



ŽELJKO REINER

DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE CROATIAN PARLIAMENT

Fellow of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts Professor Željko Reiner was born in 1953 in Zagreb, where he finished primary school, Collegium Zagradiense, secondary school with classics curriculum, and graduated from the School of Medicine, University of Zagreb (MD) in 1976. In 1978 he obtained his Master's degree (MSc), and in 1982 his doctoral degree (PhD), both from the University of Zagreb. From 1979 until 1983 he was a resident physician at the Department of Internal medicine at University Hospital Centre Sisters of Mercy in Zagreb and at the University Hospital Eppendorf in Hamburg, Germany. He received his postdoctoral training in Oklahoma City, USA, from 1984 till 1985.

He became associate professor at the School of Medicine, University of Zagreb, in 1986 and full professor in 1988. He has been a tenured professor of internal medicine since 1997 until 2022. Since 2009 he has also served as a full tenured professor at the University of Rijeka. He was awarded the titles of "Fellow of the Royal Society of Physicians" – FRCP (London), "Fellow of the European Society of Cardiology" – FESC "Fellow of the American College of Cardiology" – FACC and "Fellow of the American Heart Association" – FAHA. From 1986 to 1995 he was the Head of the Department of Clinical Research Institute of Pathophysiology of the University Hospital Centre Zagreb. He was Head of the Department of Internal Medicine at the University Hospital Centre Zagreb from 1995 to 2003 and again from 2011 to 2015. Since 2003 he has been Head of the Division for Metabolic Diseases of the University Hospital Centre Zagreb. From 2004 to 2012 he was the Director of the University Hospital Centre Zagreb. His tenure of office will be remembered as this largest Croatian hospital was then expanded to nearly double in size and equipped with most modern equipment.

He has been fellow of the Croatian Academy of Medical Sciences since 1990, and was its president from 2004 to 2012. From 1992 to 2006 he was associate member of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts and became full fellow in 2006 (only 20 members in the field of biomedicine). He is chairman of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts Atherosclerosis Research Committee. He has been an honorary fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Bosnia and Herzegovina since 2011. From 2000 to 2006 he was chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine of the School of Medicine in Zagreb. He has published more than 600 scientific and professional papers and articles, and according to the Google Scholar web research engine, he has more than 140,000 citation counts (April 2022) and is the most cited Croatian scientist living in Croatia. He has been a visiting professor at several universities in the U.S. and Europe, guest speaker at a number of European and international conferences. For the past twenty years he has been member of the scientific committees of almost all European and international conferences in the field of atherosclerosis and of European and international cardiology conferences. He has also organized and chaired many conferences in Croatia. Since 1983 he was the leader of several research projects. He was or still is member of the editorial

boards of the most respected international scientific journals (“Journal of the American College of Cardiology – JACC”, “Nature – Reviews Cardiology”, “Atherosclerosis”, “Nutrition, Metabolism and Cardiovascular Diseases”, “European Heart Journal – Open” etc.) and Croatian ones (“Liječnički vjesnik”, etc.) and the reviewer for the most prestigious scientific journals (“The Lancet”, “European Heart Journal”, “Circulation Research”, “Annals of Medicine”, “Fundamental and Clinical Pharmacology”, “European Journal of Preventive Cardiology”, “Cardiovascular Drugs and Therapy”, etc.).

