

GUEST EDITORS' NOTE

Since 1980s, when the first issue of the journal *Health Psychology* and several books gained visibility and legitimacy to the field of health psychology, it has greatly contributed to other areas of psychology and has been enriched by them. It has also made considerable progress and is still growing and evolving. There are a number of important and interesting research areas in this field of psychology that are presently being pursued. They bring together diverse insights into the health of individuals by contributing to the knowledge of how psychosocial factors influence health behaviors, disease processes, health promotion and illness prevention.

In this thematic issue of the journal *Psychological Topics* we attempted to bring together eminent researchers who are dealing with different areas and approaches within health psychology. Theoretical and empirical articles presented in this issue cover various components of biopsychosocial model of health and illness including the role of cognitive, affective, and behavioral representations of health threats, personality traits, health behaviors, social support, emotional states and pain perception on various health outcomes such as physical symptoms, chronic diseases, blood pressure and symptom severity. The articles presented in this issue predominantly follow mainstream theoretical approaches in health psychology today, although some of them emphasize other theoretical perspectives that are becoming more influential in contemporary psychology, such as evolutionary approach.

We would like to express our gratitude to all authors for their willingness to contribute and devote their knowledge, expertise and time as well as to anonymous reviewers for their comments in improvement the quality of the articles. Also, we would like to thank Editor-in-Chief for the opportunity to present the field of health psychology in this special issue and to the Editorial Board for their help in technical preparation of the papers.

Jasna Hudek-Knežević

Igor Kardum