

THE SERIES OF INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIA

“METAL ELEMENTS IN ENVIRONMENT, MEDICINE AND BIOLOGY”

TIMIȘOARA - ROMANIA 1993 – 2008

Series of International Symposia “*Metal Elements in Environment, Medicine and Biology*” (M.E.E.M.B.) was initiated in 1993. The topics were dealing with a domain of great interest for inorganic biochemistry having applications in environmental problems, nutrition, medicine (e.g. prognosis, diagnosis, therapy and monitoring of casuistry), pharmacology, vegetal and animal biology etc.

This international scientific meeting taking place under the auspices of Romanian Academy – Branch Timișoara, is now after one and a half decade from debut. It has a biennial character and until now have been published seven volumes (Tome I – VII).

The initiation of M.E.E.M.B. International Symposia Series benefited by the assenting of Acad. Nicolae Cajal - vicepresident of the Romanian Academy (period 1990-1994).

Influenced by the Chemical School in the domain of organometallic compounds (with biochemical approaches) created by Acad. Ionel Haiduc at Cluj-Napoca, a «*Working Group for Metal Research in Biological Systems*» in Timișoara has developed step by step (after 1980) and activated in the framework of an existing cooperation between the Institute of Public Health – Laboratory of Embryology, Department of Biochemistry – researcher Dr. Zeno Gârban (who was concerned with the investigations regarding the domain of DNA-metals interactions applied in biochemistry and xenobiochemistry) and University of Medicine – Clinic of Urology - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Petru Drăgan (who was interested in the role of metals in pathobiochemistry of urolithiasis).

At this «*Working Group*» joined and contributed colleagues from different universities and research institutes. Lately they contributed with scientific papers in the Tomes of the Symposia series. These were from : Center of Chemistry of the Romanian Academy Timișoara (Dr. Walter Schmidt – senior researcher and director, Dr. Ludovic Sayti, Dr. Gisela Nemes, Dr. Maurer Ana, Dr. Costișor Otilia a.o.); Office for Soil Science and Agrochemistry - Laboratory of Chemical Analysis (Dr. Iosif Gergen, Dr. Ioan Gogoasă); University „Politehnica” - Department of Chemistry (Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dan Ciubotariu), Department of Artificial Intelligence (Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ștefan Holban) and, in a subsequent step other colleagues from the Department of Chemistry (Assoc. Prof. Corneliu Davidescu, Assoc. Prof. Nicolae Vaszilcsin, Lecturer Dr. Petru Negrea a.o.); West University of Timișoara (Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gheorghe Ianoș, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mircea Mracec a.o.); University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Banat (Prof. Ioan Borcean, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aurel Lăzureanu, Assoc. Prof. Alexandra Trif, Assoc. Prof. Marian Bura a.o.); University of Medicine and Pharmacy Timișoara (Prof. Francisc Schneider – member Acad. Med. Sci., Assoc. Prof. Florin Miclea, Lecturer Dr. Simona Drăgan, Lecturer Dr. Viorel Bucuraș, Dr. Mircea Botoca a.o.); Institute of Public Health (Dr. Marius Mărginean, Dr. Ioan Miloș, Dr. Lușă Ioana, Dr. Gabriela Gârban) a.o.

Subsequently, based on the «*Working Group for Metal Research in Biological Systems*» the Romanian Society of Biochemistry – Branch Timișoara was founded (in 1990). This Society was affiliated to the Romanian Society of Biochemistry (RSB) - București (nowadays Romanian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) and further on to the Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS).

Within the framework of the interuniversity cooperation between the University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Victor Babeş” Timișoara and the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Banat Timișoara and gradually with other universities of Timișoara, the initiators of the “Working Group for Metal Research in Biological Systems” extended their area and thus the series of symposia is lasting for over one and a half decade (1993-2008).

