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*J Med Biochem 44: 157–163, 2025**News from the Society of
Medical Biochemists of Serbia***AWARDING FROM THE FUND AWARD »MAGISTRA MILICA MARKOVIĆ«***Milka Golubović, President of the Fund »Magistra Milica Marković«*

The Serbian Medical Biochemistry Society's Executive Committee recommended Dr. Jon Čoban, a medical biochemistry specialist at Vršac General Hospital, for the 2024 »Magistra Milica Marković« Fund award and diploma based on high-professional activities, knowledge and expertise sharing, and contributions to the advancement of science and the

improvement of technological and laboratory management principles in local healthcare facilities.

The Fund Award has been delivered during the Opening Ceremony of the International XXIII Serbian Congress of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (Belgrade, September 16–18, 2024).



Dr. Jon Čoban working in the lab.



ДРУШТВО
МЕДИЦИНСКИХ БИОХЕМИЧАРА СРБИЈЕ



ФОНД
»МАГИСТРА МИЛИЦА МАРКОВИЋ«

додељује

ГОДИШЊУ НАМЕНСКУ НАГРАДУ ЗА 2024. ГОДИНУ

ЈОНУ ЧОБАНУ

за унапређење технолошких и организационих
принципа рада клиничко-биохемијских лабораторија
у Републици Србији

ПРЕДСЕДНИК ФОНДА

Милошковић
Прим. Милка Голубовић

Београд, 16. септембар 2024. године

ПРЕДСЕДНИК ДМБС

Снежана Јовичић
Доц. др Снежана Јовичић

Basic award criteria included:

- laboratory organization and technology process planning;
- administrative and work-flow path from biological sample acceptance to laboratory findings delivery;
- laboratory procedure definition, performance quality, and monitoring and professional working principles based on Good Laboratory Practice.

As a highly responsible medical biochemistry specialist, Dr. Jon Čoban skillfully and creatively managed all aspects of intricate laboratory procedures, facilitating successful laboratory work with modern, standardized procedures in collaborative settings and

highlighting the benefits of a modern, accredited laboratory for the local community.

In 1984, Dr. Jon Čoban received his medical degree from Timisoara School of Medicine, Romania. In 1996, he became a clinical biochemistry specialist at Belgrade University's Medical Faculty, Serbia. In 1997, he became the head of the laboratory diagnostics department at Vršac General Hospital. He is a member of both the Serbian Medical Biochemistry Chamber and the Serbian Medical Biochemistry Society. He has been the EFLM Academy's representative since 2020. He was a delegate at the Serbian Medical Biochemistry Chamber's founding meeting. He served two mandates as the head of the Court of Honor of the Second Degree and as an Assembly member of the Serbian Medical Biochemistry Chamber.



Prof. Nada Majkić-Singh with the members of the branch of the Chamber of medical biochemists in 2006 (L-R):
Jon Čoban, Jelena Ošap, Aleksandra Nikolić, Igor Skerlić

He participated in a number of scientific conferences, symposiums, and courses that were organized by the Serbian Medical Biochemistry Society and the Serbian Medical Biochemistry Chamber. He disseminated the knowledge generously and enhanced the

level of medical competencies through continuing education. Additionally, he had been actively working on automated ESR, biochemistry, immunochemistry, and hematology analyzers procurement to Vršac General Hospital.



Department of Laboratory Medicine in 2024 (Dr. Jon Čoban, MSc medical biochemist Teodora Bakić).



Department of Hematology-hemostasis of the Service for Laboratory Diagnostics in 2024
(Dr. Jon Čoban, MSc medical biochemist Sandra Cvitek).

In 2008, he received his first license from Serbian Health Minister Prof. Dr. Tomica Milosavljević and Prof. Dr. Nada Majkić-Singh.



Minister of the Health Prof. D. Tomica Milosavljević handed over the first license to Dr. Jon Čoban.

In 2018, Vršac General Hospital received an automated analyzer for HbA1C testing by HPLC method from the Fund «Magistra Milica Marković,» which Makler supported.



Dr. Jon Čoban working on the analyzer HPLC.



