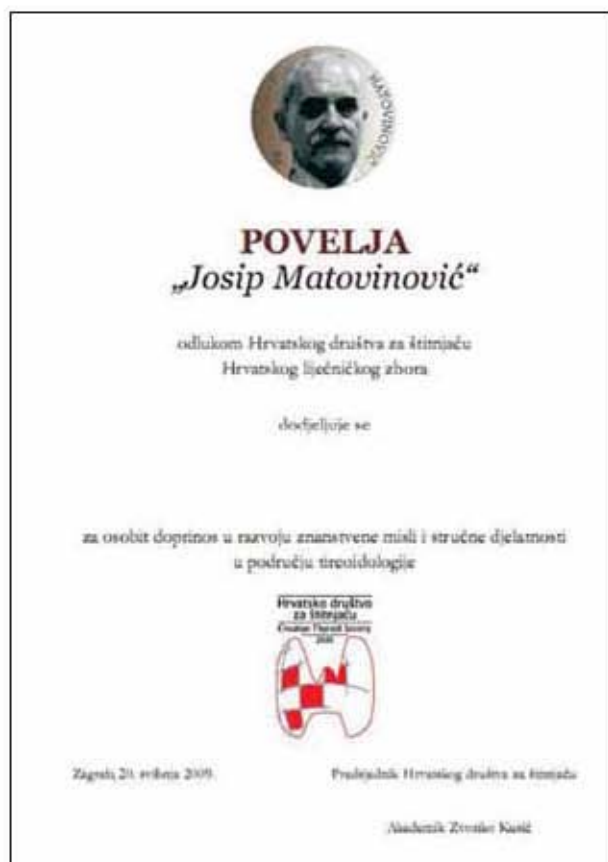
At this Symposium, we will try to answer all these questions and dilemmas, to establish the present status in Croatia, and to find out whether our pregnant women do need additional iodine supplementation in the form of vitamins, as recommended in some countries (USA) known to have reached sufficient iodine intake in the general population. The Croatian Thyroid Society has already issued guidelines for rational diagnosis of thyroid diseases and for diagnosis and treatment of carcinomas. This Symposium will also result in conclusions upon which the Society will establish guidelines for treating pregnant women.

That is why we have invited Professor Pinchera and Professor Glinier as the leading European and World experts in the field, to take part in the Symposium".

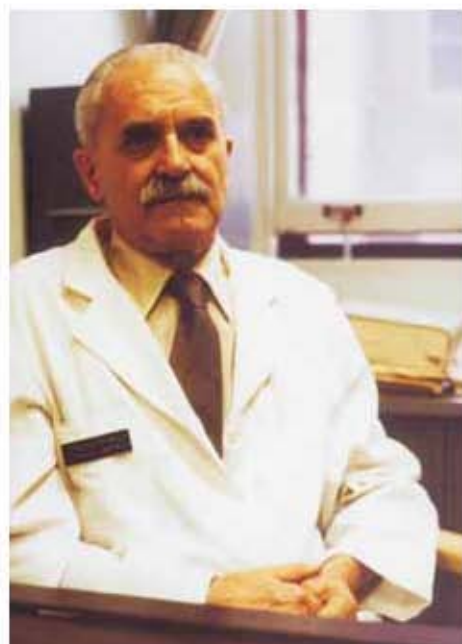
After the welcome address, the award ceremony took place and an academician Kusić said:

"Let me introduce you to the events that have led to the decision of establishing the Josip Matovinić Award.

Thyroid diseases are among the most common disorders in humans. A number of specialties are involved in the treatment of these patients. In Croatia, there is a high level of clinical and laboratory disciplines with a great number of clinical experts and scientists. The existing high quality of clinical practice and science is the result of hard work and long tradition of many previous generations and their accomplishments in the field, especially our teachers that are responsible for the development of Croatian medicine.



The Josip Matovinić scroll



That is why the Croatian Thyroid Society Managing Board made a decision, based on article 43 of the Croatian Medical Association regulatory provisions on the professional society activity, to establish the Josip Matovinić Award for special scientific and professional contribution to the field of thyroidology”.

The Award consists of a medal and a scroll with a figure of Josip Matovinić. The medal was made by Professor Damir Mataušić, academic sculptor.

Then, academician Kusić presented a short biography of Professor Matovinić and awarded the scientists.

