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## ESSENTIALS OF DENTAL MEDICINE

Editors

Marin Vodanović and Kurt W. Alt

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# Essentials of Dental Medicine

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Marin Vodanović and Kurt W. Alt



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# Foreword

Almost seven years ago, I (M.V.) was finishing the last pages of the book *Essentials of Dental Medicine*, which was published in Croatian in 2015 by Naklada Slap. Then I wondered how readers and students would accept a book that, with its scope and content, goes beyond the scope of ordinary dental student literature. Very positive and motivating reactions to the book by students and colleagues, as well as Mrs. Biserka Matešić, owner of the publishing house Naklada Slap, encouraged me to think about a new project, but this time in English and with a number of authors from all over the world.

At the School of Dental Medicine University of Zagreb, the one-semester subject Introduction to Dental Medicine in the first year of study has existed for several decades. The purpose of the course is to acquaint students at the beginning of their studies with all aspects of their future profession. This is very important in the process of successfully developing their careers and setting them on the way to professional and personal satisfaction. It sometimes happens that, after finishing the course, students contact me because they realize that dentistry is not what they want to do in life. It is better to recognize this after the first semester than after 6 years of study or, even worse, after years of work in the profession. Such a course should perhaps form an integral part of every study program that educates dentists because dentistry is a specific profession and young people, when choosing their profession, can never be aware of all its advantages and disadvantages. Guided by this thought, the idea of writing this book in English arose. The project of preparing and writing the *Essentials of Dental Medicine* was then realized by myself and Kurt W. Alt from the Danube Private University

at Krems, Austria, my friend and teacher, who served as an inexhaustible source of encouragement and ideas.

The first step was to structure the chapters of the book so that it would give a complete overview of modern dentistry and the dental profession, including insights into current topics beyond clinical fields. The chapters are uniform in length and style. Each chapter begins with learning outcomes and keywords. At the end of each chapter there is a test with 10 questions for self-assessment (correct answers are at the end of the book) and a list of references. The text is written in an easy language style so that it can be read by everyone to whom it might be of interest: dental students, dentists and all dental professionals including dental hygienists, assistants and technicians, but also lay people interested in dental medicine.

The book was created by 72 authors from 23 countries and 5 continents working in 40 different institutions, all of them top experts in their fields with extensive experience in dentistry and the education of dental professionals. We can proudly say that the University of Zagreb and the School of Dental Medicine together with the Danube Private University, Center of Natural and Cultural Human History, Krems, represent the two poles connecting this amazing network of experts.

We are glad that, despite all the problems and aggravating circumstances that this Covid-19 pandemic has incurred, we have managed to finish and publish this book. The two editors thank all the authors for their efforts and work in preparing and writing the chapters, and for the patience they showed while waiting for the book to be published. We firmly believe that it will meet your expectations. We thank our great

## Foreword

reviewers: Ivana Čuković Bagić, Huw Thomas and Nairn Wilson for investing their knowledge, effort and time to make this book better and more useful. We thank also Cristina Manzanares Céspedes for writing the preface and seeing the importance of this book in striving for a standardized training of future dentists. All chapters were carefully proofread by the staff of Elsevier, Oxford, UK, whom we thank for their great work. We would also like to thank the publishing house Naklada Slap for entering into such a unique project in these challenging times and believing in its success. We thank our col-

leagues, associates, friends, and leaders of the institutions in which we work for their support of this book.

We hope and believe that the *Essentials of Dental Medicine* will meet the expectations of a wide audience, and perhaps forward the education of dentists everywhere.

This book is dedicated to Ana Karla, Laura, Irena and Sandra.

*Marin Vodanović and Kurt W. Alt*



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