



# FEPS

## Federation of European Physiological Societies

**FEPS  
NEWSLETTER**  
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## Letter of the President of FEPS

Dear colleagues,

During the recent Council meeting in Cologne, one of the founding fathers of FEPS, Prof. Silbernagl, reminded us that FEPS was originally founded to facilitate the exchange of information between European Physiologists. I fully agree that the main mission of FEPS is to build a platform for European Physiology in terms of scientific exchange and common political action. The Council discussed a number of potential actions, including lobbying at the EU authorities and promoting the interaction of young Physiologists at the European level. It was also acknowledged that effective actions such as travel awards, the establishment of Summer schools and an increasing number of regional meetings and workshops under the auspices of FEPS would require more financial support. The raising of funds and a strategy for optimal use of the - probably always limited - financial support, e.g. for our current European teaching initiative and the support of scientific exchange among young European Physiologists will be decisive tasks for the coming years that, in my view, will require the support of national societies. The heart of European scientific exchange will be the joint meetings with national societies all over Europe. Encouraged by the success of previous meetings we look forward to the meeting next year in Ljubljana that will not only bring the Slovenian and Austrian Physiological societies together and hence increase the critical mass of the meeting. The organisers also hope that other European countries will significantly contribute to the success of this in its true sense pan-European meeting. We have also received a provisional bid for a joint meeting with FEPS from the Spanish society for 2012 in Santiago de Compostela. Not only in medieval times this was a place of central significance for Europe. From many countries there were pilgrimage pathways leading to Santiago. We know already part of the way, which may finally lead us to this place. The stations will include Ljubljana in 2009, and Copenhagen, where the ScanGerman meeting will be held in conjunction with FEPS in 2010. Where will the path lead us in 2011? Soon, we will ask for bids and hope to discover new parts of Europe for FEPS and bring together national societies and international visitors from all over Europe, *to facilitate the exchange of information.*

Ulrich Pohl  
President of FEPS



## Information about important physiological events in 2008

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- The 18th European Chemoreception Research Organization Conference (ECRO-2008)  
ECRO announces that the 18th Congress of the European Chemoreception Research Organization will take place in Portoroz, Slovenia, September 3-7, 2008. The deadlines for early registration and abstract submission are June 15th 2008.  
Please visit the website <http://www.ecro-2008.si/>
- The Baltic Summer School 2008  
Basic and Clinical Aspects of Cardiac Arrhythmias  
  
**Theoretical Course**  
17-29 August, 2008  
University of Copenhagen, Denmark  
**Laboratory Course**  
1-9 September, 2008  
Universities of Copenhagen, Lund and Kiel  
  
Organized by the Faculty Members of the Baltic Summer School,  
coordinator Prof. N.-H Holstein-Rathlou, University of Copenhagen  
[balticsummerschool2008.pdf](#)  
Website : <http://www.balticsummerschool.net>  
E-mail : [bss@balticsummerschool.net](mailto:bss@balticsummerschool.net)
- Acta International Symposium on Orexins  
August 13-14, 2008 (before the SPS meeting August 15-17, 2008)  
Oulu, Finland  
Website : <http://www.oulu.fi/sps2008>

## Information about Hermann-Rein-Award for outstanding achievements

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The German Society for Microcirculation and Vascular Biology invites applications and nominations for the

**Hermann-Rein-Award for outstanding achievements in the area of clinical or experimental research in microcirculation and vascular biology**

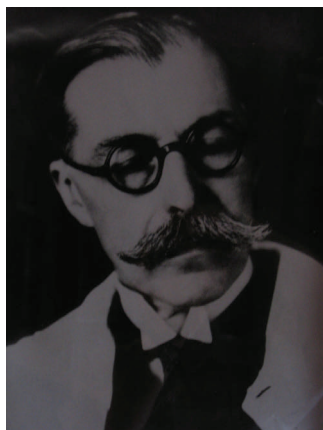
sponsored by Servier Deutschland GmbH

The prize amounting to EUR 2,000 is awarded on occasion of the next annual meeting of the German Society for Microcirculation and Vascular Biology, September 25-27, 2008, in Aachen.  
The awardee will present the Hermann-Rein-Lecture during the meeting.

