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Maribor Doctor Filip Terč and his "Bee Therapy"

Gregor Pivec

Ph.D., Assistant Professor
University Medical Centre Maribor
Ljubljanska 5, SI – 2000 Maribor, Slovenia
e-mail: gregor.pivec@ukc-mb.si

Eva Lina Friš

Student of Medical Faculty, University of Ljubljana
Vrazov trg 4, SI – 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
e-mail: evalina.fris@gmail.com

Mateja Matjašič Friš

Ph.D., Research Fellow
University Medical Centre Maribor, Medical research department
Ljubljanska 5, SI – 2000 Maribor, Slovenia
e-mail: mateja.matjasic-fris@ukc-mb.si

Abstract:

Doctor Filip Terč (1844–1917), an important but little-known figure in the field of medicine and health care in Maribor and the Slovenian Lands, was besides working in a clinic also involved in beekeeping. This led him to great discoveries, for which he is nowadays considered to be a pioneer of modern apitherapy and immunology in Central Europe. He also played an important role in the field of social life; in 1878 he became chairman of the Maribor branch of the Styrian Beekeeping Society. He was also a member of the Slavic Reading Society and an influential member of the Supervisory Board of the Maribor Loan Bank, in the framework of which he financially supervised the construction of the National Home in Maribor

Key words:

Filip Terč (1844–1917), apimedicine, apitherapy, Styrian Beekeeping Society, Maribor National Home

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Introduction

Doctor Filip Terč, an important but little-known figure in the field of medicine and health care in Maribor and the Slovenian Lands, has established itself as a successful general practitioner and experienced beekeeper soon after his arrival to Maribor in 1875. He played an important role in the fields of socio-political and social life. In 1878, he became chairman of the Maribor branch of the Styrian Beekeeping Society. He was also a member of the Slavic Reading Society and an influential member of the Supervisory Board of the Maribor Loan Bank, in the framework of which he financially supervised the construction of the National Home in Maribor.¹

Terč was of Czech descent, but from 1875 until his death in 1917 he worked in health care in the Slovenian Lands, more precisely in Maribor. In 1878 he began treating rheumatic diseases with bee stings. When working in the apiary, it is difficult to avoid unwanted bee stings, something doctor Terč got plenty of. Over time, he found that bee stings had a soothing effect on his rheumatic pain. And it was this that gave Terč the idea to use the previously undesired bee stings, frequently causing severe pain and swelling, as a remedy for rheumatism, especially for rheumatoid arthritis. He studied the effects of different doses of apitoxin (bee venom) on various rheumatic diseases and in healthy individuals with correctly set and precisely planned trials and critical clinical observation. Based on his findings he developed the so-called "Bee Therapy", which paved the way for later scientific medicine.²

The Bee (lat. *Apis*) has always been important for humans, being his companion and one of the most important insects on Earth, as more than 30 per cent of global food production depends on bees' pollination of plants. Bees are fascinating not only for their exemplary and precisely organized life, but, as research has shown, also for the very complex composition of bee products and their undisputed value for preventing illnesses and nursing the sick back to health. Apitherapy (the wider term – apimedicine – has recently seen an

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¹ Eman Pertl, "Terč, Filip (1844–1917)", Slovenska biografija (2015), <http://www.slovenska-biografija.si/oseba/sbi692294/>, accessed: 10. 12. 2017 (hereinafter: Pertl, "Terč, Filip (1844–1917)"); Zvonka Zupanič Slavec, "Terč (Tertsch) Filip (Phipipp)", in: Österreichisches biographisches Lexikon : 1815–1950. Lfg. 64 (Wien, 2013), 252–253 (hereinafter: Zupanič Slavec, "Terč (Tertsch) Filip (Phipipp)"); Gregor Pivec, *Filip Terč, začetnik moderne apiterapije* (Maribor, 2013) (hereinafter: Pivec, *Filip Terč, začetnik moderne apiterapije*); Gregor Pivec, "Filip Terč, začetnik moderne apiterapije", v: *Za človeka gre: interdisciplinarnost, transnacionalnost in gradnja mostov*, 5th international scientific conference, proceeding book, Maribor, 10. – 11. 3. 2017 (Maribor, 2017), 1104–1112.

² Zvonka Zupanič Slavec, "Revmatolog dr. Filip Terč (1844–1917), začetnik apiterapije in predhodnik znanstvene imunologije", *Interno* (Interno glasilo Univerzitetnega kliničnega centra Ljubljana) 4 (2012), 27–29 (hereinafter: Zupanič Slavec, "Revmatolog dr. Filip Terč (1844–1917), začetnik apiterapije in predhodnik znanstvene imunologije").

increase in use) is a medical concept about how we can strengthen and preserve health through bee products. It is grounded in the scientific arguments of several-thousand-year empirical experience of use of bee products, the beginnings of which date back to prehistory and later to ancient Egyptian, Greek, Chinese, Babylonian and Arab cultures.³

The scientific study of bee products began at the beginning of the 20th century, but it gradually diminished with the discovery of antibiotics and other effective synthetic drugs. However, since the resistance of microorganisms to antibiotics is on a steady increase alongside many drugs having very damaging side effects, scientists have in the past decades re-started the intensive study of the benefits of bee products and natural medicines, especially those of plant origin.⁴ Today, apitherapy is part of complementary medicine and is therefore used as a complementary method of treatment.⁵

Apitherapy can treat a variety of diseases and health conditions such as immune system diseases (multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis), neurological diseases (multiple sclerosis, ALS), infectious diseases (bacterial, viral and fungal infections), acute and chronic wounds, burns, benign and malignant tumours.⁶

It is interesting to note that it was on Slovenian soil (in a cave near Koper) that a 6,500-year-old jawbone was found, with a tooth filled with beeswax. It is probably the oldest evidence of prehistoric dentistry in Europe and the oldest known case of pain relief by filling.⁷

Bee Venom (apitoxin – *apis venenum purum*) is formed in the stinging apparatus of the bee, in the back of the abdomen. Apitoxin has always been used to treat rheumatic diseases. Recent studies have found that it reduces pain, lowers blood pressure and cholesterol, and reduces risks of infections and inflammations of the joints and vessels. On the other hand, it can cause local toxicity, pain, increased blood vessel permeability, and consequently swelling and increased heart rate. Therefore, there are also risks that need mentioning. As biological substances, bee products can cause unwanted immune responses such as allergy and anaphylactic shock.⁸ Dr. Filip Terč also came across such

³ Majda Kurinčič Tomšič, "Apiterapija – uporaba čebeljih pridelkov v skrbi za boljše zdravje", *Isis* 19, No. 8–9 (2010), 62–65 (hereinafter: Kurinčič Tomšič, "Apiterapija – uporaba čebeljih pridelkov v skrbi za boljše zdravje", 62–65).

