



## Prof. dr Srećko I. Nedeljković, osnivač i prvi direktor Instituta za kardiovaskularne bolesti Kliničkog centra Srbije, preminuo je 2. januara u Beogradu, u 88. godini

**P**rofesionalna karijera prof. dr Srećka I. Nedeljkovića je primer kako se velikim radom, samopožrtvovanjem i pregalaštvom mogu dostići i najviši ciljevi.

Srećko Nedeljković je rođen 4. decembra 1923. godine u selu Virovo u Dragačevu (danas opština Arilje) u seljačkoj porodici kao treće od devetoro dece Anke i Ilije Nedeljković. Gimnaziju je završio u Čačku, a njegov maturski rad „U radu i stvaralaštvu leži smisao života” je nagrađen kao najbolji. Šah je naučio u 13. godini od starijeg brata Relje. Kao đak gimnazije u Čačku afirmisao se i kao odličan šahista. Godine 1946. upisao je Medicinski fakultet, Univerziteta u Beogradu, koji je završio kao jedan od najboljih studenata u generaciji 1952. godine (prosečna ocena 9.3). Ubrzo je dobio specijalizaciju iz interne medicine na bivšoj Internoj B klinici koju je završio 1958. godine, a habilitacioni rad iz kardiologije je odbranio 1959. godine. Tada je postao i asistent na Medicinskom fakultetu Univerziteta u Beogradu. Godine 1961. odlazi na usavršavanje u Vašington, SAD, gde upotpunjava svoja znanja iz biostatistike. Sa akademikom prof. dr Božidarom Đorđevićem započinje „Studiju sedam zemalja” 1962. godine. 1965. radio je prvo na eksperimentalnim modelima, a onda i u humanoj medicini na uvođenju u rutinsku praksu transtorakalne defibrilacije. Godine 1967. je odbranio magistarsku, a 1969. doktorsku tezu. Godine 1975. bio je kao Visiting profesor na Baylor koledžu medicine čije je rektor bio čuvani kardiohirurg Majkl Debejki. Redovni profesor postaje 1980. godine, a 1985. godine postaje i šef poslediplomske Katedre iz kardiologije, kao i predsednik Udruženja kardiologa Jugoslavije. Godine 1986. osniva Institut za kardiovaskularne bolesti, Kliničkog centra Srbije, u Beogradu i sa tog položaja odlazi u penziju 1989. godine. Godine 1990. je postao potpredsednik Medicinske akademije Srpskog lekarskog društva, a 1999. i predsednik Naučnog saveta Udruženja za aterosklerozu Jugoslavije. Iako u penziji od 1989. godine, Prof. dr Srećko Nedeljković je aktivan ne samo kao zdravstveni radnik, već i u naučno-istraživačkom radu i edukaciji mlađih na Katedri za poslediplomsku nastavu iz kardiologije Medicinskog fakulteta, Univerziteta u Beogradu. Pored

mnogobrojnih publikacija i tri izdanja poslediplomskog udžbenika „Kardiologija” gde je glavni urednik sa Akademikom Vladimirom Kanjuhom i primarijusom dr Milijom Vukotićem, kontinuirano radi i na polju istraživanja u „Studiji sedam zemalja”, kao i u JUSAD studiji („Jugoslovenska studija prekusora ateroskleroze u školske dece”). Radi i na izradi Srpske enciklopedije (za medicinu urednik akademik Vladimir Kanjuh) praktično do poslednjeg dana svoga života. Iako se bavio „Studijom sedam zemalja”, kao jednom epidemiološkom studijom, prof. dr Srećko Nedeljković je i osnivač modernih hemodinamskih i funkcionalnih ispitivanja srca u Jugoslaviji. To obuhvata i modernu interventnu kardiologiju, kao i elektrofiziologiju. Uveo je posle Plavšića, Đorđevića kateterizaciju desnog srca u rutinsku praksu, pa uvodi kateterizaciju levog srca, kao i trans-septalnu kateterizaciju, pa zatim selektivnu koronarnu arteriografiju. Na osnovu njegovih nalaza, operišu najbolji naši, kao i svetski kardiohirurzi. Tokom celog svog rada nesebično prenosi znanja na svoje mlađe saradnike koje usmerava ka uvođenju novih metoda. Znao je da delegira odgovornost i usmeri saradnike. Zbog svog rada u oblasti kardiologije, kao i takmičarskih zasluga u šahu dobija mnogobrojna najviša državno-društvena, kao i stručna priznanja (Tabela 1). Faktografija životnog puta prof. dr Srećka Nedeljkovića je ogromna i biće stavljena na sajt Udruženja kardiologa Srbije kao primer šta se sve može postići nesebičnim i požrtvovanim radom, tj. biti u svemu odličan i još i najcitiraniji kardiolog u Srbiji.