First symposium that took place in October 21-23, 1993 was organised under the auspices of the Academy of Romania – Branch Timișoara and the above mentioned universities. Abstract Volume of the Symposium was published with the contribution of Dr. Gabriela Gârban and student Aurelian Urzică. Having in view the significant participation from Romanian and foreign universities (a total number of 102 scientific papers) it was decided to publish the Proceedings volume. This difficult process has been carried out by the help of Drd. Adina Avacovici. Thus Tome I of the M.E.E.M.B. Symposium was published in 1994 (Eds. Drăgan P., Gârban Z.).

Because the first Symposium was organised by Romanian Academy - Branch Timișoara, it was introduced under the auspices of the Biochemical Commission. The foreword of Tome I was made by Prof. Mihai Șerban, correspondent member of the Romanian Academy - president of the Biochemical Commission of the Romanian Academy.

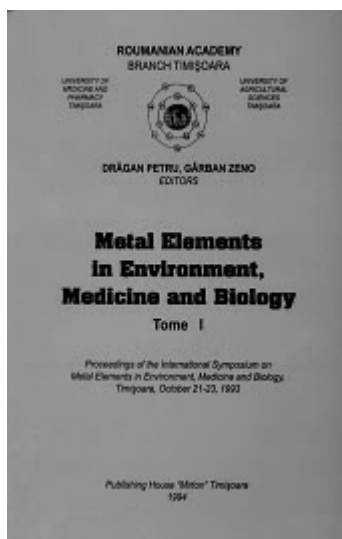
The Second Symposium took place two years after, in 1996, organised under the auspices of Romanian Academy - Branch Timișoara and the Biochemical Commission of Romanian Academy. The organisers of the Series of International Symposia M.E.E.M.B. asked Acad. Ionel Haiduc to accept the quality of honorary president of the organising committee beginning with the second symposium. This fact was consented also by Acad. Nicolae Cajal who was glad about the acceptance of Acad. Haiduc and the continuing of the Symposia series.

The second International Symposium M.E.E.M.B. took place in October 22-24, 1996 in Timișoara and the foreword for Tome II (1996) of M.E.E.M.B. Symposia Series was written by Acad. Ionel Haiduc. Having in view that the symposia were organised under the auspices of the Biochemical Commission, too, the order of editors has been changed beginning with this volume (Eds. Gârban Z., Drăgan P.). Printing of the whole series was made by Publishing House Eurobit Timișoara.

Following symposia were organised under the same auspices and the published Tomes III (1998), Tome IV (2000) and Tome V (2002) were foreworded by Acad. Toma Dordea – president of Romanian Academy – Branch Timișoara. Forewords of Tomes VI (2004) and Tome VII (2006) were written by Costin Cernescu – corresponding member of Romanian Academy and continuer of Acad. Cajal’s activity as director of the Institute of Virology „Ștefan S. Nicolau” București.

An image from the official opening ceremony of M.E.E.M.B. symposium in 2002 is given in the next photo.





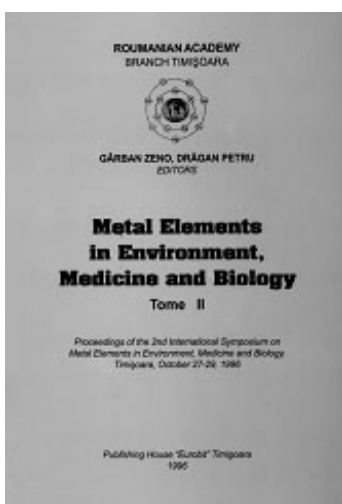
1. “Metal Elements in Environment, Medicine and Biology” – Tome I (312 p) (Editors Drăgan Petru, Gârbaș Zeno)

Foreword by Prof. Mihai Șerban, PhD – corresponding member of Romanian Academy, president of Commission of Biochemistry of Romanian Academy București

Proceedings of 1st International Symposium, October 21-23, 1993

Organised under the auspices of Romanian Academy – Branch Timișoara with collaboration of University of Medicine and Pharmacy Timișoara, University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Timișoara

Publishing House “Mirton” Timișoara (First Edition 1994, Second Edition - 1995)
ISBN 973 – 578 – 045 – 3, 1994



