



On the Occasion of the Fiftieth Volume of the *Scripta Medica* (Banja Luka)

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ABSTRACT

The article is written by the current Editor-in-Chief of the scientific journal *Scripta Medica* (Banja Luka) on the occasion of publishing the final issue of the fiftieth volume of the journal. Founded in 1966, the *Scripta Medica* (Banja Luka) started as a local journal of the Banja Luka Medical Centre, its General Hospital, later belonging to the Association of Medical Doctors of the Bosnian Krajina region and the Republic of Srpska and the Faculty of Medicine, University of Banja Luka. Its eight editors were: Professor Andrija Mikeš (1966-1968), Dr Dragomir Todorović (1969-1971), Assistant Professor Zvonimir Klepac (1972-1974), Professor Branko Pikula (1975-1990), Professor Bogdan Žigić (1995-2009), Professor Rajko Igić (2010-2013), Professor Predrag Grubor (2014-2018) and Professor Miloš P Stojiljković (since 6 August 2018). It used to appear twice a year or quarterly. The *Scripta Medica* (Banja Luka) has a peer-review process and tends to reach a status of well-established scientific journal.

Key words: medical journal, editors, scientific journal, medicine, dental medicine, pharmacy.

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It is a special occasion for every journal when it reaches the 50th volume. The same applies to the *Scripta Medica* (Banja Luka) that with the issue 4 completes the fiftieth volume. The geographical descriptor "Banja Luka" is added since the journal, started in 1966, had its namesake from Brno, the Czech Republic, published by the Faculty of Medicine, Masaryk University, which was started in 1922 and, regrettably, ended in 2010.

In the tumultuous history of Banja Luka and the whole region, the journal *Scripta Medica* (Banja Luka) had its ups and downs that resulted in certain periods of discontinuity in publication. As a result, in these 54 years since its first appearance in May 1966, there were 50 volumes. The main break was during the latest wars in the Balkans that resulted in the decomposition of Yugoslavia and ensued in the aftermath of this process (1991-1994). As a result of this, the journal had two important dates; one in 2016, when the Editor-in-Chief Professor Predrag Grubor cele-

brated the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the journal¹ and the current one, when we commemorate the publishing of its 50th volume.

The *Scripta Medica* (Banja Luka) was started in 1966 as the regional professional journal of the medical doctors of the Bosnian Krajina region. This event coincided with the celebration of the 80th anniversary of the General Hospital in Banja Luka², whose brief history was outlined by the founding editor Professor Andrija Mikeš.³ All the editors – eight so far – gave their contribution to the advancement of the journal. Their list and the duration of their stay in office of the Editor-in-Chief, *Scripta Medica* (Banja Luka) is contained in Table 1.

In reality, Professor Bogdan Žigić had effectively served as an editor for "only" 15 years, since the journal temporarily ceased to be published during the four war years (1991-1994). Their photographs are contained in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Photographs of all editors-in-chief of the *Scripta Medica* (Banja Luka).

A total of 1,223 articles in 85 issues have been published so far (Table 2).

A typical issue of the *Scripta Medica* (Banja Luka) contained 12 articles (range 1-64).

Distribution of various types of articles is contained in Table 3.

The dominant types of articles were original (29%), professional (19%), reviews of important

Table 1: Editors-in-Chief of the *Scripta Medica* (Banja Luka)

Num.	Title, first name and surname	Period in office	Number of years in office
1	Professor Andrija Mikeš	1966-1968	3
2	Dr Dragomir Todorović	1969-1971	3
3	Assist. Prof. Zvonimir Klepac	1972-1974	3
4	Professor Branko Pikula	1975-1990	16
5	Professor Bogdan Žigić	1991-2009	19
6	Professor Rajko Igić	2010-2013	4
7	Professor Predrag Grubor	2014-2018	5
8	Professor Miloš P Stojiljković	2018-	1+

Table 2: Structure of articles per issue

Parameter	Number
No. of available issues	85
No. of articles	1,223
Mean No. per issue	14.39
SD	9.04
Min	1
Max	64
Median	12

articles published elsewhere (14%) and case reports (12%), with the other categories occurring less frequently.

Statistical data on the main elements of individual articles are given in Table 4.

Typically, an article published in the journal had two authors (range 1-15), was 4-pages-long (range 1-34) and cited 8 references range 0-238).

What is more important than these impressive numbers, is continuous advancement of the journal that has become increasingly international over the time. It started to publish articles mainly

Table 3: Types of articles published in *Scripta Medica* (Banja Luka)

Type of article	Number	Percent
Editorial	225	2.04
Original	349	28.54
Professional	235	19.22
Review	43	3.52
History of medicine	4	0.33
Letter to the editor	28	2.29
Current topic	62	5.07
Case report	148	12.10
Special	23	1.88
Book review	81	6.62
Congress review	39	3.19
Article review	174	14.23
In memoriam	12	0.98
Total	1,223	100.00

Table 4: Characteristics of articles published in *Scripta Medica* (Banja Luka)

Parameter	Pages	Authors	References
Number	5,344	3,092	13,174
Mean	4.38	2.53	10.79
SD	3.01	2.00	13.82
Min	1	1	0
Max	34	15	238
Median	4	2	8

in English since 2010, all in English with abstracts in Serbian since October 2018 and in English only since 2019. The composition of the International Advisory Board of the journal also proves its aspirations towards international recognition. In order to achieve this, the *Scripta Medica* (Banja Luka) adopted a *SCIndeks* editorial platform to assist the communication with the authors and the reviewers.

Out of 49 manuscripts received in the year 2019, a total of 32 articles were published in four issues of volume 50, 2019. With 17 rejected manuscripts, the journal keeps a strict rejection rate of 35%. The composition of articles published in the volume 50 is contained in Table 5.

It is clear that 47% of the published articles belong to the most prestigious category - original articles, followed by case reports (16%) and editorials (13%).

To conclude, 50 volumes of the journal *Scripta Medica* (Banja Luka) give us reason to be proud with what has been achieved so far, but also represent a serious obligation for the current Editorial Board on our way of gaining its full international

Table 5: Structure of articles published in the *Scripta Medica* (Banja Luka), volume 50, 2019

Type of article	Issue No.				Total, volume 50	
	1	2	3	4	Number	Percent
Editorial	1	1	1	1	4	12.50
Original	4	5	3	3	15	46.88
Professional		1	1		2	6.25
Review	1				1	3.13
History of medicine				1	1	3.13
Current topic			2		2	6.25
Case report	1	1	1	2	5	15.63
Special	1			1	2	6.25
Total	8	8	8	8	32	100.00

recognition. Along these lines is our application for the coverage by the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) earlier this month. There were two attempts to enter the Medline/PubMed coverage so far, in 2011⁴ and in 2016,⁵ but both of them were unsuccessful. Our intention is to try to achieve this valuable goal by building a truly international Editorial Board, by attracting prestigious authors from abroad to entrust their manuscripts to the *Scripta Medica* (Banja Luka) and through the improvement of the international visibility of the journal.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

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