Ja sam šahovskog internacionalnog majstora Srećka I. Nedeljkovića upoznao još 1960. godine igrajući na pionirskom prvenstvu Beograda u šahu. Kratkotrajan susret se pretvorio u poznanstvo 1965. godine, kada sam od strane Šahovskog saveza Jugoslavije određen da igram u državnoj reprezentaciji protiv reprezentacije SSSR u Sočiju na omladinskoj tabli. Te 1966. godine se meč održavao baš u junu kada je trebalo da polažem ispite na prvoj godini studija medicine na Medicinskom fakultetu u Beogradu. Obratio sam se tadašnjem saveznom kapitenu šahovske reprezentacije Jugoslavije Doc. dr Srećku Nedeljkoviću zamolivši ga da pomerim ispite unapred kako bi po njihovom polaganju otputovao na meč. Doc. S.

Nedeljković je sve učinio da se ispiti pomere unapred, ali to je bilo teško izvesti, jer je trebalo organizovati praktične delove ispita (hemije, fizike...) ranije samo za mene, tako da sam odustao od šahovskog meča i ostao da polažem ispite u redovnom postupku. Po završetku studija 1971. godine, javio sam se akademiku prof. dr Božidaru Đorđeviću i Doc. Dr Srećku Nedeljkiću koji su me primili u njihov tim. Odmah sam bio određen da radim sa doc. dr Srećkom Nedeljkićem, da mu pomažem u uvođenju novih metoda.

Još kao studenta medicine, Doc. dr Srećko Nedeljkić me je impresionirao svojim odnosom prema bolesnicima. Uvek je primao bolesnike, bili najavljeni ili ne, jer je smatrao da je najvažnije pomoći im u pravom trenutku. I svoga oca sam kao student dovodio kod doc. dr Srećka Nedeljkića sasvim iznenada, nenajavljen, i bio zadivljen energijom, toplim prijemom i altruizmom kojim je zračio. Kasnije, u toku zajedničkog rada, ti moji utisci divljenja su se samo povećavali. Znao je i on sam, kada mu pozvoni telefon u kancelariji, da kaže: „E, ko će me sada zaposliti?“. Nikada nisam bio svedok da je nekome odbio pomoć. Njegova kancelarija je uvek bila otključana, i sve svoje saradnike je u nju smeštao tako da smo stalno, ako ne na radnom zadatku, bili u njoj. Ali, Srećko nije delio samo kancelariju sa saradnicima; sećam se da me je sa porodicom ubrzo po zaposlenju, ugostio u svom stanu u Herceg Novom. Zračio je brigom za saradnike, i kada mi je ubrzo po mom prijemu rekao „E, od sada ćemo jedan o drugom u toku naših karijera imati prilike dosta da pišemo“, samo za kratko nisam odmah shvatio šta bi to trebalo da znači. Brzo sam shvatio da u radnom odnosu ima i dosta zamki, te da je lojalnost u odnosu učitelja i učenika jedan od ključnih elementa prevazilaženja i teških situacija sa kojima se svi susreću. Kao vrhunac njegove brige o učenicima navešću samo da me je 1994. godine, ne govoreći mi ništa, predložio u Medicinskoj akademiji SLD da kao predlog te akademije idem na Skupštinu SANU za dopisnog člana. Uz njegovo stalno angažovanje za taj predlog i neprocenjiv doprinos akademika Kanjuha i Papa, taj predlog je i usvojen. Često sam govorio, šahovski rečeno, da je forsirajući pešaka na osnovnom redu, tog pešaka pretvorio u damu. To je bio Srećko koji nas je učio da svakome treba