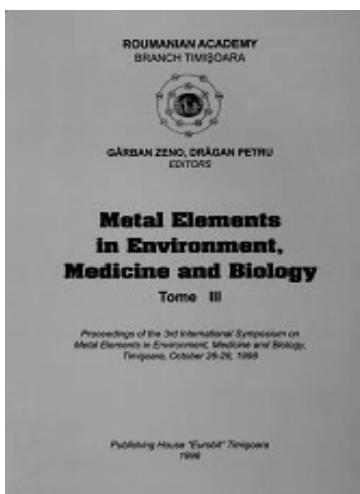
2. “Metal Elements in Environment, Medicine and Biology” – Tome II (396 p) (Editors Gârbaș Zeno, Drăgan Petru)

Foreword by Acad. Prof. Ionel Haiduc, PhD – vicepresident of Romanian Academy București

Proceedings of 2nd International Symposium, October 27-29, 1996

Organised under the auspices of Romanian Academy – Branch Timișoara and Commission of Biochemistry of Romanian Academy București

Publishing House “Eurobit” Timișoara (First Edition - 1996, Second Edition - 1997)
ISBN 973 - 9336 -15 – 9



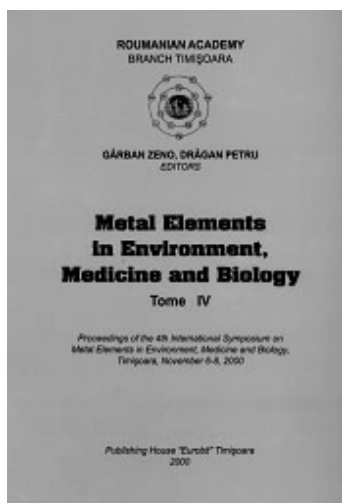
3. “Metal Elements in Environment, Medicine and Biology” – Tome III (392 p) (Editors Gârbaș Zeno, Drăgan Petru)

Foreword by Acad. Prof. Toma Dordea, PhD, Eng. – president of Branch Timișoara – Romanian Academy

Proceedings of 3rd International Symposium, October 26-28, 1998

Organised under the auspices of Romanian Academy – Branch Timișoara and Commission of Biochemistry of Romanian Academy București

Publishing House “Eurobit” Timișoara (1998)
ISBN 973 – 9336 – 19 – 1; ISSN 1583 - 4204



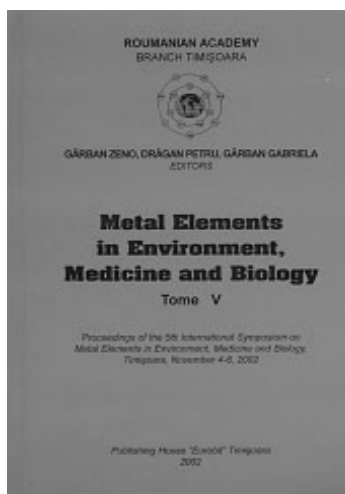
4. “Metal Elements in Environment, Medicine and Biology” – Tome IV (362 p) (Editors Gârban Zeno, Drăgan Petru)

Foreword by Acad. Prof. Toma Dordea, PhD, Eng. – president of Branch Timișoara - Romanian Academy

Proceedings of 4th International Symposium, November 6-8, 2000

Organised under the auspices of Romanian Academy – Branch Timișoara and Commission of Biochemistry of Romanian Academy București

Publishing House “Eurobit” Timișoara (2000)
ISBN 973 – 8181 – 39 – 9
ISSN 1583 – 4204



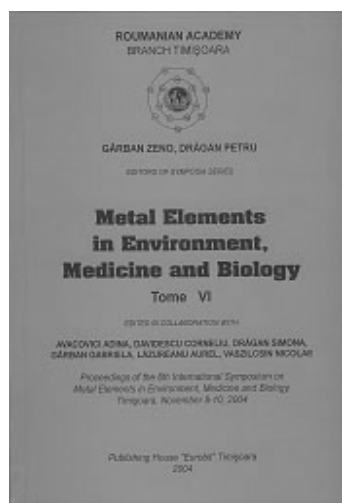
5. “Metal Elements in Environment, Medicine and Biology” – Tome V (368 p) (Editors Gârban Zeno, Drăgan Petru, Gârban Gabriela)

