

HISTORY OF THE SERBIAN MEDICAL SOCIETY (SLD) 1872-1997

Serbian Medical Society was founded on 22 April 1872. Founders were physicians of the following nationalities: 5 Serbs, 3 Czechs, 2 Poles, 3 Germans, 1 Slovak and 1 Greek. One such founder was Josip Pancić, the first president of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts established in 1841 (and, to this day, the most prominent national academic institution). Dr. Aćim Medović was elected the first President at the Inaugural Assembly, and Dr. Vladan Dorđević its Secretary. Later, on 17 October 1874 the Constitution of the Serbian Medical Society was passed and formally acknowledged by the Serbian Interior Minister.

The first professional meeting of the SLD was held on 5 August 1872. The first medical journal, the "Serbian Archives for All Physicians" ("Srpski arhiv za celokupno lekarstvo"), appeared at that time and is being published regularly to the present. In 1881, at the proposal of SLD, a law addressing Medical Protection was passed. It was translated into two European languages, German and French, and distributed to 400 towns throughout Europe. Inter alia, this law included the following: "... a penny intended for health cannot be spent either by the King, or by the Government or by any political party because it is intended for the health, treatment of the sick and doctors' salaries..." The first Congress of the Serbian physicians and medical natural scientists was held in Belgrade from 5-7 September 1904, attracting some 433 participants, over one hundred of whom were from abroad.

Other SLD-related initiatives included: The Red Cross of Serbia (Serbian: Црвени крст Србије/Crveni krst Srbije) founded on 6 February 1876 by Vladan Dorđević, a prominent Serbian physician. In 1907, the SLD organized "The First Scientific Conference of Yugoslav Doctors for Operating Surgery" in Belgrade. The Faculty of Medicine, one of the oldest faculties of the University of Belgrade, was founded on 9 December 1920. Today, SLD realizes its professional activity through the work of 76 specialized sections, over 100 branches throughout the Republic of Serbia and the Medical Academy of SLD. Specialist sections publish 11 specialized medical journals. The Serbian Medical Society has remained, since its foundation, a non-governmental and apolitical organization.

The stamp below marks the 125th Anniversary of the Serbian Medical Society.

Reference: 125th anniversary of the Serbian Medical Society. Sulović V, Pavlović B. Abstract: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16078446> enhanced by RMP.

R M Pelteret Sunday, 06 January 2019