Presentation of the Fund «Magistra Milica Marković» (l-r): Dr. Jon Čoban, Milka Golubović, the manager of the hospital Dr. Jon Omoran, Prof. Dr. Nada Majkić-Singh, Nevena Nedeljković.



Prof. Dr. Nada Majkić-Singh with colleagues in 2018 (from left to right): Dr. Velimir Marković, Dr. Sci. Nataša Bogavac-Stanojević, Dr. Sci. Snežana Jovičić, Prim. Dr. Sci. Zorica Šumarac, Ljubomir Štrbac, Dr. Jon Čoban, Prim Milka Golubović spec. med. biochem.

Dr. Jon Čoban made a significant contribution to the establishment of the laboratory information system and laboratory accreditation. In order to bring the laboratory diagnostics department of Vršac General Hospital up to date with contemporary science and competence, he implemented substantial

new technologies and equipment. In his area of expertise, he mentored two residents.

Even though Dr. Jon Čoban has been retired since January 2024, his dedication to the laboratory, staff, and patients makes him eligible to continue working at Vršac General Hospital.



Dr. Jon Čoban with colleagues (from left to right): laboratory technicians: Jelena Stankov, Gordana Petrović, Jelena Grubiša, Sonja Ivašku Bou, Dragana Vlajkov, Nenad Jovanov, Ph.D. medical biochemist on specialization Teodora Bakić, laboratory chief technician Biljana Maksimovski and laboratory technician Miljana Vojnov.

DRAGI NAŠ DOKTORE,

NAKON TOLIKO GODINA VREDNOG I ODANOG RADA U SLUŽBI, NAPOKON ODLAZITE U ZASLUŽENU PENZIJU.

SVE TE GODINE ISPUNJENE SU VELIKIM BROJEM LABORANATA, KOJE STE DOČEKALI I ISPRATILI U PENZIJU.

ZNANJE KOJE STE MEĐUSOBNO NESEBIČNO RAZMENJIVALI, PODIGLO JE NAŠU SLUŽBU NA ZAVIDAN NIVO.

TAKOĐE, NAMA MLADIM BIOHEMIČARIMA, SVOJIM MENTORSTVOM POSTAVILI STE STUB ZA USPEŠNU BUDUĆNOST.

U IME SVIH, ŽELIMO DA VAM KAŽEMO JEDNO VELIKO HVALA! I DAJEMO VAM OBEĆANJE DA ĆEMO NASTAVITI DA UNAPREĐUJEMO SLUŽBU TAKO DA BUDETE PONOSNI NA SVE NAS!

HVALA VAM JOŠ JEDNOM
NA SVEMU!

UŽIVAJTE U ZASLUŽENOM ODMORU!

Vaša služba!

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*J Med Biochem 44: 165–175, 2025**News from the Society of
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THE TWENTY FOURTH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE „PROFESSOR IVAN BERKEŠ”

SOCIETY OF MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTS OF SERBIA

Nada Majkić-Singh, The Fund President

The Twenty Fourth Annual Scientific Conference »Professor Ivan Berkeš« was co-organized and hosted by the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade. It gathered over 100 participants – students, older colleagues who were the students of Professor Berkeš, young graduated medical biochemists, and teachers of the Faculty of Pharmacy. Traditional guests were the family members of Professor Berkeš – this year Ivan Berkeš, his grandson. This traditional meeting of students and Professors of the Faculty of Pharmacy, honoring the legacy of one of its most distinguished professors was held on 05. December 2024. Prof. Dr. Nada Majkić-Singh, traditionally the organizer, with her opening words greeted the participants and reminded us of the history, the idea of foundation, and the significance of the Conference, as well as of the life and work of the Professor Ivan Berkeš, whom it honors.