⁴ *What is apitherapy*. The American Apitherapy Society Inc., <http://www.apitherapy.org/about-apitherapy/what-is-apitherapy/>, accessed: 10. 12. 2017.

⁵ Elko Borko, "Dr. Filip Terč – oče apiterapije moderne dobe", *Slovenski čebelar* 67 (2015), No. 5, 174–176 (hereinafter: Borko, "Dr. Filip Terč – oče apiterapije moderne dobe").

⁶ Peter Kapš, *Zdravljenje s čebeljimi pridelki (apiterapija)* (Novo mesto, 2012) (hereinafter: Kapš, *Zdravljenje s čebeljimi pridelki (apiterapija)*).

⁷ Marko Borko, "V Sloveniji najdena prazgodovinska zobna zalivka iz čebeljega voska", *Slovenski čebelar* 65, No. 1 (2013), 12.

⁸ Kapš, *Zdravljenje s čebeljimi pridelki (apiterapija)*, 127–131.

cases, but he was not able to properly tackle them, since in the medical profession of his time little was known about the effects of bee stings. The first to describe hypersensitive Allergic reactions was Maurice Arthus in 1903, but it was not until Terč's death that serious research on the mentioned reactions was conducted by the Viennese paediatrician Clemens von Pirquet and his assistant, Béla Schick.⁹

A considerable amount of recent research has focused on the detection of the antitumor effect of apitoxin. According to recent research findings, we can expect apimedicine in the future in some areas to be recognized as part of conventional medicine.¹⁰

Dr. Filip Terč (1844–1917)

Dr. Filip Terč was born on March 30, 1844 in Prapořiště (German Braunbusch), which was then part of the Austrian Empire. Today, it lies in the Czech Republic, in its western part, along the Bavarian border. His father Jan and his mother Barbara (born Štěpán) were farmers. He began his schooling in Kdyn where he was registered in the "golden school book" in 1852 and 1854 for being an exceptional student.¹¹ After graduating from grammar school in Domažlice¹² in 1863, Terč began to study medicine at the University of Vienna, completing his studies on April 16, 1869. The young Doctor of Medicine completed his residency at Vienna General Hospital earning the title of Surgeon's Assistant. After completing general medical studies, he earned the titles Magister of Obstetrics (July 5, 1874) and Doctor of Surgery (July 31, 1874).¹³

In 1873 or 1874, he married Rudolfina Valent in Vienna, and their son Rudolf was born soon after that, namely on April 12, 1875 in Plzeň. He also studied medicine in Vienna and became an Ophthalmologist, but in 1931 he, unfortunately, passed away. Dr. Filip Terč moved to Maribor in the summer of

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⁹ Pivec, *Filip Terč, začovník moderne apiterapie*, 9.

¹⁰ Kurinčič Tomšič, "Apiterapija – uporaba čebeljih pridelkov v skrbi za boljše zdravje", 62–65; *Apitherapy – could therapy based on bee venom sting conventional medicine?*, The Health Site, <http://www.apitherapy.org/about-apitherapy/what-is-apitherapy/>, accessed: 10. 12. 2017; *Apitherapy: Homeopathic Bee Venom Therapy*, HolisticMD, <http://www.holisticmd.org/treatments/apitherapy-homeopathic-bee-venom-therapy/>, accessed: 10. 12. 2017.

¹¹ Slátni oblastni arhiv v Plzňi (SOAP), Sbírká matrik západních Čech, matrika řím. Katol. Fary Kdyn , sv 12, fol. 85, Birth and christening book; Slátni okresni arhiv Domažlice (SOAD), Golden school book in Kdyn , 1852-2, 1854.

¹² According to the information acquired from the Austrian biographic lexicon he completed his Matura in Vienna. (Zupanič Slavec, "Terč (Tertsch) Filip (Phipipp)", 252.

¹³ Pertl, "Terč, Filip (1844–1917)"; Zupanič Slavec, "Terč (Tertsch) Filip (Phipipp)", 252; Pivec, *Filip Terč, začovník moderne apiterapie*, 24–26.

1875, most likely together with the family of his father-in-law Dr. Rudolf Valenta. According to the testimony of Dr. Filip Terč's grandson, Dr. Rudolf M. Tértch, Dr. Rudolf Valenta was not only a doctor-of-medicine and a pharmacist, but was also had a strong influence on his son-in-law Filip.¹⁴

Choosing Maribor as the new home of the Valenta-Terč family was probably not a coincidence. After 1846, the city gained in strategic importance, mainly due to the construction of the Vienna-Trieste railway line.¹⁵ The municipality of Maribor (Marburg Stadt), founded in 1849 on the basis of a provisional law on municipalities, had by the time of the arrival of the Valenta-Terč family expanded by absorbing three suburbs and the village of Melje. The number of inhabitants increased from 6706 (in 1851) to 12,670 (in 1876). During the mentioned period it was led by Mayor Dr. Othmar Reiser. In the years 1853–1856, the Austro-Hungarian monarchy in Maribor commissioned the building of a military high school – the 'Kadetnica'. Also, the city obtained a more modern appearance; many new residential buildings, industrial buildings, schools and military buildings were built. The transfer of the seat of the Lavantine diocese from Št. Andraž in Carinthia to Maribor in 1959, and the emergence of related institutions finally confirmed the dominant position of Maribor in the Slovenian part of the Habsburg monarchy.¹⁶ Due to the city's excellent transient position, the Southern Railway Company built a railway plant in Maribor, which became operational in 1963 and was the first large industrial plant in the city with more than 1000 employees. Mayor Andreas Tappeiner saw to it that the city got its own municipal statute and thus its own self-governance. What is more, the first city savings bank was established, the sewage system constructed, and several city streets and markets built.¹⁷ On the basis of the 1967 statutory law, the Styrian provincial assembly of Maribor in 1871 elevated Maribor to the level of statutory city, which meant it was not subordinate to the Maribor district, but directly to the provincial leadership. Maribor thus received a place among those cities in "old Austria", which had the largest number of state offices. Consequently, more and more German officials settled in the city, strengthening the power of the Maribor liberal German-oriented bourgeoisie with the

¹⁴ Pivec, *Filip Terč, začetnik moderne apiterapije*, 26.

¹⁵ Stane Granda, "Župani – simbol slovenske lokalne samouprave in demokracije", *Studia historica Slovenica* 17, No. 2 (2017), 451.

