

ALEKSANDAR ANDREEVSKI
(1922–2005)

Saying farewell for ever to our dear and highly respected Academician Andreevski I feel a necessity, on behalf of the Academy and all its members, to thank him for his strenuous and productive activity in the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts, as well as in the establishment of the modern health care system in Macedonia in general.

Many of us, gathered on this place of sorrow, feel that with the passing away of Acad. Andreevski many things connected with our own lives are being lost, leaving emptiness in our souls.

Being an active, open-minded and communicative personality, and possessing a strong character and ability to approach problems, Acad. Andreevski knew to establish contacts both with his environment and the people around and to act as a medical doctor and a public figure appropriately, timely and selflessly in particular events and conditions.

In the personality of Acad. Andreevski the talents of a top physician, scientist and public figure have been united in an uncommonly successful way.

Having dedicated all his life to medicine, to the struggle against diseases and to the improvement of the health condition of the population in Macedonia, he left behind him an invaluable work of a doctor and scientist.

He graduated from the Medical Faculty in Zagreb in 1948, and returned to Macedonia. After World War II Macedonia was in ruins, poor and without developed health protection. The insufficient number of medical doctors, bad sanitary conditions, underdeveloped medical institutions and the lack of medical equipment consisted only a part of the reality which young Dr. Aleksandar Andreevski had to face with. A lot of things had to be done, many obstacles to be overcome. With an unprecedented enthusiasm, creativity and day-and-night work young Andreevski took part, and built himself, in the formation of the modern health care system in Macedonia and in the foundation of the Medical Faculty in Skopje, and particularly of the Clinic of Otorhinolaryngology.

We can say with good reason that he was the founder of modern otorhinolaryngology in Macedonia.

After his specialization in Zagreb and Paris, and further specialized training in the renowned clinics in London, Moscow, Prague, Warsaw, Berlin, Hamburg, Bordeaux, Lyons and other medical centres, Acad. Andreevski was Director of the Clinic of Otorhinolaryngology for thirty years. He established his school enabling the specialization of over 120 doctors from the Republic of Macedonia and other republics and autonomous provinces of Former Yugoslavia, as well as from abroad.

He wrote the first textbook on otorhinolaryngology for medical students and doctors. He published individually, and jointly with his collaborators, more than 280 scientific and professional articles in domestic and foreign journals, and participated in many national and international congresses.

Acad. Andreevski has paid particular attention to the reconstructive functional surgery of malignomas in the laryngo-pharyngeal area.

For his achievements, among other recognitions, he was presented the National 11 October Award for 1978.

He was a coordinator of 13 research projects in the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts and in the Republic of Macedonia, in which projects he examined the problems of malignant tumors in larynx and hypopharynx; the effects of surgical treatment compared to radiotherapy in cases with cancer of larynx; professional and hereditary deafness; noise and hearing; ototoxicity of medicines – issues which present only a part of his projects.

He joined the activities for foundation of the modern Medical Faculty and of the University in Skopje, working efficiently and being on leading position as Vice-dean, Dean, Rector and Director of the University Medical Sciences Centre.

He actively participated in the work of the Macedonian Medical Society acting as chairman of the Section of Otorhinolaryngology for 20 years. He was President of the Yugoslav Otorhinolaryngological Association in 1964/68 and an organizer of the 8th Congress of Otorhinolaryngology (ORL) in Ohrid in 1968 and of the International Congress of Oto-neuro-ophthalmological Surgeons from Yugoslavia, Italy and Greece (Ohrid, 1984).

With his intensive scientific and professional activity Acad. Andreevski has significantly contributed to the development and to the affirmation of the Clinic of Otorhinolaryngology beyond the borders of Macedonia, enhancing its work to high professional level by introduction of the most modern diagnostics and surgery treatment.

In 1979 he was elected a member of the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts; he was Secretary of the Department of Biological and Medical

Sciences and Vice-President for two terms of office, participating in all activities of the Academy.

Considering his abundant life opus Acad. Andreevski can be counted among the most successful scientists and professionals in our country.

We shall remember him as an eminent medical doctor, humanist, who was keeping watch over his patients, ready to help them in any time; who taught the young doctors to devote themselves to patients; he did not spare himself from work and was not afraid to take risks. He was severe, but righteous. We knew and shall remember so our dear colleague Aleksandar Andreevski.

Dear Professor and Academician Andreevski,

Your noble life and unselfish work will be an inspiration to the future generations of doctors, lasting memory for your bereaved family and for all of us that we knew you.

May his memory live for ever!

Acad. Momir Polenakovic
Vice-President