dati šansu za uspešnu karijeru, ali i da nisu svi isti kada im se ta šansa pruži („Svako treba da živi“, i „Napisaću knjigu, Hipokrat i svi njegovi učenici“). Njegov osnovni postulat je bio, i to je često naglašavao baš na engleskom jeziku „Hard working, soft speaking“. To je bilo u njegovom gandističkom poimanju savlađivanja prepreka koje su mu stalno iskrsavale na putu. Sećam se da me je, kada je teškom mukom obezbedio sredstva za novu salu za kateterizaciju, a niko nije želeo da ustupi prostor, pozvao i rekao: „Znate Ostojiću šta je Tito komandovao u IV ofanzivi? Idemo kroz Prozor!“. I zaista, naša nova kateterizacija je izašla kroz prozor i dozidana kao pupak uz postojeću zgradu. Samo šematski i zbog sistematizacije izlaganja, bi se o Srećku moglo pisati posebno kao čoveku, mentoru, prijatelju, lekaru, pedagogu, naučniku, glavi porodice, ali sve je to bilo sjedinjeno u jednoj osobi kao u kaledioskopu duginih boja. Šta god bi iz tih oblasti napisali, ne bi bilo dovoljno impresivno kakav je Srećko čovek bio. Mnogo je cenio i voleo druge, i čini mi se da mu je to bilo i uzvraćeno. Uvek je bio zadovoljan i srećan postignutim, skroman, ali nikada u nekoj defanzivi. Operaciju srca je prebrodilo brže nego kijavicu, ležeći u bolnici samo 72 sata; a pred samu tešku operaciju noge, kada smo mu rekli da je potreban radikalni zahvat, onako duhovito je odgovorio: „U redu, pa, mi smo to i drugima priređivali!“ Hrabro i čestito je živeo, hrabro nas je i napustio. Pesimista bi rekao šteta što smo ga izgubili, a ja, kao jedan od njegovih učenika kojima je svesrdno pružio šanse i dao mogućnost da formiram sada poznati svetski tim kardiologa, rekao bih, više optimistički, presrećni smo što smo imali jednog takvog čoveka za učitelja, mentora i prijatelja. Njegove ideje i standardi koje je postavio kao čovek i stručnjak ostatće večito da žive. Srećko nije bio samo doktor-lekar, pedagog, naučnik, šahista, on je bio, što sam i za njegovog života govorio, i njemu i drugima, pravi narodni mudrac. Dobro je što nam je lestvicu postavio tako visoko, jer ćemo svi morati vredno da radimo do kraja života ako želimo da ga dostignemo.

Akademik, prof. dr Miodrag Ostojić,  
glavni urednik časopisa „Srce i krvni sudovi“

<b>Srećko I. Nedeljković: Nagrade i priznanja</b>		
1.	Nagrada Vlade Srbije za najbolji maturski rad iz srpskog jezika sa temom „U radu i stvaralaštvu leži smisao života”	1943. godina
2.	Internacionalni majstor (pobeda na prvom međunarodnom turniru Beogradu i na međunarodnom turniru u Beču)	1950. godina
3.	Zlatna medalja na Olimpijadi u Dubrovniku	1950. godina
4.	Na svetskoj šahovskoj rang listi zauzeo je 43. mesto (rejting 2546)	1955. godina
5.	Zaslužni sportista Jugoslavije	1957. godina
6.	Oktobarska nagrada grada Beograda za dostignuća u nauci	1970 i 1981. godina
7.	Sedmojulska nagrada Srbije za unapređenje u razvoju Srbije	1979. godina
8.	Orden zasluga za narod sa zlatnim vencem	1986. godina
9.	Zlatna medalja Udruženja kardiologa Jugoslavije	1989. godina
10.	Dve zlatne medalje Medicinskog fakulteta u Beogradu za unapređenje poslediplomske nastave iz kardiologije	1985 i 1995. godina
11.	Nagrada Srpskog lekarskog društva za životno delo	1993 godina
12.	Urednik Šahovske rubrike „Viva”,	1996. godina
13.	Gramata patrijarha Pavla	2000 i 2004. godina
14.	Veliki pečat Srpskog lekarskog društva	2003. godina
15.	Plaketa SANU	2000. godina
16.	Nacionalno sportsko priznanje za poseban doprinos razvoju i afirmaciji sporta od strane Vlade Republike Srbije	2007. godina
17.	Pokrovitelj finalnog šahovskog turnira za studente Beogradskog univerziteta (Trofej Verice i Srećka Nedeljkovića)	2008. godina

## In memoriam

Professor Srećko I. Nedeljković, the founder and the first Head of the Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases of the Clinical Center of Serbia, former FESC and FACC, passed away on January 2nd 2011, in Belgrade, at the age of 88.

The career of Professor Nedeljkovic is an example of achieving the highest professional aims through hard work, sacrifice and diligence.