**Deadline for applications: June 20, 2008**

Personal applications as well as suggestions are invited. Click [here](#) for further information.

**PROFESSOR RICHARD BURIAN (1871-1954)**  
**FOUNDER OF THE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL PHYSIOLOGY**  
**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**  
**UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE**



*A Life dedicated to creative work, of high ideals, combined with a search for knowledge, truth, and giving of community service, benevolence and philanthropy*

The name of Professor Richard Burian, the founder of the Institute of Medical Physiology, Belgrade, holds an honoured place in the School of Medicine. He was born on 8<sup>th</sup> January, 1871 in Vienna, where he graduated from the School of Medicine (in 1894). In the period from 1895 to 1897, he published 4 papers while working as an assistant to Professor Neusser's clinic on physiological and chemical problems, and at the University chemical laboratory of Professors Liben and Mautner. In 1897, he transferred, by invitation, to the University of Leipzig, where he investigated physiological and chemical problems. He graduated in 1899 with the title "*Die dissimilations purine der sangetiere*" and after publication of his work entitled "*Die Dussunukatuibsozrube der Sazgetuere*", he became an Assistant Professor of Physiology in 1900, under Professor Evald Hering who put him in charge of the teaching related to metabolism. During 1903, Richard Burian was proposed for a full Professorship (Physics) at *Hochschule für Bodenkultur* in Vienna. However, at Professor Dorn's invitation, Richard Burian spent the winter of 1903/4 at the famous Zoo-Oceanographic Institute in Naples. He became the head of a newly founded Department of Physiology there and after being made Professor in 1911, he stayed until the beginning of the First World War (1914). He gathered at this Institute, thanks to his commitment and enormous experience, a great number of famous scientists who had been doing research on sea invertebrates (Fuchs, Sulze, Goldchmidt, Scaffidi, Baner, Sulima). During this time, Richard Burian was named a full Professor of Medical Chemistry at the University of Innsbruck (1910) and a full professor of Physiology at the College of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna (1912).

With the outbreak of war, Richard Burian returned to Leipzig where he helped his old teacher, Professor Hering, by taking over the whole of the teaching of Physiology at the School of Medicine. Here he remained until 1916. Then, Richard Burian left Leipzig due to tensions related to the bringing of Professor Garten (from Gissen) to the the School of Medicine in Leipzig.

Although he came to Yugoslavia at the invitation of the School of Medicine in Ljubljana (today Slovenia), and though a full Professor of different disciplines at Vienna, Innsbruck, Hannover and Leipzig, it was not until 1920 that he was made, at the insistence of Professor Milan Jovanovic-Batut, a full Professor of Physiology at the newly founded School of Medicine in Belgrade.

During the winter of 1922/1923, at the School of Medicine in Belgrade, Richard Burian started with his lectures in German. However, after two years, he gave all his lectures in the Serbian language. As well as organization of all the teaching, his main concern was the setting up of the Institute of Physiology & Histology. For this purpose he was given the former building of the English-Serbian Children's Hospital. It is due to his wealth of experience, incredible energy and tremendous effort, that the Institute of Physiology and Histology was opened in 1927.

In the first few years, within the Institute of Physiology (today – the Institute of Medical Physiology), scientific research was progressing in several departments. These included Physico-Chemistry, Chemical Physiology, Micro-

chemistry, Electrophysiology (which contained facilities for photographic recording), and Graphics working with the operating theatres. These were all supported by an academic library and a mechanical workshop. In addition to the lecture theatres and laboratories, due to the commitment of Richard Burian and the generous memorial fund of Dr. Elsie Inglis of London, it was possible to build several departments for experimental work. In 1916, Dr Elsie Inglis was the first woman to receive the highest Serbian decoration – The Order of the White Eagle. She was a member of “the Scottish Women’s Hospital” (the name refers to the Military-Medical Unit that was set up during the First World War as a gesture of help from the women of Scotland to the Serbian people). In memory of this great friend of the Serbian people, in 1929, a memorial table was placed in the central hall of the Institute of Medical Physiology, at the initiative of Professor Richard Burian.

