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## JEAN BAPTISTE LALANGUE OF LUXEMBOURG (1743-1799): THE BEARER OF PROGRESSIVE IDEAS IN PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IN CROATIA

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### Abstract

Jean Baptiste Lalangue (1743-1799) is the best known Croatian physician of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. He was born in Matton, Luxembourg, but from 1772 to his death, he was governor's (local term *ban*) and county physician in Varaždin. As the county physician, Lalangue was in charge of the entire healthcare system, including prevention and treatment, but most of all of controlling infectious diseases. He was particularly interested in the use thermal waters, as he, soon upon arrival, realised the potentials of Croatian spas, which were visited by many, but were in a state of neglect. He also measured the temperature of thermal waters, and classified them according to their therapeutic value. He tried to introduce state-of-the-art-medicine to the spa Varaždinske Toplice, which he held particularly dear. He authored the first Croatian medical book *Medicina ruralis*, which captures the rural life of the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The book makes the first attempts to coin Croatian medical terms alongside the Latin and the German. Lalangue published a number of other popular works, including a textbook for rural midwives.

*Key words:* 18<sup>th</sup> century, history of medicine, public health, thermal waters

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