Foreword by Acad. Prof. Toma Dordea, PhD, Eng. – president of Branch Timișoara - Romanian Academy

Proceedings of 5th International Symposium, November 4-6, 2002

Organised under the auspices of Romanian Academy – Branch Timișoara and Commission of Biochemistry of Romanian Academy București

Publishing House “Eurobit” Timișoara (2002)
ISBN 973 – 620 – 035 – 3; ISSN 1583 - 4204

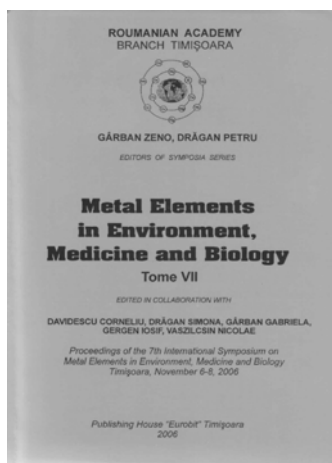


6. “Metal Elements in Environment, Medicine and Biology” – Tome VI (366 p) (Editors Gârban Zeno, Drăgan Petru) in collaboration with Avacovici Adina, Davidescu Corneliu, Drăgan Simona, Gârban Gabriela, Lăzureanu Aurel, Vaszilcsin Nicolae

Foreword by Prof. Costin Cernescu, MD, PhD – corresponding member of the Romanian Academy; Director of the “Stefan Nicolau” Institute of Virology Bucuresti

Proceedings of 6th International Symposium, November 8-10, 2004

Organised under the auspices of Romanian Academy – Branch Timișoara and Commission of Biochemistry of Romanian Academy București
Publishing House “Eurobit” Timișoara (2004)
ISBN 973 - 620 - 119 – 8; ISSN 1583 – 4204



7. “Metal Elements in Environment, Medicine and Biology” – Tome VII (356 p) (Editors Gârban Zeno, Drăgan Petru) in collaboration with Davidescu Corneliu, Drăgan Simona, Gârban Gabriela, Gergen Iosif, Vaszilcsin Nicolae

Foreword by Prof. Costin Cernescu, MD, PhD – corresponding member of the Romanian Academy; Director of the “Stefan Nicolau” Institute of Virology Bucuresti

Proceedings of 7th International Symposium, November 6-8, 2006

Organised under the auspices of Romanian Academy – Branch Timișoara and Comission of Biochemistry of Romanian Academy București

ISBN (10) 973 - 620 - 238 - 0

ISBN (13) 978 – 620 – 238 - 4

ISSN 1583 - 4204

As Co-chairmen Prof. Dr. Petru Drăgan from Faculty of Medicine, University Clinic of Urology and Prof. Dr. Zeno Gârban from Faculty of Food Products Technology, department of Biochemistry-Molecular Biology, joined their efforts for the further biennial manifestations and the publishing of the Proceedings Volumes. It can be observed in the given images that at last two Tomes there are also collaborating editors.

Details referring at the topics of lectures and contents of volumes can be found on special web sites.

At the organisation of these symposia gave assistance post graduate students in biochemistry: Mirela Vincu, Ariana-Bianca Velciov, Petru-Robert Velciov, Mihaela Pup, George-Daniel Ghibu a.o., as well as physicians from the Clinic of Urology: Dr. Viorel Bucuraș, Dr. Mircea Botoca and Eng. Rozalia Joo. All Symposia Tomes have ISBN number, and beginning with the third symposium (Tome III) there are ISBN and ISSN number.

Continuing of the Series of International Symposia M.E.E.M.B. honors the memory of Acad. Nicolae Cajal (1919-2004) – a remarkable personality of medical sciences, who wished this scientific meeting to be prestigious.

Due to the enlargement of collaboration with various universities and research institutes from abroad and the more and more increasing number of participants from universities and institutes from Roumania, the topics of symposia were diversified. Foreign participants invited at International Symposia M.E.E.M.B. were from Germany, Austria, France, England, U.S.A., Portugal, Hungary, Serbia, India, Greece, Poland a.o.