¹⁶ Martin Bele, Tone Ravnikar, "Othmar Reiser: mariborski župan v letih 1850–1861", *Studia historica Slovenica* 17, No. 3 (2017), 747–749.

¹⁷ Andrej Hozjan, "Manj znano in neznano o rodbini, zasebnosti in karierni poti mariborskega župana Andreasa Tappeinerja. Ob 150. obletnici njegove smrti (1868–2018)", *Studia historica Slovenica* 17, No. 3 (2017), 787–793.

Dr. Filip Terč (1844–1917) (PAM, fond Eman Pertl, AŠ 60, file 6)

help of Mayor Dr. Ferdinand Duchatsch.¹⁸ We assume that the first member of the Valenta family to move from Vienna to Maribor was the brother of Terč's wife, Camilo Washington Valenta, who took the position of lead engineer at the plants of the Southern Railway Company. He was followed by his parents who moved to the city on the Drava River for its favourable job opportunities. The last to come was the young family of Dr. Filip Terč from Plzeň.

Immediately after his arrival in Maribor, the then hardly 31-year-old doctor Filip Terč opened an independent private medical practice at the then Schiller-

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¹⁸ Boštjan Zajšek, "Ferdinand Duchatsch – slovenski Nemec oziroma nemški Slovenec", *Studia historica Slovenica* 17, No. 3 (2017), 843–847.

strasse 191 (now Gregorčičeva street)¹⁹ for internal and external illnesses, especially for eyes, ears, throat and skin. Until 1904, when he retired, he frequently changed the location of the clinic.²⁰ Advertisements published in August 1875 in both Maribor newspapers, the German *Marburger Zeitung* and the Slovenian *Slovenski gospodar*, attest to the fact that his clinic was open to patients of both nationalities, German and Slovenian, from the very beginning.²¹

His wife's family was very prominent in Maribor. In 1881, Terč's father-in-law Dr. Rudolf Valenta bought a house at the then Tegetthoffstrasse 1 (now Partizanska street). This was the place where Dr. Terč's family lived, while his wife's brother Camilo Washington Valenta, a mechanical engineer at the Southern Railways Company, owned the neighbouring house at Tegetthoffstrasse 3. Unfortunately, the Valenta family suffered several tragic losses in the following years. First Terč's mother-in-law Franziska passed away in 1883, then, 14 years later, Rudolf Valenta succumbed to heartburn on August 8, 1897, at the age of 79.²²

Life was difficult also for Dr. Terč. His wife Rudolfina passed away quite young even before her father, on August 14, 1896. The now widowed Dr. Terč remarried on November 3, 1897. His new wife, a 22-year-old assistant from the Scherbaum family, Katarina Karasek, gave birth to their son Johan (Hans) Filip on March 9, 1897, which was before they got married. After the marriage, Dr. Terč recognized Johan Filip as his own. In 1900 Katarina gave birth to their daughter Margareta Barbara. Dr. Terč's second wife, Katarina, was born on October 16, 1866 in Maribor into a working-class family that had moved here from the village of Chvalatic (German Chvallatitz) in Moravia. Her father Franc Karasek was a turner, and he worked at the plants of the Southern Railway Company in Maribor. The Karasek family lived in the new Railway Colony in the Magdalena suburb until Katarina's marriage. After that the retired parents moved together with Dr. Terč's family first to Koroška Street 20, and then, after

¹⁹ "Ph. Terč, Doctor der Medizin & Chirurgie, Magister der Geburtshilfe, Operateur", *Marburger Zeitung*, 1. 8. 1875, No. 92, 3; "Filip Terč, doctor zdravlilstva in ranocelništva, magister porodništva, ranocelnik, dosluženi podvračnik Dunajske občne bolnišnice in pomočni pristav v vračilnih–ranocelnih poslih", *Slovenski gospodar*, 12. 8. 1875, No. 33, 274; "Ph. Terč, Doctor der Medizin & Chirurgie, Magister der Geburtshilfe, Operateur", *Marburger Zeitung*, 18. 8. 1875, No. 99, 4.

²⁰ Pivec, *Filip Terč, začetnik moderne apiterapije*, 32.

²¹ "Ph. Terč, Doctor der Medizin & Chirurgie, Magister der Geburtshilfe, Operateur", *Marburger Zeitung*, 1. 8. 1875, No. 92, 3; "Filip Terč, doctor zdravlilstva in ranocelništva, magister porodništva, ranocelnik, dosluženi podvračnik Dunajske občne bolnišnice in pomočni pristav v vračilnih–ranocelnih poslih", *Slovenski gospodar*, 12. 8. 1875, No. 33, 274; "Ph. Terč, Doctor der Medizin & Chirurgie, Magister der Geburtshilfe, Operateur", *Marburger Zeitung*, 18. 8. 1875, No. 99, 4.

²² Nadškofijski arhiv Maribor (NŠAM), Sv. Marija IV., Book of deaths, 534–535; Pivec, *Filip Terč, začetnik moderne apiterapije*, 32–33.

the birth of Margaret Barbara (Greta), to Gosposka Street 2.²³

The outbreak of the First World War brutally interfered with the Terč family. Johan Philip showed his loyalty to the Emperor and the Habsburg monarchy by serving as a medical volunteer in the 47th Infantry Regiment of the Austro-Hungarian Land Army²⁴. He died at the Imperial-Royal Reserve Hospital in Maribor on May 5, 1916, before reaching the age of 20. Not long after that, on October 28, 1917, Dr. Filip Terč, too, died. He is buried at the old Franciscan Cemetery in Maribor.²⁵

Social and Educational Engagement of Dr. Filip Terč

Dr. Filip Terč had established himself in Maribor as a successful general practitioner and an experienced beekeeper. In addition, he also played an important role in the fields of social and socio-political life in the city.²⁶

Member of the Slavic Reading Society. Soon after his arrival in Maribor, Terč became a member of the *Slavic Reading Society*, which was founded by the Slovenian national-oriented citizens in 1861 in this nationally differentiated city.²⁷ Although the Slavic Reading Society proclaimed itself as a non-political society, its activities also extended to the political field, which led to a large resistance of the German nationally-oriented Maribor bourgeoisie. Its basic orientation was to support the effort to introduce the Slovenian mother tongue as a public communicational and official language, and that of education, by which it challenged the absolute dominance of German in Maribor public life. The Slavic Reading Society membership included individuals from the Maribor-based Slovenian-oriented bourgeoisie, as well as Czechs living in Maribor. The Society members were lawyers, trainees, judges, notaries, loan officers, priests, doctors, engineers, professors at Maribor secondary schools and theology, teachers, journalists, some traders and military officers.²⁸ By taking part in this endeavour,

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²³ NŠAM, Janez Krstnik, Matrimonial book, 1889–1898, 368; NŠAM, Sv. Janez Krstnik, Book of baptism XI, 1893–1898, 199; NŠAM, Sv. Janez Krstnik, Book of baptism XII, 1898–1905, 60; Pivec, *Filip Terč, začetnik moderne apiterapije*, 34–35..