Professor Josip Matovinić was the father of modern Croatian endocrinology and author of the first act on salt iodination in Croatia. He was born in 1914 in Ličko Cerje. In 1956, he went to the USA, where he stayed at Harvard University for three years and from 1959 he worked at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where he stayed until his retirement in 1985. Professor Matovinić was a world known endocrinologist and his special field of interest was research and treatment of thyroid diseases, especially goiter. He wrote the first act on salt iodination in 1953 in former Yugoslavia and he played the most important role in its implementation.

In the USA, he was appreciated not only as a scientist, doctor and teacher, but also as an intellectual and erudite, a man of unusually wide culture. He had special interest in the history of medicine and received a number of awards and honors.

Professor Matovinić died in Ann Arbor in 1998, where he had established a scholarship foundation for young doctors graduated at Zagreb University School of Medicine.

Academician Kusić pointed out that he had a great honor and privilege to work and learn from him in Ann Arbor.

The Managing Board decided to present the Josip Matovinić Award to academician Ivo Padovan, academician Šime Spaventi, academician Zdenko Škrabalo, and posthumously to academician Mladen Sekso and Professor Ivan Šimonović. The award was received by academician Krista Kostial-Šimonović on



Academician Ivo Padovan is receiving the medal.



Academician Šime Spaventi is receiving the medal

behalf of the late Professor Šimonović, and by Professor Milan Vrkljan on behalf of the late academician Sekso.

The first Josip Matovinović Award was presented to Mrs. Natalija Matovinović, Professor Matovinović's wife, a distinguished piano player and daughter to Dr. Antun Gottlieb, a surgeon and another great scientist of the Croatian medicine. Mrs. Matovinović showed great appreciation and, visibly touched she said that if her husband had been alive, he would not believe what a great acknowledgment he had received for his work.

Academician Zdenko Škrabalo expressed his gratitude for this acknowledgment on behalf of all the laureates.

After the ceremony, Branka Jaržanin-Magdalenić, our renowned harp player, honored the audience with

her beautiful music.

After the break, the scientific part of the Symposium took part. The first lecture on iodine prophylaxis in Croatia was held by academician Zvonko Kusić. He pointed out that our country, led by University Department of Oncology and Nuclear Medicine, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital, as Reference Center for Thyroid Diseases of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of Republic of Croatia, has great and successful experience in adequate iodine prophylaxis that resulted in elimination of goiter and other disorders caused by iodine deficiency, among which psychomotor disorders are most important and have great significance in any population. With this, Croatia has become one of the countries that have successfully solved this important public health problem. This scientific Symposium can also be perceived as affirmation



Professor Milan Vrkljan is receiving the medal on behalf of the late academician Mladen Sekso.

for the long standing successful work in the field for which Croatia is recognized in the world. The latest results of the studies performed in schoolchildren in 2009 in Zagreb, Rude, Split, Rijeka and Osijek have shown our population to be free from goiter and to have a sufficient iodine intake.

This was followed by lectures on iodine prophylaxis in Europe presented by Professor Aldo Pinchera, iodine and pregnancy by Professor Daniel Glinoe, and on the pitfalls of iodine overload through excess self supplementation by Professor Sergej Hojker. After the break, Dr. Tomislav Jukić held a lecture on iodine intake during pregnancy in Croatia. The data shown in this lecture indicated a sufficient iodine intake during pregnancy in Croatia, especially in the group of pregnant women taking iodine supplementation during pregnancy. Academician Ivica Kostović spoke about the influence of hormones on brain development. The peak of the scientific part was the Round Table and live discussion of the lecturers about the increased need of iodine during pregnancy.

Then lunch was served in the Academy Palace lobby.

The Second Elective Assembly of the Croatian Thyroid Society

After the Symposium, at 3.00 p.m., the Second Elective Assembly of the Croatian Thyroid Society took place. Academician Zvonko Kusić was re-elected President and Professor Miljenko Solter first Vice President; Dr. Zdenka Bence-Žigman, Professor Aleksandar Smokvina, Professor Velimir Božikov, Professor Damir Dodig, Dr. Danijel Došen, Professor Mirko Koršić, Professor Ivan Mihaljević, Mr. Marijan Petek, Professor Vlado Petric, Professor Ante Punda, Dr. Juraj Smoje, Professor Milan Vrkljan and Dr. Josip Žmire were elected members of the Society Managing Board. It was followed by the Managing Board meeting, when Dr. Josip Žmire was elected Secretary of the Society, on recommendation from academician Kusić, President of the Society.

Zvonko Kusić