

Sestre milosrdnice



University Hospital

HISTORICAL REVIEW

When the first independent Department of Neurosurgery was established at our Hospital 25 years ago, on November 1, 1986, it was not the beginning of neurosurgery development at the Hospital, but the final phase of the long-standing serious and successful neurosurgery activities. Surgery reports from the establishment of surgery department in 1885 to the end of the first half of the 20th century reveal that surgeons had performed many neurosurgical procedures very successfully. Pituitary operations provide a good example; the first six hypophysectomies were performed by Professor Aleksandar Blašković as early as 1922, and in the 1950-1963 period three patients were operated on at Department of Surgery and 14 patients at ENT Department¹. Professor Danko Riessner, who came to our Hospital in 1953 from the position of the head of Neurosurgery Department, University Department of Surgery at Rebro Hospital, gave full swing to neurosurgery at our Hospital. Professor Riessner is also called father of the Croatian neurosurgery². Professor Riessner acquired his huge knowledge in neurosurgery at Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Brain Research in Berlin. Our first neurosurgeons, Head Doctor Nedeljko Popov, Vjenceslav Bakulić and Živko Alić, were his disciples. Head Doctor Popov succeeded to Professor Riessner, established neurotraumatology department and continued pituitary operations³. The so-called Neurosurgery-Neurotraumatology Department existed as part of the University Department of Surgery until 1985, and from 1986 it was an independent Department of Neurosurgery, headed by Professor Lucijan Negovetić.

In their foreword to the five-year report on Department activities, published in May 1992⁴, Professor Negovetić and Head Doctor Lupret say that 1060 operations are performed *per* year at Department on an average. Great attention is paid to the education

of new physicians, scientific and professional publications, and collaboration with other medical specialists in cases requiring an interdisciplinary approach, also emphasizing collaboration with the Eppendorf Hospital from Hamburg in pituitary surgery. In the next period, the Department has grown into University of Neurosurgery; at the beginning of the new century, it has 39 beds, 12 physicians, six PhDs and one university professor. Currently, the University Department of Neurosurgery, also appointed Reference Center for Cerebrovascular Diseases, is headed by Professor Krešimir Rotim. Operating rooms are supplied with sophisticated neurosurgical equipment and new technologies are continuously introduced, novel neurosurgical techniques adopted, and the professional team consisting of 11 specialists and four residents is the largest neurosurgical team in Croatia. Educational and professional activities, research and participation in Croatian and international research projects, following the good tradition of neurosurgery in our Hospital are the mainstays of the profession.

Tanja Sušec

References

1. PADOVAN I, SEKSO M, SPAVENTI Š. Radio-kirurška terapija tumora hipofize. *Anali Bolnice "Dr. M. Stojanović"* 1963;2:350-9.
2. MLINARIĆ I, KOVAČ D. Kirurška klinika. In: *Klinička bolnica „Dr Mladen Stojanović“ Zagreb 1845.-1985.“ Anali Kliničke bolnice "Dr. M. Stojanović" Fali godina;24:Special Issue 2.*
3. GNJIDIĆ Ž, KOVAČ D, PETRIC V, SAJKO T, TALANHRANILOVIĆ J. Osamdeset godina kirurgije hipofize u Kliničkoj bolnici "Sestre milosrdnice". *Lijec Vjesn* 2002;124:389-93.
4. *Klinička bolnica "Sestre milosrdnice", Zavod za neurokirurgiju. Petogodišnji izvještaj. Zagreb: Klinička bolnica "Sestre milosrdnice", Zavod za neurokirurgiju, 1992:3.*