²⁴ More on this see: Gregor Antoličič, "Bog Ohrani, Bog obvari Nam Cesraja, Avstrijo! Izbruh prve svetovne vojne v habsburški monarhiji", *Studia historica Slovenica* 15, No. 2 (2015), 259–280.

²⁵ Pertl, "Terč, Filip (1844–1917)"; Zupanič Slavec, "Terč (Tertsch) Filip (Phipipp)", 252; Pivec, *Filip Terč, začetnik moderne apiterapije*, 35.

²⁶ Borko, "Dr. Filip Terč – oče apiterapije moderne dobe", 175; Andrej Fidelj, "Dr. Filip Terč in njegovo delo na področju apiterapije (1844–1917)", *Slovenski čebelar* 61, No. 11 (2004), str. 325–327 (hereinafter: Fidelj, "Dr. Filip Terč in njegovo delo na področju apiterapije (1844–1917)").

²⁷ Pivec, *Filip Terč, začetnik moderne apiterapije*, 85.

²⁸ Bruno Hartman, "Slovanska čitalnica v Mariboru in njeni knjižnici", in: Bruno Hartman, *Kultura v Mariboru: gibanja zvrsti osebnosti* (Maribor, 2001), 521–524.

Memorial charter, issued at the opening of the National House in Maribor (11 July 1898), signed also by Dr. Filip Terč as a member of the Supervisory Board of the Maribor Loan Bank (PAM, fond Posojilnica Maribor, file 1)

Terč strengthened his position and gained an outstanding reputation among the Slovenians of Maribor.

Member of the Supervisory Board of the Maribor Loan Bank. Members of the Slavic Reading Society were also the main initiators for the establishment of the first Slovenian monetary institution in Maribor, which would become the pillar of Slovenian banking and would save Slovenian farmers from the German monetary institutions.²⁹ When the Slovenian Loan Bank was established in Maribor in January 1882 (its newly appointed chairman Dr. Jernej Glančnik also being the chairman of the Slavic Reading Society), Terč became its business partner, and in February 1896 the General Assembly appointed him member of its Supervisory Board. This function was entrusted to him in the time of Maribor's most important construction campaign – the construction of the National Home, in which new premises were planned for the Loan Bank, as well as for other national organizations and cultural societies. The task of the

²⁹ "Posojilnica v Mariboru (Narodni dom)", *Kronika slovenskih mest* 2 (1935), 58–59.

Supervisory Board, whose members were alongside Terč also the lawyer Dr. Ferdinand Dominus, Prof. Janez Majciger, the postal inspector Franc Pavlič and adviser to the provincial court dr. Franc Voušek, was reviewing and supervising the operations of the Loan Bank. After the opening of the National Home in July 1889, Terč was re-elected to the Supervisory Board of the Loan Bank and, as a result of excellent and meticulous work, he performed the tasks of supervisor until 1904.³⁰

Chairman of the Beekeeping Society. Being an experienced beekeeper, Terč immediately joined the Maribor branch of the Styrian Beekeeping Society (based in Graz) and became its president in January 1878. At the meeting of the committee of the Maribor branch, held on January 5, 1878, it was found that "so far only very little has been done for beekeeping". In order to increase membership, popularize the beekeeping activity and raise it to a higher professional level, the new President Terč prepared an ambitious work plan for the Society, based on the intelligent use of allocated financial resources, and especially on education, teaching and publishing of professional articles and books on beekeeping "in Slovenian and German". On behalf of the committee, Dr. Terč published their work plan in the Slovenian newspaper *Slovenski gospodar*.³¹ The next day, a similar report was published in the *Marburger Zeitung*³² with a bold announcement that the committee decided "that it will not only make up for lost time, but will, in accordance with the importance and favourable position of our city, elevate the Maribor branch of the Beekeeping Society to the level of one of the most important branches, if not the most important one. Since Terč was aware that the biggest obstacles to the implementation of his plans were "prejudice, indifference and underestimation of this important part of agriculture by the wealthy, and stubborn insistence on antiquities and suspiciousness towards novelties on the part of the poorer population",³³ his focus was primarily on education, particularly on priests and teachers. In the following years, he led several apiculture courses for students and teachers of the Maribor male college of education³⁴, and worked to set up hives in the courtyards of the Maribor folk schools (primary schools) for the education of schoolchildren.³⁵ Dr.

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³⁰ Pokrajinski arhiv Maribor (PAM), fond Posojilnica Maribor, file 1; Pivec, *Filip Terč, začetnik moderne apiterapije*, 88–95..

³¹ "Gospodarske stvari. Načrt mariborske podružnice štirskega bučelorejskega društva (Sestavljen v odborovej seji dne 5. januarja 1878)", *Slovenski gospodar*, 17. 1. 1878, No. 3, 18–19.

³² "Eingefandt. Programm der Filiale Marburg des steiermärkischen Bienenzuchtvereines", *Marburger Zeitung*, 18. 1. 1878, No. 8, 3.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ "Marburger Berichte. Jahresbericht der Filiale Marburg des steiermärkischen Bienenzucht=Vereines", *Marburger Zeitung*, 27. 2. 1881, No. 25, 3.

³⁵ "Marburger Berichte. Jahresbericht der Filiale Marburg des steiermärkischen Bienenzucht=Vereines", *Marburger Zeitung*, 18. 4. 1880, No. 25, 3.

Dr. Filip Terč (sits first on the left), lecturer and auxiliary teacher at the Maribor male college (PAM, fond Eman Pertl, AŠ 60, file 6)

Terč was also a lecturer on beekeeping in the advanced agricultural course for teachers held at the Regional Fruit and Vine School in Maribor.³⁶ The Beekeeping Society additionally participated in the organization of regional agricultural exhibitions in which beekeeping activities were presented.³⁷ On April 1, 1894, the *Marburger Zeitung* reported on the annual general assembly of the Maribor branch of the Styrian Beekeeping Society, at which the "father of beekeeping" Dr. Terč was awarded special acknowledgment for his endeavour to preserve and promote this sector during his career as a teacher of beekeeping at the Regional Fruit and Vine School in Maribor. As a result of his successful work, he was also re-elected to the presidency of the Society.³⁸

Lecturer and auxiliary teacher at the Maribor male college of education. Dr. Terč received an even greater recognition for his successful educational work in the autumn of 1892, when he was invited by the headmaster of the Maribor male college of education Henrik Schreiner, who, like Terč, was a member of the Slavic Reading Society and board member of the Maribor Loan Bank, to

³⁶ "Marburger Berichte. Landwirtschaftlicher Fortbildungskurs für Lehrer", *Marburger Zeitung*, 9. 9. 1883, No. 108, 3.