Srećko Nedeljković was born on December 4, 1923 in the village of Virovo in Dragačevo (municipality of Arilje) in a farmer's family as the third of nine children of Anka and Ilija Nedeljković. He completed high school in Cacak, and his graduation paper "Creativity is the essence of life" was awarded as the most successful project in his class. Taught by his elder brother Relja, Srećko learns to play chess at the age of 13, what he pursued throughout his High School years in Cacak. In 1946 he enters the School of Medicine of the University of Belgrade where he graduates top in his class, in 1952, with an average grade of 9.3 out of 10. Soon afterwards, he becomes the internal medicine resident at the main University teaching hospital, the Internal Medicine Division B and becomes board certified internal medicine specialist in 1958. Upon the public defense of the nowadays equivalent of Fellowship thesis in Cardiology in 1962, Dr Nedeljkovic got his first appointment as an Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine at the School of Medicine of the University of Belgrade. In 1961 he went to Washington D.C., USA, for further training in biostatistics that was of paramount importance, when in 1962, in cooperation with Academician Professor Božidar Đorđević, he started the Seven Countries Study. It was only three years later, in 1965 that he was the first one to work on experimental models and

then application in humans in order to introduce trans-thoracic defibrillation into routine practice. In 1967 he successfully defended his master and in 1969 his PhD thesis. In 1975 he was the visiting professor at Baylor College of Medicine, whose President at the time was a renowned cardiac surgeon Michael E. DeBakey, but he also had established excellent relations with equally brilliant and internationally recognized cardiac surgeon Denton Cooley and his team. Professor Nedeljkovic became full time professor in 1980, and in 1985 the Head of Postgraduate Studies in Cardiology, as well as the president of Cardiology Society of Yugoslavia. In 1986 he founded the Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases of the Clinical Center of Serbia, in Belgrade, and retired in 1989 as its first Head. In 1990 he became the vice-president of the Medical Academy of Serbian Medical Association and in 1999 the president of the Science Committee of the Yugoslav Association for Atherosclerosis. Despite his official retirement, Professor Srećko Nedeljkovic was active not only as a doctor, but also as researcher and educator of younger colleagues at the Postgraduate Cardiology Studies of the School of Medicine of the University of Belgrade. Along with numerous publications and three editions of postgraduate textbook "Cardiology", where he was the editor-in-chief, along with Academician Vladimir Kanjuh and Primarius Dr Milija Vukotic he continually worked and researched in the Seven Countries Study, as well as JUSAD study (Yugoslav study of atherosclerosis precursors in school children). He also worked in compiling material for Serbian Encyclopedia (editor for the medical section – Vladimir Kanjuh) literally until his very last days. Although he was deeply involved in the Seven Countries Study, as an epidemiology study, he was also the founder of modern hemodynamics and functional diagnostics in Yugoslavia. This involved modern emergency

cardiology, along with electrophysiology. After C. Plavsic and B. Djordjevic, he was the first to introduce heart catheterization in routine practice, as well as left heart catheterization and trans-septal catheterization, followed by selective coronary arteriography. Many of our most distinguished cardiac surgeons, along with worldwide well known cardiac surgeons operated based on the findings of Professor Nedeljkovic's pre-op diagnostics. Selfless in transferring his knowledge to his younger associates, by directing them towards introduction of new methods, Professor Nedeljkovic also very well knew how to delegate responsibilities and how to channel his associates' energy in the right direction. For his work in cardiology, similar to his competitive achievements in chess, he was awarded numerous national and professional awards (Table 1). Factography of Professor Srecko Nedeljkovic's life path is tremendous and will be presented on the Internet site of the Cardiology Society of Serbia and Serbian Heart Foundation as a picture of perfect example of what selfless and dedicated work can achieve and how it can make you not only an exceptionally good cardiologist but one of the most frequently cited among peers (his manuscripts were cited more than 3500 times).

I was lucky enough to have met the international chess master Srecko Nedeljkovic back in 1960, when I was participating in the pioneer chess championship in Belgrade. This short encounter turned into friendship in 1965 when I was selected to play in the Yugoslav state team against USSR in Sochi. As luck would have it, the championship took place in June 1966, when I was supposed to sit exams in my first year of medical studies. I turned to the team captain of Yugoslav chess team, Dr Srecko Nedeljkovic and asked him to help me sit my exams earlier so that I could participate in the chess championship. He did his best to help me, but it was extremely difficult and it turned out that I had to give up the chess championship in order to take my exam. After I completed my studies in 1971, I reported to Academician Professor Božidar Đorđević and Assistant Professor Srečko Nedeljković who welcomed me to their team. I was assigned to Assistant Professor Srecko Nedeljkovic to help him with introduction of new methods.

