

## Presentation of Landmark Historical Medical Texts at the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Collaboration with the Department of Medical Sciences

### AUTHOR:

ŽELJKO DUGAC

Under the auspices of the Department of Medical Sciences at the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, a presentation of two pivotal historical medical texts took place in the lecture hall of the Academy's Library on October 4, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. The study and translation from Latin of these works were undertaken as part of projects within the Academy's Department of Philosophy of Science, Institute for History and Philosophy of Science. The author, translator, and editor of these texts is Professor Zrinka Blažević, a distinguished scholar, award-winning Latin translator, and a respected historian. She is a full professor in the Department of History at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb, where she has long collaborated with the aforementioned Academy department.

The following works were presented:

1. **Đuro Baglivi, *Canones de medicina solidorum ad rectum statices usum* / Rules on the Medicine of Solids for the Purpose of Correct Use of Measurements** (published by Medicinska naklada, 2022)
2. **The Art of Medical Measurements by Santorio Santorio / *Veščina Santorio Santorija o statični medicini* / *L'Arte delle misurazioni mediche di Santorio Santorio*** (a trilingual Croatian, Slovenian, and Italian translation, published by FF Press, 2023)

These books were produced as part of a scientific project funded by the Croatian Science Foundation, which was conducted within the Department of Philosophy of Science, Institute for History and Philosophy of Science at the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. The project, titled Croatian Scientific and Philosophical Heritage: Transfers and Appropriations of Knowledge from the Middle Ages to the Twentieth Century in the European Context, was led by Professor Željko Dugac. Professor Zrinka Blažević served as a collaborator on this initiative. Another research project contributing to these works was the Institutional Research Project at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Zagreb, titled Croatian-Italian-Slovenian Translation of the Work *Ars de statica medicina* by Santorio Santorio (1561–1636), also led by Professor Blažević, with Professor Dugac as a collaborator.

The first book, focusing on the early modern physician and thinker Đuro Baglivi, includes a transcription of the Latin original, a Croatian translation with explanatory notes, and an introductory study. This study analyzes the epistemological structure, status, and reception of Baglivi's medical theory within the context of eighteenth-century fibrillar medicine. The breadth of topics covered in this edition fully reveals Baglivi's intellectual profile—an early modern polymath whose expertise extended far beyond nat-



ural philosophy and medicine. It is expected that the first Croatian edition of Baglivi's final work will not only stimulate new historical and scientific research on early modern medical theory but also contribute to the broader study of Enlightenment intellectual culture.

The second book, on Santorio (1561–1636), presents his medical treatise *The Art of Medical Measurements* (*Ars de statica medicina*, Venice, 1614), a key work by the Venetian physician of Istrian origin who significantly influenced early modern medical science. Santorio is recognized as the founder of iatrophysics, a precursor to corpuscular theory, and a pioneer of quantitative methods in medicine. Despite the attention given to Santorio's contributions by foreign historians of science, his works remain insufficiently known within the domestic and regional academic communities. Santorio's key contribution lies in his development of a complex iatrophysical concept of health, based on the Hippocratic-Galenic doctrine of the six unnatural substances (*sex res non-naturales*). His use of quantitative methods to prove this concept and his early consideration of metabolic processes in substances mark significant advancements in early modern medicine. This trilingual

edition (in Croatian, Slovenian, and Italian) aims to introduce Santorio's canonical medical work to the scientific community and highlight its importance within early modern Italian, Croatian, and Slovenian intellectual traditions. The edition includes a trilingual introductory study, a recent bibliography, and explanatory notes on early modern medical terminology to provide further context.

The event began with a welcoming address by Academician Vida Demarin, Secretary of the Department of Medical Sciences Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, who discussed the medical significance of Đuro Baglivi and his reception in contemporary circles. The books were reviewed by Professors Nataša Štefanec (Department of History, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Zagreb) and Željko Dugac. The presentation was also attended by Anđa Rajić, the editor-in-chief of the book on Đuro Baglivi from Medicinska naklada, and the author of the books. At the conclusion of the event, Professor Zrinka Blažević announced a new project in collaboration with Professor Željko Dugac, focused on translating, and critically analyzing the entire *Corpus Hippocraticum* from Latin into Croatian.