³⁷ "Marburger Berichte. Bienenzucht", *Marburger Zeitung*, 23. 9. 1885, No. 113, 3.

³⁸ "Marburger Berichte. Bienenzuchtverein", *Marburger Zeitung*, 1. 4. 1894, No. 26, 5.

teach trainee teachers school hygiene and somatology (the study of the human body). Both subjects were carried out over a period of one semester. He taught somatology two hours a week in the first grade, and school hygiene once a week in the fourth year until 1909.³⁹ With his beekeeper's experience, he was also able to assist Prof. Janez Koprivnik in the practical training of beekeeping. He donated the apiary and beekeeper's tools to the school's learning garden, and at the same time encouraged trainee teachers to nurture beekeeping in the countryside and to train their own pupils for this useful branch of the economy. According to the testimony of one of the Slovenian students, Terč was considered an excellent teacher, a progressive Czech, and nationally conscious Slav.⁴⁰

Member of the Maribor branch of the German and Austrian Alpine Association. Terč was also an enthusiastic mountaineer who actively participated in the Maribor branch of the German and Austrian Alpine Association. Several societies renowned for their tradition existed in the city, however their public language of communication was German. As a Slovenian mountaineering association had not yet been founded in Maribor at the time, several Slavic- or Slovenian-conscious citizens of Maribor became active members of German speaking associations. Terč even appeared in the Alpine Association as a lecturer (1893, *Spaziergang durch die Tauern*, and 1896, *Touren in den Samnthalern und Besteigung des Triglaw*). Accordingly, there are mentionings of his name in a booklet reflecting on the 25 years of operation of the Maribor branch of the German and Austrian Alpine Association in Maribor.⁴¹

Member of the Maribor Philharmonic Society. Alongside his activity in the Slavic Reading Society, Terč actively participated in the city's cultural life by being a supporting member of the Maribor Philharmonic Society. The latter society was in 1881 founded by mostly German-oriented musicians and music lovers with the help and support of the then mayor of Maribor, dr. Matthäus Reiser.⁴² The society organized regular annual concerts of symphonic and chamber music, and under its auspices also functioned the choir and music school.⁴³

Member of the Schlaraffia Marpurghia Society. Although Dr. Terč socialized with Slovenian-conscious intellectuals in the Slavic Reading Society and was held in high regard for his important function on the Supervisory Board of the Loan Bank, he did not get involved in the national tensions between Sloveni-

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³⁹ PAM, fond Eman Pertl, file 6 with records on Filip Terč from 11. 5. 1978.

⁴⁰ Pivec, *Filip Terč, začetnik moderne apiterapije*, 73–74.

⁴¹ PAM, fond Eman Pertl, file 6 with records on Filip Terč from 11. 5. 1978

⁴² More on him, see: Aleš Maver, Tone Ravnikar, "Ein echter deutscher Biedermann: Matthäus Reiser in njegovo županovanje v Mariboru", *Studia historica Slovenica* 17, No. 3 (2017), 819–836.

⁴³ Bruno Hartman, "Mariborsko filharmonično društvo", in: Bruno Hartman, *Maribor – dogajanja in osebnosti* (Maribor, 2009), 187.

Dr. Filip Terč,
dressed as a member
of the *Schlaraffia*
Marpurghia Society
(PAM, fond Eman
Pertl, AŠ 60, file 6)

ans and Germans. These intensified at the turn of the 20th century⁴⁴, during the tenure of Maribor Mayor Alexander Nagy. Faithful to the profession he pursued and his reputation, Terč socialized with individuals of equal footing regardless of political or national beliefs. He had good friends among distinguished Slovenians as well as among representatives of the liberal German-conscious bourgeoisie. He was a member of the elite Maribor male society *Schlaraffia Marpurghia*, founded in 1899, which brought together members of the upper classes of Maribor Germans. The members were called *the schlaraffs* – fans of art and humour. They abode by a prescribed ceremonial, their fundamental principle

⁴⁴ More on this, see: Vinko Skitek, "Alexander Naagy – župan mestne občine Maribor na prelomu iz 19. v 20. stoletje", *Studia historica Slovenica* 17, No. 3 (2017), 897–898.

being the respect of friendship and everything German. Membership of the Maribor Schlaraffia consisted mainly of military officers and military officials, actors and theatre directors, doctors, traders, pharmacists (including the head of the city Savings Bank, Josef Rupert Bancalari⁴⁵ – the son of the former mayor Josef Dominic Bancalari), some prominent Maribor industrialists, among them the owner of the steam mill Gustav Scherbaum and the owner of the brewery Anton Götz. The main purpose of socializing was merrymaking and organizing witty social and cultural events, where they entertained and devoted themselves to culinary delights. The use of the German language was compulsory, and the members had to use witty alias names derived from the medieval German knightly tradition, mixed with Latin and Ancient Greek expressions.⁴⁶ Thus, bearing in mind his beekeeping activity, Terč was nicknamed the knight *Immenbolt der Grausame* ("Honey-sweet kind the Terrible").⁴⁷

Regardless of his membership in the German merrymaking society, Dr. Filip Terč was among Maribor Slovenians regarded a Slovenian physician from his very arrival from Vienna. He is also mentioned as such in the Maribor Slovenian Calendar, published in 1913, together with Dr. Ivan Turšič and dentist Dr. Viktor Kac.⁴⁸

Professional Medical Work

Dr. Filip Terč led a successful private medical practice in Maribor. He was especially known for his work in the field of rheumatic diseases, which he strove to cure with bee poison. In the years 1878–1989 he devoted himself to studying the impact of apitoxin on both, healthy and sick organisms. During this time, 173 patients were systematically treated with 39,000 bee stings. By 1912, out of 658 cases, this had helped 544 patients.⁴⁹

Dr. Filip Terč, who himself was a rheumatic patient, was convinced that he found the connection between bee poison and the symptoms of the illness in patients with actual rheumatism, as there were signs of clinical improve-

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⁴⁵ More on him, see: Žiga Oman, "Josef Dominic Bancalari: lekarnar na čelu Maribora", *Studia historica Slovenica* 17, No. 3 (2017), 801–818.