Appreciating the work of their teacher and a renowned expert Professor Dr Ivan Berkeš, the Society of Medical Biochemists of Yugoslavia (now the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia) and the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade, created the Scientific Foundation »Professor Ivan Berkeš« in 1997 and established the »Annual Scientific Conference« dedicated to the life and work of Professor Ivan Berkeš. The scientific foundation was established on the proposal of the Professor Dr Nada Majkić-Singh, also a long-term organizer of the Annual Scientific Conferences. Beginning in 1998, Scientific Conferences have been presenting masters and doctoral theses of members of the Society and related disciplines during the previous year. On November 16th, 2010, the Thirteenth Annual Scientific Conference dedicated to the 100th

anniversary of the birth of Professor Ivan Berkeš was held in Belgrade, during which experts from Belgrade (N. Majkić-Singh), Zagreb (S. Margetić) and Skopje (S. Efremova-Aaron), the cities where Professor Ivan Berkeš lived and worked, gave their lectures. Also, diplomas and money awards were traditionally presented by the Scientific Fund »Dr Ivan Berkeš« to the best students of the Faculty of Pharmacy in Belgrade: Zora Četković and Jelena Joksić.

The purpose of the Scientific Foundation is to award monetary awards and diplomas to the best graduates of the Faculty of Pharmacy in the previous year, of both study profiles (graduate pharmacist-medical biochemist and graduate pharmacist; now: master of pharmacy-medical biochemist and master of pharmacy), who were the quickest to graduate and with the highest average grade. So far, Twenty-fourth Scientific Annual Conferences have been held, with fifty eight laureates of the Fund who were awarded diplomas and monetary awards, with their biographies presented in the Monograph.

In 2020, the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia marked the 110th anniversary of the birth of Professor Ivan Berkeš, on which occasion the Monograph-LIFE AND WORK OF PROFESSOR IVAN BERKEŠ and FOUNDATION LAUREATES were prepared: WHERE ARE THEY AND WHAT ARE THEY DOING TODAY? (Authors: Nada Majkić-Singh and Snežana Jovičić). This Monograph has been presented during XXII Serbian Congress of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine in September 2022, and during this Scientific Conference the short review has been presented.



In 2020, the year of the global pandemic the activities of the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia (SMBS) were suspended. Planned activities, like the national congress and the Belgrade Symposium for Balkan region were postponed, and the annual scientific conference «Professor Ivan Berkeš» did not take place. However, the year 2020 was also the year of the 110th anniversary of the birth of Professor Ivan Berkeš. On this occasion, SMBS published a monograph dedicated to professor Berkeš's life and work, to the review of the previous scientific conferences organized to honor his legacy, also to the Foundation «Professor Ivan Berkeš», and to the laureates of its annual award. The authors of the monograph are Professor Nada Majkić-Singh, the founder of the Foundation and its *spiritus movens*, and Snežana Jovičić, who, as the IFCC eNewsletter liaison member, was writing a series of articles covering the conference over the past years.

Professor Ivan Berkeš established medical biochemistry as a modern scientific and diagnostic discipline of medicine and pharmacy in Yugoslavia and Serbia. Under his guidance generations of medical biochemists were educated at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Belgrade. But not only. As a versatile individual (he was passionate in music, art, history, and philosophy, and spoke five languages) he inspired his students with his charismatic personality. Professor Berkeš graduated and completed his Ph.D. thesis in Zagreb, Croatia. He worked at several universities in former Yugoslavia – at the Faculty of Medicine in Zagreb, Faculty of Medicine in Skopje (North Macedonia), and Faculty of Pharmacy in Belgrade (Serbia), where he was elected Senior Professor in medical biochemistry and was a long-

term director of the Institute of Biochemistry until his retirement. For nearly 20 years Professor Ivan Berkeš invested all his efforts into the methodological research in clinical biochemistry, general and clinical enzymology. This work resulted in numerous specialists, master, and doctoral theses. During his working years, professor Berkeš published several books and over 200 scientific papers in renowned journals in Yugoslavia and worldwide. He was actively engaged in the Federal Committee for Medical Biochemistry and the Section of Medical Biochemistry of the Pharmaceutical Society of Serbia.

