

Sestre milosrdnice



University Hospital

HISTORICAL REVIEW

This year, our Coronary Unit celebrates its 40th anniversary. It was founded in 1970, after many coronary units had been established all over the world from 1962 on. As reported by Head Doctor Josip Gjurović, the first head and founder of our Coronary Unit, the idea was launched after Head Doctor Gjurović, as he modestly says, together with some twenty other selected participants from Europe and other parts of the world, had been offered a privilege to attend the first postgraduate studies in intensive care for cardiologists and anesthesiologists in 1968 in London held by Shillingford, and in Edinburgh held by Desmond Julian¹. Upon his return to our Hospital, Coronary Unit was established with full support by Professor Ljubo Barić, head of Cardiology Department, and Dr. Bogdan Srđar, the then Hospital director; the Unit started working on September 23, 1970.

In the very next year, the first symposium was organized and attended by numerous physicians from the entire former Yugoslavia (because it was the first coronary unit in the state). From 1975, Coronary Unit as independent division was headed by Head Doctor Vladimir Sjerobabski, and since 1991 it is organized as independent department. Since 1999, the Department is headed by Professor Vjeran Nikolić Heitzler, PhD. During the four decades, coronary units have seen great advances in diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. Continuous improvements in professional knowledge, skills and experiences have been coupled with the development of high quality and ever more precise new technologies. Besides experienced and skilful physicians, the role of nurses in coronary units has been ever more recognized, as Professor Barić says, “as the physician’s right arm”² and for providing due



Coronary Unit staff members

support to patients, always depressed and burdened with their life-threatening condition.

Our coronary unit has carried on the tradition of serving as an educational center for cardiologists and other physicians and nurses from whole Croatia. A symposium entitled Coronary Unit at the Beginning of the Third Millennium was held in March 2001, when the 30th anniversary of the Coronary Unit foundation was celebrated. Besides the Unit founders and workers, lectures were also held by other Croatian cardiologists, including historical reviews of coronary unit development and potentials of cardiology and coronary units. In conclusion, here is another citation from Professor Barić's speech at the Symposium: "The one that is not rich is even more advised to be smart. Shall we be so to develop a comprehensive and well balanced system of preventive and useful measures

for prevention of coronary disease and atherosclerosis, generally compatible with our material and other resources?"² The answer is still being searched for, not only in our cardiology or at our Hospital, but also in the Croatian health system as a whole.

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References

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