⁴⁶ Bruno Hartman, "Društvo Schlaraffia Marpurghia v Mariboru", in: Bruno Hartman, *Maribor – dogajanja in osebnosti* (Maribor, 2009), 157–167.

⁴⁷ Pivec, *Filip Terč, začetnik moderne apiterapije*, str. 97.

⁴⁸ "Slovenski zdravniki v Mariboru", in: *Mariborski slovenski koledar za leto 1914* (Maribor, 1913), 54.

⁴⁹ Rudolf Tertch, "Das Bienengift im Dienste der Medizin", a report by dr. Rudolf Terch, eye doctor, on the convention of the Austrian beekeeper's society in Vienna, 11. 2. 1912 (hereinafter: Tertch, "Das Bienengift im Dienste der Medizin"); Eman Pertl, "Dr. Filip Terč, pionir apiterapije u Srednjoj Europi", *Acta historica medicinae, stomatologiae, pharmaciae, veterinae* 19, No. 1–2 (1979), 131–141.

ment. He also noted that it was necessary to make decisions about treatment of chronic forms even before the signs of deformation of joints were visible, which are of course irreversible. In total, Terč treated 658 cases of rheumatism, complete recovery was achieved in 544 patients, improvement was seen in 99 cases, and 16 patients were treated unsuccessfully primarily due to the fact that the disease had advanced too far already prior to treatment. He described the primary reaction of the body to the bee sting as local pain, swelling and itching, which disappears after two to three days, while the secondary reaction is general nausea, vomiting, dizziness, loss of consciousness and, in exceptional cases, death (anaphylactic shock).⁵⁰

He also found that the therapeutic dose should be increased gradually until the patient became completely immune to bee poison. In his opinion, fewer stings were needed in the lighter forms of rheumatic diseases, while the more severe ones required several hundred or even a thousand stings. The therapy started with one sting, continued with another after half an hour and then with a third sting in another hour's time. With patients who had a high tolerance for bee venom, Terč would perform 100 to 150 stings per day, totalling to as many as 600. Among the examples that he described was also a hospital, where he had applied more than 2,000 bee stings in the time span of three to four months.⁵¹

Selected individual cases of treatment

- A 17-year-old has suffered from acute myalgia since the age of six. Api-therapy was used as an emergency treatment and the boy was cured within four weeks. Nevertheless, the treatment was continued and repeated for a further a year or two. The boy is completely healed;
- Dr. Terč also treated patients with early stages of heart disease resulting from rheumatism. The results were promising: out of a total of 48 patients, 36 completely recovered, in seven cases he noticed an improvement in health, while five did not recover.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Filip Terč, "Über eine merkwürdige Beziehung des Bienenstriches zum Rheumatismus", *Wiener Medizinische Presse* 35 (1988) – Slovenian translation "Nenavadna povezava med pikom čebele in revmatizmom" v: Pivec, *Filip Terč, začetnik moderne apiterapije*, 47–66 (dalje: Terč, "Über eine merkwürdige Beziehung des Bienenstriches zum Rheumatismus/ Nenavadna povezava med pikom čebele in revmatizmom"); Zupanič Slavec, "Revmatolog dr. Filip Terč (1844–1917), začetnik apiterapije in predhodnik znanstvene imunologije", 27–29; Elko Borko and Gregor Pivec, "Dr. Filip Terč, začetnik moderne imunologije", *Isis* 21, No. 5 (2012), 38–41.

- Terč treated 186 patients with chronic rheumatism of the joints. Treatment was successful in 151 patients, while the rest cancelled treatment. Terč reported the latter cases as either having healed completely or at least improved in health.
- Terč also treated 253 patients with acute muscular rheumatism, of whom 212 were completely rehabilitated, and 41 only partially because they stopped treatment early.
- Treatment was also successful for healing rheumatism of the head (muscle and membrane disease).⁵²

Filip Terč also found that this type of treatment was not suitable for children, old people and patients with heart disease.⁵³

Terč's pioneering research work in the field of therapeutic healing with bee stings, of course, triggered various problems. When Dr. Terč published the results of his findings in the *Wiener Medizinische Presse* in 1888⁵⁴, he received many verbal and written concerns from his Vienna peers. The reason for this was, primarily, that the then Viennese and Austrian medicine represented a scholarly peak in the field of clinical medicine and basic research, and all those who conducted research outside these narrow professional circles encountered rejection or were frowned upon.⁵⁵

For Dr. Terč, however, the negative and disapproving opinions of other doctors were not the only factors that aggravated his work; it was also his working environment. Provincial Maribor was completely different from that time Vienna, where a doctor had all the possibilities for professional development and research. Maribor also had fewer therapeutic and diagnostic possibilities. Because his method of treating rheumatic diseases was new and untested, he had difficulties finding patients ready to undergo his treatment. It was even more difficult for him to find patients from Vienna.⁵⁶

Due to misunderstanding and ridicule in prominent medical circles, Dr. Terč no longer appeared in professional medical literature. However, his belief in "bee therapy" and the correctness of his findings remained unwavering. But the fact remains that as a result of professional misunderstanding regarding his method of treatment, he suffered profoundly. And although he continued his study and supplemented it with new successful cases of treatment, he ceased to

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⁵² Terč, "Über eine merkwürdige Beziehung des Bienenstriches zum Rheumatismus/ Nenavadna povezava med pikom čebele in revmatizmom", 47–66.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ PAM, fond Eman Pertl, file 6 with records on Filip Terč, a letter by dr. Rudolf M. Tertch to dr. Pertl, 22. 7. 1979.

⁵⁶ Pivec, *Filip Terč, začetnik moderne apiterapije*, 39.

inform other scholars in the field about his results.⁵⁷

It took Terč a decade and a half to describe some examples in professional beekeeping literature. His first contribution, titled "Bee sting – a medicinal product against rheumatism", which was written on the basis of the lecture he had given at the assembly of the Styrian Beekeeping Society in Graz on 12 February 1904, was published in their society's bulletin the *Steierischer Bienevater*. In 1905 this article was (divided into six sequels) summarized in the Slovenian beekeeper bulletin the *Slovenski čebelar*.⁵⁸ Terč's contributions with similar content can be found also in both bulletins for years 1907, 1909 and 1910.⁵⁹