Ever since I was a medical student, Associate Professor Srecko Nedeljkovic impressed me with his attitude towards patients and his bedside manners. He always had the time to see all the patients, whether they had appointments or not, he always thought that the most important thing was to offer your help when it was most needed. Dr Nedeljkovic was also my doctor of choice when it came to my father's medical care; I was always taken by his energy, warm welcoming manner and altruism that he emanated. Later, when we worked together, my impressions had only grown bigger. A witty character, he also had a particular sense of humor, so he would often comment when his office phone rang: "Ok, let's see who set his mind do get me busy now!" And he never even once refused to help anyone. His office was always unlocked and all of his associates were welcomed. But it was not his office only that Srecko shared

with his associates. I can remember the time, when, soon after I got my first job and was on a rather limited income, he gave me the keys and directed me to the Nedeljkovic family flat in Herceg Novi, resort at the Adriatic sea, where I spent two weeks with my son and wife. He was all consumed with worry about his associates, and when soon after I started working he told me: "From now on, we'll have a lot to write about each other in our careers", I didn't immediately understand what he meant. However, pretty soon, it dawned on me that professional endeavors entail a lot of traps too, and that teacher-student loyalty is the key element in overcoming some difficult situations that all of us encounter. As an illustration of his care about his students, it suffices to mention that in 1994, without telling me anything, he recommended to Medical Academy of the Serbian Medical Association that I become a correspondent member of Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts on behalf of Serbian Medical Association. It is with his persistent engagement and with invaluable contribution of Academicians Vladimir Kanjuh and Isidor Papo that this proposal was accepted. I have often said, in chess terms, that by pushing the pawn to the front he managed to turn it into a queen. That was how Srecko taught us that everybody should be given a chance to achieve a successful career, but also that not everyone responds the same way when presented with this opportunity ("Everyone deserves to live", and "I'll write a book –Hippocrates and all his students"). His key postulate was, and he used to say it in English: "Hard working-soft speaking". This was his Gandhi-like understanding of how to overcome obstacles that would often appear on his way. I remember the time when he worked hard to secure the funds for the new catheterization room. He called me and said: "Ostojic, do you know how president Tito led the IV offensive during the second World War? He said-we'll go through Prozor (Prozor is the name of the city which means "window" in English)." And our new catheterization room did go through the window and was built as an additional part of the existing building. I could write about Srecko as a man, mentor, friend, doctor, instructor, scientist, chess player, head of family, but all these roles blend together into one person as colors do when forming a unique rainbow. Whichever role I decide to set aside, it wouldn't do justice to a man that Srecko really was. He appreciated and loved others, and it seems that they returned his affection and care. He was always satisfied and happy with what he achieved; he was modest, but never defensive. He recovered from his heart surgery (CABG) quicker than some would recover from a common cold, he only remained at hospital for 72 hours, and just before his serious leg surgery only several days before he died, when we told him that a radical procedure will be inevitable, he replied in his witty way: "That's just fine, we did it to our patients, too!". Srecko Nedeljkovic lived bravely and honorably and when he left us, he did it the same way again. A pessimist would say it's a pity that we lost him, I – however – as one of his students whom he supported and gave a chance to form one of the biggest world

known cardiology team (performing about 2800 percutaneous coronary interventions per year) at Division of Cardiology, Clinical Center of Serbia, would like to preserve my Mentor's never ending optimism and say – we are happy to have had such a man for our teacher,

mentor and friend. Ideas and standards that he set will remain alive for years to come. Srecko was not only a doctor, teacher, scientist, chess player; he was an extraordinarily wise man. The bar he set for us is so high that the hard work to make it, is only yet to come.

### Srećko I. Nedeljković: Awards and recognition

1.	Government of Serbia Award for best graduation essay "Work and creation is the meaning of life"	1943
2.	International chess master (first place at first international tournament in Belgrade and international tournament in Vienna)	1950
3.	Gold medal at the Olympics in Dubrovnik	1950
4.	Ranked as 43 on a world chess list	1955
5.	Yugoslav Exceptional Sportsman	1957
6.	October Award by the City of Belgrade for scientific achievements	1970 and 1981
7.	7th of July Award for improvements in Serbia development	1979
8.	Order of Achievement with gold wreath	1986
9.	Gold medal of Yugoslav Association of Cardiologists	1989
10.	Two gold medals of the Faculty of Medicine, Belgrade University, for improvements in post graduation cardiology curriculum	1985 and 1995
11.	Serbian Medical Association Life Achievement Award	1993
12.	Editor of chess section of Viva magazine	1996
13.	Serbian Patriarch Pavle's Award	2000 and 2004
14.	Grand Seal of Serbian Medical Association	2003
15.	Plaque of Serbian Academy of Sciences and Art	2000
16.	National sport award for special contribution to development and affirmation of sports by the Government of Republic of Serbia	2007
17.	Patron of the students' final chess tournament of University of Belgrade (Verica and Srecko Nedeljkovic's Trophy)	2008