

Dear readers,

You are reading a special edition of the Archive of Oncology 9(4). Its contents differs from its usual form and deals with the issue of depleted uranium, a subject that was discussed at The First International Conference of the Environmental Recovery of Yugoslavia (ENRY 2001), held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, September 27-30, 2001 - the Session on Depleted Uranium (September 29, 2001).

During the period of Conference preparation and having in mind the journal's aims and policy I agreed to publish the most interesting Conference papers in the Archive of Oncology. While attending the Conference I, being an internist, had an opportunity to meet distinguished scientists from the field of radiation physics - Dr. Michael P.R. Waligorski and Dr. James P. Mc Laughlin. I invited these two experts to be guest editors of a special issue of Archive of Oncology 9(4) in collaboration with Dr. Gordana M. Bogdanović and Dr. Zora S. Žunić. To my great pleasure and the pleasure of the editorial board Dr. Mc Laughlin and Dr. Waligorski accepted my suggestion. This issue is a result of their highly professional work and efforts they made in editing

the manuscripts and a close co-operation they had

with the editorial office. I am personally thankful to my colleague Dr. Zora S. Žunić for devoting her essence to the organization and implementation of this eminent Conference and for her great contribution to the contents of this issue of Archive of Oncology.

Let this issue be a gift given by one medical journal to the researchers from the field of radiation physics who had gathered to discuss the problem of depleted uranium two years after bombardment of Yugoslavia.

I also express my gratitude to all authors in this issue for their contribution to the reputation of our journal and expansion of the boundaries of understanding.

I wish you a happy and successful New Year.

Yours truly,

**Vladimir Vit. Baltić
Editor-in Chief**



Dr. James Mc LAUGHLIN is a professor at the University College Dublin, Department of Experimental Physics, Dublin 4, Ireland. He received his Ph.D. in physics at the University College Dublin. His main research area is the field of natural radiation, in particular radon and progeny, in the environment and consequent radiation doses and health effects in the general population. He is currently involved in research into application of retrospective assessment of radon exposure techniques in residential radon lung cancer epidemiology. Dr. Mc Laughlin has over 90 scientific papers/book chapters, published mainly in the field of human exposure to natural radiation and aspects of radiation protection. He is a member of a number of scientific and professional associations.



Dr. Michael Patrick Russell WALIGORSKI is a full-time professor and Head of the Medical Physics Department in the Center of Oncology-Krakow Division, Garncarska 11, 30-115 Krakow, Poland and a part-time consultant in the Health Physics Laboratory, Institute of Nuclear Physics, Radzikowskiego 152, 31-342 Krakow, Poland. He received his Ph.D. in physics at Jagieollonian University in 1976. His main research areas are radiation physics, track structure theory, solid-state dosimetry, theoretical biology, radiation protection, medical physics, nuclear medicine and environmental radiation dosimetry. He is the author and co-author of over 140 publications (books, peer-reviewed journals, conference proceedings and reports) in these areas. Dr. Waligorski is a member of a number of professional and scientific associations.



Zora S. ŽUNIĆ is a medical doctor and a researcher in the field of radiation medicine in the Institute "Vinča", Belgrade. She received her M.Sc. in medicine at the Medical Faculty, University of Belgrade, Yugoslavia. Before 1999, she organized and performed fieldwork studies related the geogenic origin of radon and the exposure of Yugoslav population. She also participated in the project of the Serbian Academy of Sciences titled "Uranium in Soil Plants", organizing the fieldwork on depleted uranium environmental contamination in the south of Serbia. Within The First International Conference of the Environmental Recovery of

Yugoslavia (ENRY 2001) she organized the session on depleted uranium and the field visit of target sites in the region of Vranje. In 2001, Dr. Žunić was a member of the Council that had been set up by the government of Yugoslavia for monitoring the impact of DU on environment and human health in Yugoslavia, and recently participated in UNEP DU Assessment Mission in southern Serbia and Montenegro. Her areas of interest are population and environment exposure to natural radiation, DU exposure, risk assessment based on retrospective studies of radon exposure, etc. She is the author and co-author of over 90 scientific publications (peer-reviewed journals, conference proceedings and reports, etc).