

## Faruk Konjhodžić (1936-2007)



Academic Faruk Konjhodžić died on 19 July 2007 in Sarajevo. He was a respected professor at the Faculty of Medicine in Sarajevo and for many years the secretary of the medical science section of the ANUBiH (the Academy of Arts and Sciences of Bosnia and Herzegovina).

With his death, the scientific world in Bosnia and Herzegovina lost one of its main architects of contemporary neurosurgery and the long term director of the University Clinical Centre in Sarajevo.

The work of Academic Faruk Konjhodžić, as the long-term manager of the neurosurgery clinic was well thought out and systematic, both in the way he selected and trained his staff and in the provision of modern diagnostic and research equipment. This approach made the rapid and modern development possible of the University Clinical Centre in Sarajevo. The enthusiasm and the professional, educational and scientific work of Academic Faruk Konjhodžić influenced not only the colleagues with whom he worked for many years, but had wider importance for the work of other clinics and institutions, in the sense of increased activity in the field of modern medicine. His work bore fruit as the neurosurgery clinic of the University Clinical Centre in Sarajevo produced significant professional and scientific results through its work.

Furthermore, frequent contacts with experts from many countries, where he gained his experience, continued to speak of his continuing interest in gaining even more experience, which Academic Faruk Konjhodžić wrote about in his many scientific papers. These papers are a reflection of his work and experience gained, and were presented to the world public, which appreciated and respected him as a top expert in the field of neurosurgery.

Unusually for the field of surgery, Academic Faruk Konjhodžić was a fruitful author of discussions and scientific topics which dealt not just with the narrow field of neurosurgery, but also much wider areas, and he paid particular attention to research work. Precise in terms of methodology, he spoke of working methods in researching problems with clinical patients, where he passed on his rich experience to others, opening up problem areas which clinicians had to verify through scientific and research methods, so establishing the correct balance in the work of neurosurgery but also in other disciplines. The scientific and professional public noted

the value of his discussions and thought, but also the experience of an experienced clinician, resulting in a large number of editions of some of his books.

In the medical science section of the ANUBiH he showed understanding and encouraged others in the work of individual committees and holding specific public meetings, and his work as a writer in the *Rječnik medicinskih naziva (Dictionary of Medical Terminology)* was seen as a major contribution, not only interpreting an abundance of terms, but also in an original way showing his broad knowledge of general and specialized medicine. By organizing classes and offering assistance in the foundation of emergency medicine, naturally by passing on the experience he had gained, he made a major contribution to students and doctors in this important sector, which daily requires not only quick intervention, but increasingly new insights from that segment of medicine.

Academic Faruk Konjhodžić showed to all those interested the events in our country, by dealing with the consequences of the war in his own particular way, especially the very important subject of the problem of tumors, which is also a very current problem in other countries in the world. Many visits as a guest to several clinics in this country and abroad and the high recognition of the Medical Faculty in Pittsburg, of an honorary PhD, clearly show recognition of his quality as a neurosurgeon and scientist.

His breadth is also seen in his interest in other areas of medicine, through encouragement of the work of the medical science section of the ANUBiH. The Academy of Arts and Sciences of Bosnia and Herzegovina owes Academic Faruk Konjhodžić, expert, scientist and educator, a great debt of gratitude.

*Ladislav Ožegović*