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20th Anniversary of the Croatian Biochemical Society

The beginnings of the Croatian Biochemical Society date back to 1953, when the Croatian Chemical Society founded the Section for Clinical Biochemistry, and to 1957 when the Croatian Chemical Society founded the Section for Biochemistry. The Section for Biochemistry became the Croatian Biochemical Society in 1976.

Upon its foundation the Section of Biochemistry had 85 members. The Society has now 254 members (September 1995). The Society is led by the Board (chairperson and eight members) elected bi-annually at the Society's Assembly. The chairpersons were Elsa Reiner (1976-79, 1987-89), Ljubinka Vitale (1979-81), Berislav Pende (1981-83), Milivoj Popović (1983-85), Željko Kučan (1985-87, 1991-93, 1993-95, 1995-97) and Mirna Flögl-Mršić (1989-91).

In 1992, the Croatian Biochemical Society became a member of the Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS) and of the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB). Before 1992 adherence to FEBS and IUBMB was not direct, but through the Union of the Chemical Societies of Yugoslavia (1965-1977) and later through the Union of the Biochemical Societies of Yugoslavia (1977-1991). The chairmen of the Union of the Biochemical Societies of Yugoslavia were Pavao Mildner from Croatia (1977-87) and Vito Turk from Slovenia (1987-91).

The main activity of the Society is to organize seminars including speakers from Croatia or from abroad; seminars are usually held once a month. As the majority of members are from Zagreb, the majority of seminars are held in Zagreb. Members from Rijeka are organizing seminars jointly with chemists and technologists of the Rijeka and Istria area, with whom they have been organized into a Group since 1958. The Society has very few members outside Zagreb and Rijeka, so, consequently, there are very few seminars held outside these two university towns.

Between 1971 and 1992 the Society organized ten international and three national meetings, usually in collaboration with institutes or universities in Croatia. Almost half of these meetings were devoted to enzymology. For the past three years, national meetings are being organized annually and scientists from abroad have been invited to participate. These meetings covered all subjects in biochemistry. The annual meetings were held in Zagreb (1993), Opatija (1994) and Brač (1995), and were co-organized by the universities in Zagreb, Rijeka and Split, respectively.

The Society publishes the bulletin "Informacije" (in Croatian) to supplement information given in the FEBS Bulletin. "Informacije" are published twice a year since 1974. Editors of the "Informacije" were Elsa Reiner (1974-80, 1988-92), Ljubinka Vitale (1981-87) and Karmela Barišić (since 1993).

Annual reports about the activities of the Society until 1976 were published in *Croatia Chemica Acta*. Since 1976 annual reports are being published in *Periodicum Biologorum*. An account on the foundation of the Society was published in *Periodicum Biologorum* in 1992.