It was only after 1911 that the first signs of approval of Dr. Terč and his professional work appeared in medical circles. This change was most likely related to his son's specialization in Vienna. Thus, the Viennese doctor and state councillor Dr. Ernst Fuchs allowed Dr. Rudolf Tertsch, who, like his father, believed in bee therapy, to perform apitherapy in his ophthalmic clinic. Later, Prof. Pal (the head of the first medical clinic of the Vienna General Hospital) allowed Dr. Rudolf Tertsch to treat a patient with severe joint rheumatism. The same decision was reached by the state councillor von Wagner, who allowed Dr. Rudolf Tertsch to test the effects of bee poison on mental patients and those with nervous disorders.⁶⁰

The next step towards a wider recognition of the work and results of the Maribor doctor Filip Terč was Dr. Rudolf Tertsch's (an obstetrician in Vienna at the time) public presentation of his father's findings and problems with treatment with apitoxin titled "Bee Venom in the service of Medicine" at the assembly of the Austrian Beekeeping Association on 11 February 1912. Rudolf Tertsch's presentation described his father's cases, as he himself did not have enough experience in this respect. In his presentation, he mentioned that his father had since 1879 cured almost 700 patients with rheumatic diseases. Treatment with bee stings was not as successful in patients with rheumatic neuromuscular disorders. Later, his son Dr. Rudolf Tertsch himself found that for such cases, apitherapy is not the most appropriate form of treatment.⁶¹

⁵⁷ PAM, fond Eman Pertl, file 6 with records on Filip Terč, a letter by dr. Rudolf M. Tertsch to dr. Pertl, 22. 7. 1979.

⁵⁸ Filip Terč, "Čebelni pik – zdravilno sredstvo proti revmatizmu", *Slovenski čebelar* 8, No. 4–9 (1905), 61–62, 81–82, 96–98, 106–107, 121–123, 139–141.

⁵⁹ Pivec, *Filip Terč, začetnik moderne apiterapije*, 74.

⁶⁰ Tertsch, "Das Bienengift im Dienste der Medizin".

⁶¹ *Ibid.*

The Importance of Dr. Filip Terč's Research on the Development of Apitherapy

The Maribor physician Dr. Filip Terč can be referred to as a pioneer in the field of apitherapy, as he was the first to carefully study the relationship between bee venom and rheumatic agents and thus lay the foundations for a later scientific approach to this problem. He indirectly stimulated the pharmaceutical industry to begin the production of apitoxin preparations. Among the most enthusiastic individuals was also the Swiss physician Carl August Forster, who around 1930 made the first preparation with apitoxin – "Forapin".⁶²

Alongside Terč, French and Russian physicians arrived at similar conclusions about the health benefits of apitoxin and its connection to rheumatism. Later on, others followed Terč and his treatment of rheumatoid arthritis with bee stings: in the 1930s, for example, the Budapest physician Bodog F. Beck, responsible for the development of apitherapy in the United States, and the beekeeper Charles Mraz, who treated autoimmune diseases with bee stings.⁶³ It is due to Mraz's results that Terč is also considered to be the forerunner of scientific immunology and allergology.⁶⁴

Conclusion

Like most new discoveries, Terč's idea of treating rheumatism with bee stings was initially negatively accepted and was, in some cases, even subjected to ridicule. The disapproval of his Viennese colleagues had a great influence on Dr. Terč – he was nowhere to be found in medical circles and scientific medical literature. Nevertheless, his confidence in the effectiveness of the therapy remained firm, which he demonstrated with the recorded cases of patients he treated. The success of his therapy was as much as 82%, while in the remaining 15% of patients he could prove a significant improvement in their health.⁶⁵

The reasons for such disapproval can be found primarily in the mentality of the scientific and research medical environment of the time. Back then, Viennese medicine was considered one of the most developed in the world. This development was justified by perceiving the experiment as the only basis for

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⁶² Zupanič Slavec, "Terč (Tertsch) Filip (Phipipp)" 252.

⁶³ Budok. F. Beck, *The Bible of Bee Venom Therapy* (New York, 1935).

⁶⁴ Zupanič Slavec, "Revmatolog dr. Filip Terč (1844–1917), začetnik apiterapije in predhodnik znanstvene imunologije", 27–29.

⁶⁵ Fidelj, *Dr. Filip Terč in njegovo delo na področju apiterapije*, 326; Zupanič Slavec, "Terč (Tertsch) Filip (Phipipp)" 252.

scientific research. On top of that, there was an increasing resistance to some other methods of scientific research, such as observation and experience. With this way of thinking, medicine split into faculty medicine and non-faculty medicine, the latter being undesired or condemned. Thus, in a broader sense, medicine was significantly at a loss, deprived of discoveries that were not the fruit of experiments, but other scientific research methods (for example, observation). It is also worth mentioning how faculty medicine could be biased about when to make an exception and allow some complementary method of treatment to become widely used, even if it was not discovered and grounded in the desired methods of research. For example, chemotherapy and irradiation can be taken as complementary methods for the treatment of malignancies (the primary treatment is, of course, surgical removal of cancerous tissue). Despite an abundance of statistical data showing that the therapies are successful, there is still no precise explanation on the physiological functioning of the mentioned methods of treatment. This is therefore not in line with the classical principle of faculty medicine, but it has made an exception here, since chemotherapy and radiation are widely used today.⁶⁶

Medicine was not nearly so lenient to apitherapy; the latter has long been labelled as part of folk medicine. Even to this day, apitherapy has not established itself in official Western European medicine, but it is certainly more valued than it was at the time of its discovery and testing. Indeed, the question here is how to define it and into which area of medicine or treatment to include apitherapy. Some call it an alternative (exclusion) method of treatment. This would mean that it cannot be used with faculty medicine, because the alternative is based on the principle "either-or", that is, it excludes either one form or another form of treatment. Of course this is not true. Treatment with bee products should therefore in no way be conducted separately from other scientifically proven methods of treatment; it can take place at the same time. Therefore, it is more appropriate to define apitherapy as a complementary method of treatment (often also practiced by homeopaths), which is how it is nowadays largely defined by scientific circles.⁶⁷

Despite the difficult beginnings of apitherapy, which Dr. Filip Terč experienced first-hand, the circumstances are gradually improving. Treatment with bee products is gaining more and more attention. On the one hand, the growing desire of people to get in touch with nature and to use natural products

⁶⁶ Pivec, *Filip Terč, začetnik moderne apiterapije*, 7.