Appreciating the work of their teacher and a renowned expert, Professor Ivan Berkeš, upon the proposal of Professor Nada Majkić-Singh, in 1997 the Society of Medical Biochemists of Yugoslavia at the time, now the Society of Medical Biochemists of Serbia, and the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Belgrade, established the Scientific Foundation and the Annual Scientific Conference »Professor Ivan Berkeš«. Beginning in 1998, Scientific Conferences have been presenting masters and doctoral theses in medical biochemistry and related disciplines defended during the previous academic year. Also, the best graduate students in pharmacy and medical biochemistry of the Faculty of Pharmacy in the previous academic year have been awarded the monetary awards of the Scientific Foundation. The monograph reviews all the twenty-one scientific conferences that took place so far, concluded with the last one, held in December 2019. Also, presents the biographies of all the forty-eight laureates of the Scientific Foundation, informing us briefly about their careers in pharmacy and medical biochemistry, in Serbia and worldwide. The 2020 Scientific Conference could not take place because of the restrictions imposed by the global pandemic that prevented us from gathering. However, the Foundation did not miss to hand the well-deserved awards to the best students of the Faculty of Pharmacy in 2020, Milena Simić (Master of Pharmacy-medical biochemist) and Milan Beljkaš (Master of Pharmacy). SMBS congratulate them on their first success, wishing them fruitful careers in pharmacy and medical biochemistry, like the ones their predecessors have. We hope that the 2020 would be the only year in which the Scientific Conference did not take place, and that the memory of Professor Ivan Berkeš will be alive for many years to come through the activities of Scientific Foundation, annual Scientific Conference, and many young laureates of the Foundation award.

After opening address of Prof. dr Snežana Jovičić, Society President following the welcoming address of the Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Prof. Dr. Nataša Bogavac Stanojević and Prof. Dr. Branislava Miljković President of the Association of Pharmaceutical Associations of Serbia, the Found President Prof. Dr. Nada Majkić-Singh, presented awards of the Foundation.

This year's recipients were:

Jovana Jerotijević

(Master of Pharmacy-Medical Biochemist)



Jovana Jerotijević rođena je 20.05.2000. godine u Kraljevu gde je završila osnovnu i srednju medicinsku školu, smer farmaceutski tehničar. Tokom srednje škole učestvovala je na XIII republičkom takmičenju iz matematike, gde je osvojila prvo mesto. Proglašena je za đaka generacije srednje medicinske škole u Kraljevu. Upisala je Farmaceutski fakultet u Beogradu, smer farmacija-medicinska biohemija 2019. godine, a diplomirala u junu 2024. godine. Tokom studija bila je koautor studentskih naučno istraživačkih radova na Katedri za medicinsku biohemiju, pod mentorstvom doc. dr Nede Milinković, kao i na katedri za toksikologiju »Akademik Danilo Soldatović«, pod mentorstvom prof. dr Danijele Đukić Čosić. Godine 2022. bila je učesnik sedme internacionalne letnje škole (Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies – CEEPUS) u Portorožu, Sloveniji sa temom »Dijagnostički i terapijski pristupi u složenim genetskim poremećajima« na kojoj je prezentovala rad na temu »Egzosomi poreklom iz skeletnih mišića«. Bila je učesnik XXIII međunarodnog srpskog kongresa medicinske biohemije i laboratorijske medicine 2024. gde je predstavila svoj rad na temu »Povezanost urokinaznog aktivatora plazminogena sa kliničkim karakteristikama Grejvsove orbitopatije«. Dobitnica je nagrade prof. dr Ivan Berkeš kao najbolji student smera farmacija-medicinska biohemija, u školskoj 2023/2024. godini.

Jovana Jerotijević was born on May 20th 2000 in Kraljevo where she completed both elementary school and medical high school, majoring in pharma-

ceutical technician. During high school, she participated in 13th republican competition in mathematics, where she won first place. She was declared a student of generation of the medical high school in Kraljevo. In 2019 she enrolled in the Faculty of Pharmacy in Belgrade, majoring in pharmacy-medical biochemistry, and she graduated in June 2024. During her studies she was co-author of the student scientific research papers at the Department of Medical Biochemistry, under the mentorship of Assist. Prof Neda Milinković, as well as at the Department of Toxicology »Akademik Danilo Soldatović«, under mentorship of Prof. Dr Danijela Djukić Čosić. In 2022, she participated in the 7th international summer school (Central European Exchange Program For University Studies – CEEPUS) in Portorož, Slovenija on the theme »Diagnostic and therapeutic approaches in complex genetic disorders« where she presented work on the topic »Skeletal muscle derived exosomes«. She was participant of the XXIII International Serbian Congress of Medical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine 2024, where she presented her work on the topic »The relationship between soluble urokinase plasminogen activator receptor and clinical characteristic of Graves orbitopathy«. She received the »Prof. dr Ivan Berkeš« annual award as the best student of pharmacy-medical biochemistry, in academic 2023/2024 year.