It has to be mention that the activity of the “Working Group for Metal Research in Biological Systems” and the International Symposia Series M.E.E.M.B. was evidenced by the opening for numerous research themes, participation in symposia, elaboration of doctoral thesis and, above all, the establishment of relations with international research centres for metal studies.

Series of International Symposia M.E.E.M.B. offered the chance of international cooperation with : University „Friedrich Schiller” Jena, Germany – Prof. Dr. Manfred Anke, organiser of the symposium „*Macro- and Trace Elements*”; University „Szent Istvan” Budapest – Prof. Dr. Pais Istvan, organiser of the symposium „*New Perspectives in the Research of Hardly Known Trace Elements*”; University of Athens, Greece – Prof. Dr. Sophie Ermidou-Pollet and Serge Pollet, organisers of the „*International Symposium on Trace Elements in Human: New Perspectives*”; University Szeged, Hungary – Prof. Dr. Zoltan Galbacs, organiser of the „*Symposium on Analytical and Environmental Problems*”.

All the above mentioned personalities – initiators of prestigious scientific schools - participated at the symposium „Metal Elements in Environment, Medicine and Biology” during this period.

The series of M.E.E.M.B. Symposia which took place under the auspices of Romanian Academy – Branch Timisoara layed the basis of numerous relationships with schools and working groups, as shown, from Jena, Budapest, Athens, Szeged in the coming years. Over 110 papers elaborated by specialists from various research institutes and from all universities from Timisoara were published in proceeding volumes of different meetings organised in the mentioned locations. This proves that the organising of such a scientific meeting had a great contribution for the cooperation at European level. In numerous cases the participation of these researchers was sponsored even by the organisers in the country that organised the meetings.

At present, Acad. Haiduc – president of the Romanian Academy with extended professional and managerial activity – expressed his acceptance and desire to continue being the honorary president of the ongoing Series of M.E.E.M.B. Symposia

A special role in the evolution of the M.E.E.M.B. Symposia Series had Acad. Toma Dordea, Acad. Păun Ion Otiman, Prof. Dr. Zeno Simon-corresponding member of the Romanian Academy – personalities who successively leaded the Romanian Academy - Branch Timișoara in the period 1993-2008, i.e. one and a half decade from the beginning of the symposia series.

All these years, the organisers benefited of the support given by the rectors of the University Politehnica - Prof. Dr. Ioan Carțiș - member of the Technical Academy and Prof. Dr. Nicolae Robu, rectors of the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Banat – Acad. Păun Ion Otiman and Prof. Dr. Eng. Alexandru Moisuc and the rector of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy „Victor Babeș” – Prof. Dr. Ștefan Iosif Drăgulescu and some leaders of the county and municipal authorities.

Benefiting by the help of His Excellency Bishop Msgr. Sebastian Kräuter (1922-2008), organ concerts and vocal recitals were offered for the symposium’s participants in the Roman-Catholic Cathedral Timișoara as part of social programme, at some editions. Msgr. Sebastian Kräuter showed a good willing openness for the university education in Timișoara.

One must mention also the role of some officials of the City Hall by Prof. Dr. Gheorghe Ciuhandu – mayor of Timișoara and Eng. Silviu Sarafolean – councilor. Sustain was given by The Institution of the Prefect by the implication of Prof. Dr. Horia Ciocârlie and Dr. Eng. Ovidiu Drăgănescu – prefects of Timiș county. It took also part the councilor of the socio-cultural comission Eng. Răzvan Hrenovschi.

One of the most important problems in the evolution of symposia series might be the inclusion of the Tomes as ISI Proceeding publications (similarly with that of Jena symposia). This achievement must be the main goal of the future organisers of the M.E.E.M.B. Symposia Series.

Continuing the Series of the International Symposia M.E.E.M.B. is a wish of numerous collaborators and young researchers interested in the domain of metals study related to the environment, nutrition, medicine (prophylactic and therapeutic), pharmacology and modern biotechnologies.

Acad. Toma Dordea

Romanian Academy - Branch Timișoara