⁶⁷ *Apitherapy — could therapy based on bee venom sting conventional medicine?* The Health Site, <http://www.apitherapy.org/about-apitherapy/what-is-apitherapy/>, accessed: 10. 12. 2017; *Apitherapy: Homeopathic Bee Venom Therapy*, HolisticMD, <http://www.holisticmd.org/treatments/apitherapy-homeopathic-bee-venom-therapy/>, accessed: 10. 12. 2017.

for health promotion significantly contributes to this. Such inclination is even more understandable from the standpoint of bee products, since they have long been known for their medicinal effects and benefits. On the other hand, apitherapy also attracts interest in scientific circles. As a result, more research is being devoted to related research, and we can expect new discoveries in this field in the future.⁶⁸

After the discovery of the composition of apitoxin and its scientifically proven pharmacological effects (in vitro and in vivo), it is expected without doubt that apimedicine will in the future in certain areas (after additional laboratory and clinical investigations) become part of official conventional medicine. For this, great merit also belongs to the Maribor physician Filip Terč – the pioneer of modern science-based apitherapy and immunology.

In honor of Dr. Terč, the International Congress of apitherapy declared March 30, his birthday, the International Apitherapy Day.⁶⁹

Gregor Pivec, Eva Lina Friš, Mateja Matjašič Friš

MARIBORSKI ZDRAVNIK DR. FILIP TERČ IN NJEGOVA "ČEBELJA TERAPIJA"

POVZETEK

Čeh dr. Filip Terč (1844–1917) je bil v Mariboru uveljavljen kot uspešen zdravnik splošne prakse in izkušen čebelar. Imel je tudi pomembno vlogo na področju družbeno-političnega in družabnega življenja. Leta 1878 je postal predsednik mariborske podružnice Štajerskega čebelarskega društva, bil je tudi član Slovanske čitalnice in eden od članov nadzornega odbora mariborske Posojilnice, ki je finančno nadziral gradnjo Narodnega doma v Mariboru. Od leta

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⁶⁸ Zupanič Slavec, "Revmatolog dr. Filip Terč (1844–1917), začetnik apiterapije in predhodnik znanstvene imunologije", 27–29; Elko Borko and Gregor Pivec, "Dr. Filip Terč, začetnik moderne imunologije", *Isis* 21, No. 5 (2012), 38–41; Pivec, *Filip Terč, začetnik moderne apiterapije*, 7–9.

⁶⁹ Moises Asis, *Apiterapia 101 Para Todas* (English translation of summary) (Miami, 2007), 76–80.

1890 je na moškem učiteljišču na povabilo ravnatelja Henrika Schreinerja kot pomožni učitelj poučeval šolsko higieno in somatologijo, pomagal pa je tudi pri praktičnem pouku čebelarstva. To ga je pripeljalo do velikih odkritij, zaradi katerih ga danes v Srednji Evropi imenujemo za začetnika moderne apiterapije.

Pri delu v čebelnjaku se je težko izogniti neželenim pikom čebele, ki jih je bil deležen tudi dr. Terč. Ščasoma je ugotovil, da čebelji piki blagodejno učinkujejo na njegove revmatične bolečine. Ravno to je dalo Terču idejo, da prej neželeni čebelji strup, ki lahko povzroči hude bolečine in oteklino, uporabi kot zdravilo za revmatizem, predvsem revmatoidni artritis. S pravilno zastavljenimi in natančno načrtovanimi poizkusi ter kritičnim kliničnim opazovanjem je preučeval učinek različnih odmerkov apitoksina (čebeljega strupa) pri različnih revmatičnih obolenjih in pri zdravih ljudeh ter na podlagi izsledkov postavil t. i. "čebeljo terapijo", s katero je utiral pot kasnejši znanstveni medicini.

Čeprav je članek o povezavi med čebeljimi piki in revmatoidnim artritism leta 1888 objavil v ugledni *Wiener Medizinische Presse*, pa to ni bilo dovolj, da bi uspel uveljaviti svojo terapijo v širšem smislu, saj je dunajski kolegi niso odobraval. Šele po letu 1911, najverjetneje zaradi vpliva Terčevega sina dr. Rudolfa Tertcha, okulista, ki je deloval na Dunaju, so Terčevo "čebeljo terapijo" začeli upoštevati tudi v strokovnih medicinskih krogih. Vzporedno s Terčem so do enakih spoznanj o zdravilnosti apitoksina in povezavi med njim in revmatizmom prišli tudi francoski in ruski zdravniki, pozneje pa so Terčevemu vzoru zdravljenja revmatoidnega artritisa s čebeljimi piki sledili tudi drugi: npr. Švicar dr. Karl August Forster, ki je ok. 1930 izdelal prvi pripravek z apitoksinom "Forapin", Bodog F. Beck, ki je zaslužen za razvoj apiterapije v ZDA, in Charles Mraz, ki je s čebeljimi piki zdravil avtoimune bolezni, zato lahko dr. Terča štejemo tudi za predhodnika znanstvene imunologije in alergologije. V čast dr. Terču je bil leta 2006 na mednarodnem kongresu apiterapije 30. marec, njegov rojstni dan, razglašen za mednarodni dan apiterapije.

Avtor: **PIVEC Gregor**

Dr., docent

UKC Maribor

Ljubljanska ulica 5, SI – 2000 Maribor, Slovenia

Soavtor: **FRIŠ Eva Lina**

Študentka Medicinske fakultete Univerze v Ljubljani

Vrazov trg 4, SI – 1000 Ljubljana

Soavtor: **MATJAŠIČ FRIŠ Mateja**

Dr., znanstvena sodelavka

UKC Maribor, Oddelek za znanstveno raziskovalno delo

Ljubljanska ulica 5, SI – 2000 Maribor

Naslov: **MARIBORSKI ZDRAVNIK DR. FILIP TERČ IN NJEGOVA "ČEBELJA TERAPIJA"**

Studia Historica Slovenica

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Kategorija: 1.01 Izvirni znanstveni članek

Jezik: angleški (izvleček angleški in slovenski, povzetek slovenski)

Ključne besede: Filip Terč (1844–1917), apimedicina, apiterapija, Štajersko čebelarsko društvo, Narodni dom v Mariboru

Izvleček: Zdravnik dr. Filip Terč (1844–1917), pomembna, a premalo znana osebnost na področju medicine in zdravstva v Mariboru in na Slovenskem, se je ob delu v ordinaciji ljubiteljsko ukvarjal tudi s čebelarstvom. To ga je pripeljalo do velikih odkritij, zaradi katerih ga danes v Srednji Evropi imenujemo za začetnika moderne apiterapije in imunologije. Pomembno vlogo je igral tudi na področju društvenega in družabnega življenja; leta 1878 je postal predsednik mariborske podružnice Štajerskega čebelarskega društva, bil je tudi član Slovanske čitalnice in eden od pomembnih članov nadzornega odbora mariborske Posojilnice, ki je finančno nadziral tudi gradnjo Narodnega doma v Mariboru.