and

Dušica Kušljević

(Master of Pharmacy)



Dušica Kušljević rođena je 11.07.2000. u Pljevljima. Osnovnu školu i opštu gimnaziju »Tanasije Pejatović« završila je u Pljevljima. Upisala je Farmaceutski fakultet u Beogradu, smjer farmacija 2019. godine, a diplomirala je u septembru 2024. godine. U srednjoj školi bila je dobitnica brojnih nagrada sa Državnih takmičenja i Olimpijada znanja iz hemije, a 2019. je predstavljala Crnu Goru na Međunarodnoj hemijskoj olimpijadi, održanoj u Parizu. Dobitnica je nagrade prof. dr Ivan Berkeš kao najbolji student na programu farmacija u školskoj 2023/2024 godini. Tokom studija učestvovala je u brojnim vannastavnim aktivnostima u organizaciji Javnog zdravlja, kao i u studentskim razmjenama (SEP i Twinnet programi) u organizaciji BPSA-e. Pod mentorstvom prof. dr Miloša Petkovića, na Katedri za organsku hemiju, izradila je dva studentska naučno-istraživačka rada na teme »Sinteza derivata pirola« i »Sinteza derivata piperazin-2-ona iz alena«. Pomenute radove je prezentovala na XV i XVI Mini-kongresu studenata Farmaceutskog fakulteta u Beogradu 2022. i 2023. godine. Takođe, koautor je rada »Synthesis of Piperazin-2-one Derivatives via Cascade Double Nucleophilic Substitution«, publikovanog u časopisu Synthesis.

Dušica Kušljević was born on July 11, 2000, in Pljevlja. She completed her primary school and gen-

eral high school »Tanasije Pejatović« in Pljevlja. She enrolled in the Faculty of Pharmacy in Belgrade, majoring in pharmacy in 2019, and graduated in September 2024. In high school, she received numerous awards from National Competitions and Olympiads in chemistry, and in 2019, she represented Montenegro at the International Chemistry Olympiad held in Paris. She was awarded the prof. dr Ivan Berkeš prize as the best student in the pharmacy program for the academic year 2023/2024. During her studies, she participated in numerous extracurricular activities organized by Public Health, as well as in student exchanges (SEP and Twinnet programs) organized by BPSA. Under the mentorship of prof. dr Miloš Petković, at the Department of Organic Chemistry, she completed two student scientific research papers on the topics »Synthesis of Pyrrole Derivatives« and »Synthesis of Piperazin-2-one Derivatives from Allenes«. She presented these papers at the XV and XVI Mini-Congress of Pharmacy Students in Belgrade in 2022 and 2023. She is also a co-author of the paper »Synthesis of Piperazin-2-one Derivatives via Cascade Double Nucleophilic Substitution« published in the journal Synthesis.



Nada Majkić-Singh, Snežana Jovičić and Neda Milinković, chairs of the Twenty Fourth Scientific Conference 2024.



Snežana Jovičić, SMBS President opening The Twenty Fourth Scientific Conference.



Professor Nataša Bogavac Stanojević, Dean of the Pharmaceutical Faculty welcoming address to the Conference participants.



Professor Branislava Miljković, President of the Association of Pharmaceutical Associations of Serbia welcoming address to the Conference participants.



Professor Nada Majkić-Singh welcome address to the participants.



Professor Nada Majkić-Singh presenting the importance of the Scientific Foundation «Professor Ivan Berkeš».



Jovana Jerotijević, Master of Pharmacy-Medical Biochemist receiving »Profesor Ivan Berkeš Foundation Award«.



Dušica Kušljević, Master of Pharmacy receiving »Profesor Ivan Berkeš Foundation Award«.



Professor Nada Majkić-Singh with Foundation laureates Jovana Jerotijević and Dušica Kušljević.

