

IN MEMORIAM

Krešimir Čala, MD
May 10, 1975 – July 30, 2010



On Wednesday, August 4, 2010, we bid farewell to Dr. Krešimir Čala, specialist internist at Department of Nephrology and Dialysis in our hospital. Krešo was tragically killed in the early afternoon, July 30, 2010. He had set off happily with his family, whom he loved immeasurably, for a well-deserved summer vacation. Unfortunately, tragic death took him away on the road to his beloved Šibenik and Šparadići.

Krešimir Čala, born in Zagreb but a resident of Šibenik in his heart and soul, graduated from the School of Medicine in Zagreb in 1999. After his internship and having completed the School for Reserve Officers at Petar Zrinski College in Croatia, he began his residency at Sveti Duh General Hospital, where he immediately decided to work in the intensive care unit. He took active role in the work of the Croatian Society of Intensive Medicine and received additional training in the field. He actively participated in several national and international professional meetings. He published several professional and scientific works in intensive care medicine and pharmacology as author or co-author. Then he came to the Department of Nephrology and Dialysis, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital. Through

his work, and even more through his relations with patients and colleagues, and through his unique personal warmth, Krešo quickly became a favorite doctor and colleague. He joined the Croatian Association of Nephrology and Dialysis and Croatian Association of Hypertension. Although his work was unfortunately short, he became one of the mainstays in the development of our department. Besides his joint publications, Krešimir Čala's even more significant work was in the development of new methods in the field of peritoneal dialysis. He participated in the introduction of a new method of peritoneal catheter implantation. As a young and ambitious physician, he wanted to become engaged in invasive nephrology.

At the same time, the entire University Department of Internal Medicine is indebted to his work on Department computerization. Many colleagues daily sought Krešo's help with the computerized preparation of medical documentation. He was our young expert in the field.

In the Croatian Association of Nephrology, Dialysis and Transplantation, he was elected coordinator of the register of kidney diseases and member of the working group for acute kidney failure.

He began to work on his narrow specialization and to prepare for the registration of his doctoral dissertation topic. He also planned professional training in the United States, which he was particularly looking forward to.

However, his actions and relations with patients, colleagues and friends speak much more about Krešo than these dry facts.

At work, Krešo solved all problems in his distinctive, seemingly relaxed and easy way. Although he was young, he would get everything finished without a great deal of fuss and panic. He always had full confidence of his patients and tried to help each of them, but would be firm in a correct way when it was necessary.

All the staff he worked with liked him. He was kind to each of them. We will remember him not only for his work but also for his collegiality and friendly manner. He was always willing and ready to assist his younger colleagues, and from his older colleagues he accepted advice and teaching as well as their knowledge. Although he was young, he had enough knowl-

edge to always reach conclusions and make decisions very competently on his own.

We thought that with Krešo we could achieve important professional and scientific advance. Unfortunately, fate has snatched him from us. We are left with great emptiness and sadness, but also happiness and satisfaction that we had an opportunity to work and become friends with him.

Through his stories, plans and time he spent with his sons, wife and parents, he showed us that he had become a wonderful family man. It is difficult to describe how he himself talked, with so much love, about the time he spent with his sons and his entire family. His sons Luka and Mate, his wife Ana, and his parents will miss him most, but so will we, his colleagues and friends, as well as many patients.

Krešo left his mark in every part of the internal medicine department. He will remain long in our memories and we will never forget him.

*Draško Pavlović
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