Apart from being one of the founders of the School of Medicine in Belgrade and the Dean or Vice-Dean between 1923 and 1934, Prof. Burian was also involved with the creation of both the School of Veterinary Medicine (1936), and the School of Pharmacy of Belgrade (1939), of which he was the first head, respectively. These two schools were housed in the same building. He was elected as a corresponding member of the Serbian Royal Academy of Science in 1926. Due to the tremendous effort of Prof Burian, the Serbian School of Medicine and Physiology was able to keep pace with the corresponding institutions in Europe from their conception.

The personality of Richard Burian, together with his reputation in science, and authority as a professor, attracted numerous associates not only at the Institute of Physiology in Belgrade, but also with other Professors of Physiology within Belgrade (the School of Veterinary Medicine, the School of Pharmacy and the School of Agriculture). He also collaborated well with other schools of medicine in former Yugoslavia: Professors Milutin Neskovic, Ilija Djuricic and Bozidar Nikolic in Belgrade, Aleksandar Sabovljevic in Sarajevo, Radmilo Anastasijevic in Novi Sad, and Aleksandra Volkanoska in Skopje.

Professor Richard Burian retired in 1938, but he continued with his experiments at the Institute of Physiology until the beginning of the Second World War. Sadly, on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1941, one of the first Nazi bombs to land on Belgrade destroyed, and then set on fire the architecturally beautiful building. This was a disaster as the creative work of Professor Richard Burian accumulated over many years was destroyed instantly. However, forty books with signatures of the Burian family members were found beneath the ruins of the Institute. These included books by Chekhov, Tolstoy, Goethe, Seneca and numerous others from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, together with about 200 professional books in German, French and English. Also saved were numerous scientific articles that he had obtained through personal contacts.

The attitude of the family Burian towards the country and Serbian people during the war under the Nazi occupation is best illustrated by an example from the diaries/memoirs of Professor Aleksandar Kostic. From these Prof. Kostic noted that at a quiet suggestion from his wife Mrs. Kostic, that they, the family Burian, as Austrians, would probably have better treatment concerning supplies of food and in general, Richard Burian reacted: “What do you mean, *chere amie*, we are not, for God’s sake, “*Folksdeutchers*” but Yugoslavs. We are that now and that’s what we are going to stay in the future!”

When Belgrade was liberated in October 1944, students of Professor Burian and especially a major of the national-liberation army, Assistant Professor Aleksandar Sabovljevic, remembered their old and lonely professor. Prof Sabovljevic (later professor and founder of the School of Medicine in Sarajevo - today Bosnia and Herzegovina) provided him with the room in the former Main Military Hospital (today the Military Medical Academy) where he had complete care. After his recovery, Professor Burian stayed with his step-son who lived in Belgrade. After many invitations from his son, Herman, in 1947 Prof. Burian immigrated to the USA, to the small town of Hanover near Boston. Prof. Burian hoped that he would come back to Belgrade some day and continue with his research. Sadly this was not to be and he died in New York on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 1954. He led a life that was dedicated to high ideals. He was an excellent intellectual in the real sense of the word. He handed down his love towards literature of the world classics, music and philanthropy to his family.

Richard Burian was engaged in experimental research in many fields. These included metabolism of purines, methodology of nerve and muscle research in mollusks, contraction of damaged muscle, function of neuromuscular synapses, function of kidney and genito-urinary system, function of biological membranes and the physiology of swallowing.

Professor Richard Burian was a recipient of several medals and honors: the Order of the Romanian Crown of 3<sup>rd</sup> class (in 1931), the Order of Saint Sava of 2<sup>nd</sup> class (in 1934) and the Order of the Yugoslav Crown of 2<sup>nd</sup> class (in 1936). In memory and respect of the founder and first director, the Institute of Medical Physiology of the School of Medicine bears his name. At the suggestion of the School of Medicine in Belgrade, (in 1971) one street in Belgrade bears the name of the physiologist Professor Richard Burian. He was an inspiration, both as a scientist and philanthropist.

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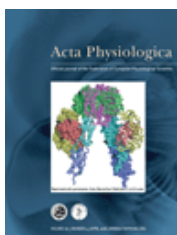
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