As member of the Executive Committee of the European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS), he coordinated the work of national atherosclerosis societies and now he is chair of the EAS Award Committee (2021-2024). He was member of the Executive Committee of the European Association for Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation (EACPR) and chairman of the EACPR Science and Guidelines Committee; member of the two most important committees of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) – the Committee for Practice Guidelines and the Congress Programme Committee. He was also member of the Committee for the election of new ESC fellows. He is the founder and long-time president of the Croatian Atherosclerosis Society, founder of the Croatian Hypertension Society, founder and former vice-president of the Croatian Obesity Society. He was also secretary general of the Croatian Medical Association. He is one of the founders of the Croatian Catholic Medical Society in 1991. He is the first author of the major European guidelines – European Guidelines for the Management of Dyslipidaemia published in 2011, the second edition of which he co-authored in 2016. He was the co-author of the Joint European Guidelines on Cardiovascular Disease Prevention in Clinical Practice published in 2007 and those published in 2012. He was chairman of the National Drug Registration Committee from 1992 to 2000 (and committee member from 2004 to 2008), and president for the national committee for awarding the title of “Chief Physician” (primarius) (1998-2000). From 1995 to 1998 he was member of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO) – as the second Croat in history who had ever made part of this highest governing body of the WHO. He was one of the three members of the commission for the revision of the WHO Constitution. He was also chairman of the WHO Tobacco-Free Europe Committee (2000 to 2002). He was one of the three members of the committee for awarding one of the most prestigious WHO prizes in medicine – the Léon Bernard Foundation Prize. Croatian citizens voted for him to be awarded a star on the Walk of Fame along the Slatina Beach street in Opatija, as one of the most prominent Croatian scientists.

From 2012 to 2016 he was one of the six members of the Executive Board of the International Atherosclerosis Society (IAS), in which he was Europe’s exclusive representative and later he was a member of the IAS Federation Board for Europe. He was an expert reviewer engaged by the European Commission for the evaluation of research projects proposed to be funded within the FP6 and FP7. He is the author of several chapters in about 40 books and textbooks published in Croatia and abroad; he was the head of several courses at undergraduate and seven at postgraduate studies. He is the editor of about 40 books and manuals (“Pharmacotherapy Handbook”, “Internal Medicine”, etc.). From 2010 to 2018 he was member of the University of Zagreb Council and again since 2019.

He participated as a volunteer in the Croatian War of Independence from the very beginning as a member of the Croatian Medical Corps, in which he was second in command in charge of training and education, and later of medical staff. He was awarded a number of civil and military decorations: Order of Duke Trpimir with Ribbon and Grand Star, Order of Ban Jelačić, Order of the Croatian Star Katarina Zrinska, Order of the Croatian Trefoil, Order of the Croatian Wattle, Homeland War Memorial Medal, Medal for participation in Operation Flash, Medal for participation in Operation Storm, Medal for participation in Operation Summer 95, Vukovar Memorial Medal. He is reserve colonel of the Croatian Armed Forces. He is a well known Croatian poet and was given the first literary award "Dubravko Horvatić" for poetry for the year 2019, Ladislav Rakovac Award with medal of the Croatian Medical Association, the highest ranking reward of the Croatian Medical Association – he was elected an honorary member, the City of Zagreb Award, and the Laureat - the highest ranking award of the Croatian Academy of Medical Sciences and Commendation and medal of the Croatian Medical Chambers at the occasion of 25 years of re-founding. He was elected an honorary citizen of the town of Korčula in 2007. As for foreign decorations, he was awarded Korean Gwanghwa Order First grade with sash and star, Spanish Order of Isabella the Catholic, Order of the Star of Italy, Chilean Order of Bernardo O'Higgins, San Marino's Order of Saint Agatha, Romanian National Order "For Merit" in the Grand Cross rank, Japanese Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun, the Papal Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, Brazilian Grand Cross of the Order of Rio Branco star with sash, Lithuanian Cross of Officer of the Order for Merits to Lithuania, Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland.

From 1993 to 1998 he was Deputy Minister of Health, and from 1998 to 2000 Minister of Health of the Republic of Croatia. From 2010 to 2015 he was President of the National Health Council of the Republic of Croatia and at the moment he is a member of National Health Council. In 2008 he was appointed member of the Health and Social Policy Committee of the Croatian Parliament. Later he was vice-chairman of the committee for Science, education and sports, chairman of the Committee for Constitution and political system and at the moment he is member of the Foreign policy committee of the Croatian Parliament.

In the 7th term of the Croatian Parliament (2011-2015) he was appointed Deputy Speaker of the Parliament, and in the 8th term (2015-2016) Speaker of the Croatian Parliament. In the 9th term (2016-2020) he was appointed Deputy Speaker of the Croatian Parliament, as well as in the 10th term (2020 - 2024), and in the current 11th term (2024). He still works at the University Hospital Centre Zagreb and as a professor at the Institute of the Polish Mother's Health Center in Łódź.