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In Memoriam / In Memoriam

Milan T. Stojičić^{1,2,*}, Maja Nikolić Živanović²

Radmilo Rončević (January 20, 1938 – January 18, 2024)

Радмило Рончевић (20. јануар 1938 – 18 јануар 2024)

¹University of Belgrade, Faculty of Medicine, Serbia;

²University Clinical Center of Serbia, Clinic for Burns, Plastic, and Reconstructive Surgery, Belgrade, Serbia

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***Correspondence to:**

Milan T. STOJČIĆ

Solunska 25/18, 11158 Belgrade, Serbia

E-mail: doktorat123@gmail.com

milan.stojicic@med.bg.ac.rs

Radmilo Rončević was born on January 20, 1938, in Žanjevica, a village in the Gacko municipality, in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. He completed his high school education in Novi Sad and attended the Military Academy at the School Center in Ljubljana. He graduated from the Faculty of Dentistry in 1967 and the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Belgrade in 1969. He specialized in maxillofacial surgery at the Military Medical Academy in Belgrade in 1972, in oral surgery at the Faculty of Dentistry in Zagreb in 1979, and in plastic and reconstructive surgery at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Zagreb in 1984. In 1978, he defended his doctoral dissertation on "Physical, Biochemical, and Immunological Values of Parotid Saliva in the Pathogenesis, Prognosis, and Diagnosis of Chronic Recurrent Parotitis" at the Military Medical Academy in Belgrade. He completed a subspecialization in craniofacial surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, USA, in 1987 and further training in oculoplastic surgery in New York in 1989.

Dr. Radmilo Rončević was appointed as an assistant professor at the Faculty of Medicine in Novi Sad in 1980, teaching Maxillofacial Surgery. He was a visiting professor at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Niš in 2000, where he taught Surgery with War Surgery. He also lectured at the State University of Pennsylvania in the USA, the Medical Faculty in Hanover, Germany, and the State University in St. Petersburg, Russia.

In 1994, he obtained the title of scientific advisor at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Belgrade and served as a scientific advisor at the Ministry of Science of the Republic of Serbia. As a surgeon, he worked at the Military Medical Academy in Belgrade, the Military Hospital in Zagreb, and the Clinical Center of Serbia. Dr. Radmilo Rončević performed a wide range of surgeries in the fields of plastic, reconstructive, and craniofacial surgery. He was dedicated to performing the most complex surgeries on advanced tumors of the craniofacial region, congenital and vascular anomalies, and mutilating injuries and their consequences. At

the turn of the millennium, he became known both in Serbia and globally as one of the pioneers in orbital surgery. He particularly excelled in the surgical treatment of Graves' ophthalmopathy using a three-wall decompression method, performing over 250 successful orbital surgeries. In 1989, he co-authored the paper "Surgical Treatment of Thyrotoxic Exophthalmos" with renowned craniofacial surgeon Ian Jackson, published in *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*, the leading international journal in the field.

Dr. Rončević was a member of the Executive Board of the Belgrade City Assembly, responsible for healthcare from 1997 to 2000. He was a member of numerous professional associations, including the Serbian Medical Society, the Serbian Association for Plastic, Reconstructive, and Aesthetic Surgery, the Balkan Association for Plastic, Reconstructive, and Aesthetic Surgery, the European Association for Plastic, Reconstructive, and Aesthetic Surgery, the World Association for Plastic, Reconstructive, and Aesthetic Surgery, the Serbian Association for Maxillofacial Surgery, the European Association for Maxillofacial Surgery, the International Association for Maxillofacial Surgery, the International Association for Craniofacial Surgery, and the Balkan Association for Otorhinolaryngology.

Dr. Rončević published approximately 300 scientific and professional papers, including 40 in leading international journals. According to the Scopus database, he was cited 260 times. He presented over 100 papers at international congresses, many of which were published as abstracts. He was a member of the editorial boards of four journals and a reviewer for numerous global journals. He wrote the book *Orbital Surgery*, which was recognized as a scientific monograph of national significance. In 2016, he published the book *Surgery of the Orbital Cavity: No-Man's-Land* in New York and co-authored several domestic and American textbooks.

He delivered approximately 40 invited lectures at major global centers, including the Mayo Clinic, the New York Medical University Center, University Hospital in London, the Medical Institute in Sofia, Cairo, Rome, Glasgow, Tokyo, San Francisco, Miami, St. Petersburg, Moscow, UFA University, and PSU in Pennsylvania, and performed demonstration surgeries at three major global centers.

He led four domestic scientific projects and was a mentor or co-mentor for numerous master's and doctoral theses. He was fluent in English, Russian, and Slovak.

Dr. Rončević was also the author and petitioner for a scientific revision of the Theory of Evolution. In his public and political engagements, he advocated for the respect of Serbian national interests.

As a surgeon, Dr. Rončević was known for his vast knowledge, expertise, and dedication to his patients. He selflessly shared his experience, offering advice and support to younger colleagues, inspiring them to continually improve and become better doctors and people.

Dr. Radmilo Rončević passed away on January 18, 2024, after a short illness. He was buried at the New Cemetery in Belgrade.

His work and legacy will live on through his sons Dušan, Nemanja, and Vuk.

Milan T. Stojičić

University of Belgrade, Faculty of Medicine,

University Clinical Center of Serbia,

Clinic for Burns Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Maja J. Nikolić Živanović

University Clinical Center of Serbia,

Clinic for Burns Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery



Figure 1. Dr Radmilo Rončević, MD, DDS, PhD,
(January 20, 1938 – January 18, 2024)