Dvadesetčetvrta godišnja naučna konferencija

Posvećena
životu i delu
Profesora
Ivana Berkeša

Organizator
Prof. dr Nada Majkić-Singh

Twenty Fourth Annual Ivan Berkeš Conference

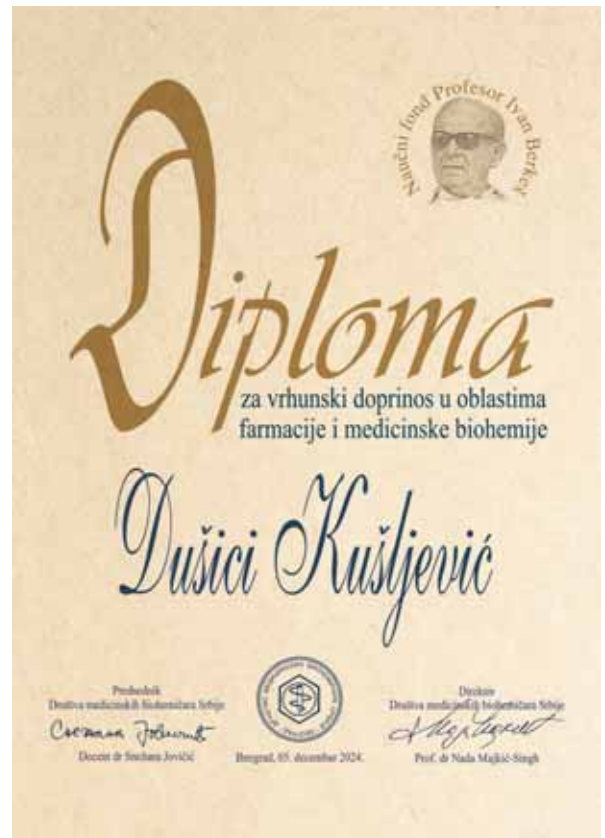
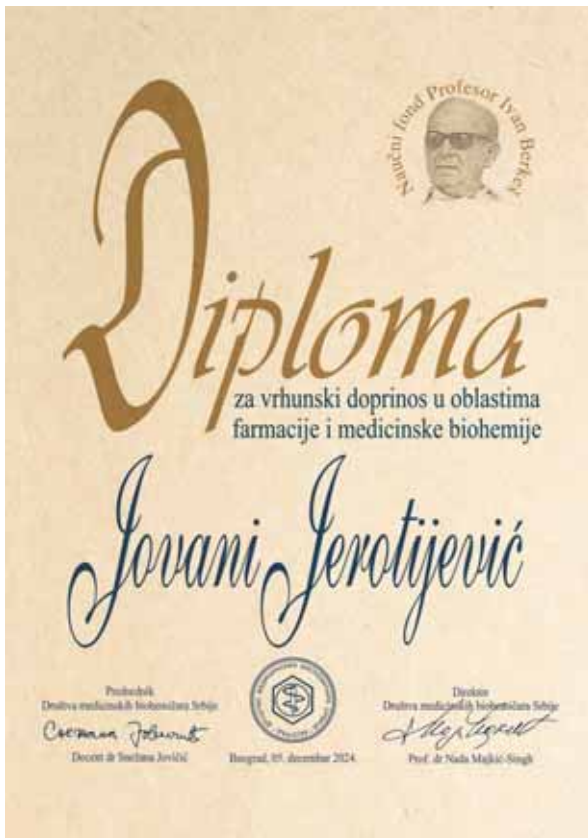
Dedicated to
Professor
Ivan Berkeš
life and work

Organizer
Professor Nada Majkić-Singh

DMBS



SMBS



Assistant Professor Neda Milinković opening the Twenty Fourth Scientific 2024 Conference.



Saška Đekić presenting Conference lecture.



Tanja Tomić presenting Conference lecture.



Olina Dudašova Petrovičeva presenting Conference lecture.



Azra Guzonjić presenting Conference lecture.



Professor Nataša Bogavac Stanojević



Snežana Jovičić, Neda Milinković, Nataša Bogavac Stanojević and Saška Đekić.



Conference participants.



Laureats of the Twenty Fourth Conference 2024 with Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, President of the Pharmaceutical Association of Serbia and Conference Chairs.



Laureats of the Twenty Fourth Conference 2024 with Conference Chairs and Lecturers.