

Message from the Editor

Thirty years ago I was fascinated with the development of cybernetics, automatic control, robotics and biomedical engineering. To my luck, a pioneer in this field Prof. Dr Rajko Tomović was teaching at the Belgrade University; hence, I had a chance to start working "in the heart" of this exciting research. Professor Tomović included me in the organization of an element of his work, that is, in the organization of the Symposia "Advances in External Control of Human Extremities (ECHE)", better known as Dubrovnik Meetings. With Drs. Jim Reswick, at that time from Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A., and Lojze Vodovnik from the University of Ljubljana,



The old town of Dubrovnik

Dr. Tomović started this unique series of triennial meetings in 1962 at the Adriatic Coast, in the town of Opatija. After the first successful Symposium in Opatija, the Symposia venue moved to the south of the Adriatic coast; the meetings were then hosted traditionally in the beautiful, historic town of Dubrovnik, in the Hotel "Excelsior". The unique atmosphere of Dubrovnik provided basis for a scientific forum of many established, as well as the young scientists from the East and West.



Hotel "Excelsior" from the sea

The "Dubrovnik meetings" were always attractions for researchers allowing them to promote modern concepts of rehabilitation and restorative neurology. The early meetings addressed issues dealing with upper extremity prosthetics, then the focus moved to lower extremities

prosthetics and walking machines, and finally to integration of the research in prosthetics, orthotics, automatic control, neurophysiology with the novel applications of electrical stimulation.

For several years I was discussing with Prof. Tomović the idea to bring the issues discussed at the Dubrovnik Meetings to younger researchers and clinicians. The computer based memory media became the reality; thus, the decision was made to create a CD that integrates all ten Proceedings "Advances in External Control of Human Extremities" from the Dubrovnik meetings. I am glad to say that this time



The view on Dubrovnik from the Hotel "Excelsior"

consuming and complex job was finalized during early 2002, and that those interested will have at their disposal a new collection of old, yet extremely interesting scientific and clinical papers. The quality of the material recorded on the CD is not crystal clear, but it is the best result that we could generate from the original hardcopies of old proceedings. However, it is not the quality of the reproductions, but the information about what has been done, which methods have been used, and what were the promises several decades ago in the filed of neuroprostheses that really matters.

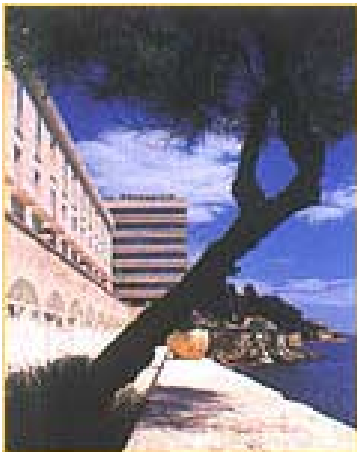


This picture was contributed by the kindness of Prof. Tadej Bajd

The last in the series of ten meetings took place in 1990. The events on the Balkans prevented the continuation of this great tradition. Many among organizers of the Dubrovnik meetings strongly

believed that the tradition and achievements should be remembered. This CD is a contribution to this tribute. The CD brings important information that could help better understanding of the foundation of the field of neural prostheses, especially applied to sensory-motor systems. I hope that researchers in this field will appreciate the hard work embedded to this CD. The CD provides an easy access to information up to now available to only few individuals about the work done by pioneers in the field of modern prosthetics and neural prostheses.

The preparation of the material for the CD would not be possible without the kindness and help of Ms. Mirjana Jovanić from the Yugoslav Committee for Electronics, Telecommunication, Automation, Computers, and Nuclear Sciences (ETRAN). Maša Popović, Ognjan Maletić, and Clemens Eder scanned the books and prepared data for the CD. The editing and final organization of the material was greatly contributed by Dr. Mirjana B. Popović.



Beach of the Hotel Excelsior

At the end I propose a toast with the verses from the poem "*The Moon and a Man*," written by Dr. Jim Reswick in 1987.

"O'er the ancient Dubrovnik the wise old moon
Sent her magic beam so soft yet strong.
Of love and friendship, and sang a tune
That freed the mind to right and wrong.

Eight decades and a few years some
He dreamed a way to help the sick.
Handicapped millions may never know
How the moon and a man could change their lives.

Raise high your glasses in loud acclaim
To the man who truly found his niche
And brought great hope to halt and lame,
lets salute - Rajko Tomovic."

Dejan Popović
May 2002