

## Book review: The history of tuberculosis - with reference to sanitation and tuberculosis in Mraclin”

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In the appropriate classicist space of the Revival Hall of the National House of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Gornji Grad, on February 16, 2023, academician Željko Cvetnić's sixth author's title "The History of Tuberculosis - with reference to sanitation and tuberculosis in Mraclin" was presented, published by the Institute for Scientific Research and artistic work of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Velika Gorica.

The book consists of an introduction, 8 large chapters with numerous sub-chapters, a conclusion and a glossary. It is a complex work that deals in a very systematic and detailed manner with a widespread and significant disease that has characterized the entire human history. Starting with the first information about tuberculosis in prehistoric times and ending with the final vision of a world without tuberculosis. Scientific and medical discoveries, treatment trends, as well as the most important events related to tuberculosis in the international framework, i.e. in research and achievements of the broad scientific community, are described. With a global view, the situation in Croatia is described, but also locally in the context of the disease and public health efforts to combat it. The



village of Mraclin in Turopolje is highlighted in two chapters, where the fight against tuberculosis took its extremely interesting course and which in some way became a model for the hygienic efforts of public health experts and the community in preventing and controlling the disease in the entire public health world. On the historical medical side, the chapters under the title: diagnosis, prevention and treatment of tuberculosis - from sanatoriums to antituberculosis drugs, in which a clear overview of the development of tuberculosis sanatoriums in general and especially in Croatia, surgical interventions in the treatment of tuberculosis, and the history of important diagnostic methods, development and application of tuberculin and Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine. It is important to emphasize that this book collects in one place important data in a national framework about the traces that point to this disease in prehistory, antiquity and throughout the Middle Ages, the modern era up to the 20th century, as the most important tuberculosis epidemic throughout history. The book *The History of Tuberculosis* with reference to sanitation and tuberculosis in Mraclin is certainly one of the fundamental historical medical studies published in our

country, which will serve as a relevant source for scientists working on this topic, but also for everyone who wants to know the history of this disease and the struggle to overcome it as and the current state of the disease and its projections for the future.

As emphasized at the beginning of the presentation by the presenters, Academician Dario Vretenar, Secretary General of HAZU, Academician Vida Demarin, Secretary of the Department of Medical Sciences of HAZU and Academician Zvonko Kusić, President of the HAZU Foundation, the interest in this presentation with eminent guests from Zagreb, Croatia and abroad was impressive. Reviewers - associate professor Ph.D. Željko Dugac, assistant professor Ph.D. Stipica Grčić and prim. Dr. Vera Katalinić Janković pointed out the author's balanced approach to the interdisciplinary nature of this scientific, social and cultural topic, they especially pointed out the way in which he managed to fit various aspects into a whole accessible not only to the profession but also to a wider audience. The basic message of the book is based precisely on the example of Mraclin, in which Dr. Andrija Štampar, in the 1920s and 1930s, set a historical roadmap towards a "world without tuberculosis".

