

cija. Suautor je i glavni urednik udžbenika "Dječja i preventivna stomatologija", te knjiga "Primarna zdravstvena zaštita", "Hepatitis B i stomatologija", "AIDS i stomatologija".

Posebno se bavio epidemiologijom i preventivom karijesa. Autor je preventivnoga programa i metode kompleksne prevencije karijesa, a godine 2000. i Novoga programa prevencije karijesa i unapređenja oralnoga zdravlja djece Hrvatske.

Bio je voditelj znanstvenoga projekta Ministarstva znanosti i tehnologije, te suradnik u projektu WHO "Stanje oralnoga zdravlja djece Europe". Njegovi programi preventive uspješno su prihvaćeni i izvan naše domovine. Izradio je program preventive karijesa za Republiku Makedoniju i za provedbu programa dobili su financijska sredstva Svjetske banke.

Društveno uvijek angažiran, bio je članom stručnoga medicinskog savjeta Ministarstva zdravstva Republike Hrvatske, a godine 2000.-2001. predsjedao je Povjerenstvom pri Ministarstvu zdravstva Republike Hrvatske.

Aktivni je član Zbora liječnika Hrvatske, niz godina predsjednik Društva za dječju i preventivnu stomatologiju, te je za svoj predani rad dobio plaketu "Ladislav Rakovac" HLZ-a. Bio je članom Uredničkog savjeta "Acta Stomatologica Croatica" i "Collegium antropologicum" te gost urednik kod izdanja dvaju dopunskih svezaka.

Smrt je neumitna. No ipak, znamo da smo izgubili učitelja i vizionara s pogledom uvijek u budućnost, učitelja koji je znao znanost približiti dnevnom životu spojivši se sa svijetom medija. Profesor Raić autorom je više od 150 televizijskih emisija o očuvanju zdravlja, napisao je preko 300 popularnih članaka u dnevnom i tjednome tisku. Neću nabrajati, ali moram podsjetiti na veliki broj autorskih izdavačkih uspjeha.

Pokretač je i glavni urednik biblioteke "Sačuvajmo zdrave zube" (15 knjižica). U svojim radovima osobito je isticao skrb za djecu, nikada ne čineći razliku između seoske djece, pa romske djece, djece s posebnim potrebama ili djece urbanih sredina. Uvijek nam je govorio da je poduka djece najvažnija, jer usvoje li oni ispravne navike, bit će dobri podučavatelji svojoj djeci.

Ipak, uza sve nabrojeno sigurno mu je najveći uspjeh što je odgojio niz dječjih stomatologa usadivši im svoju misao da je najhumaniji rad skrb za dječje zdravlje.

Svima nam je ostavio u zalog da skrbimo za budućnost naraštaja koji dolaze i da nadograđujemo i razvijamo njegove misli. Panta rhei, ali pokoji kamenčić u rijeci života ostaje zabilježen u povijesti, u našim srcima i u mislima.

Hvala ti, profesore, što si nam bio učitelj i prijatelj!

Neka ti je vječna čast i slava! Blago počivaj u miru!

Ružica Krsnik

IN MEMORIAM **Prof. Zdravko Rajić** **(1937-2005)**

Farewell speech at the Crematorium on 21 January 2005.

*Esteemed members of the family, ladies
and gentlemen, colleagues.*

I have the sad duty, in the name of the Society for Paediatric and Preventive Dental Medicine of the Croatian Medical Association, to bid farewell to our President, Professor Zdravko Rajić.

It has been a privilege for me and many of my colleagues to have worked with Professor Rajić at the time when he devoted so much personal energy, enthusiasm and desire to paving the way for the prevention of caries and the introduction of a preventive programme in Croatia.

On Thursday we were discussing the preventive programme at a meeting of the Administrative Council of the Society for Paediatric and Preventive Dental Medicine, when Professor Rajić came in, still walking with difficulty. He complained that his fractured leg had slowed him down in his planned work. It was the first time that we had heard Professor Rajić complain that he felt ill or tired or that he could not do something. He had always succeeded in doing everything and it seemed as though his day lasted longer than 24 hours. None of us could have foreseen that it was to be our last meeting.

At that time he spoke with great enthusiasm about the need to reorganise the paediatric dental service and to organise a preventive programme which could be carried out on a permanent basis. He was happy to have realised the publishing of a book in two Romany languages; a book without the last page because the last page is at the same time the first because he did not want one of the two Romany languages to be preferred as the first.

We discussed realisation of the programme for children with developmental disorders. Suddenly, before the end of the meeting, Professor Rajić got up, said that he believed in us and asked us to carry on with realisation of the agreed plans. He said goodbye and left with a smile. That was our last meeting.

On Wednesday, 19th January, around eight o'clock the telephone rang. Shock! I couldn't believe it! Is it possible that we won't see or hear Professor Zdravko Rajić again? I felt confused and sad.

Memories came flooding back of meetings with Professor Rajić, the beginning of specialisation, years of cooperation in joint work on preventive programmes, friendly company at seminars and congresses, and unforgettable journeys to Hungary and Switzerland.

I remember our journeys just after the ravages of war in Lika and Osijek, and the seminars held there in order to offer moral and professional support to colleagues in organising preventive services.

At the suggestion of the Institute of Dentistry in Zurich and WHO, Prof. Rajić organised the First Congress of Coun-

tries of Central European Initiative on the theme "The Condition of Oral Health and Caries Prevention in Children in the Countries of CEI". Many colleagues and guests from abroad will remember the outing to Rastoka, where Prof. Rajić succeeded in linking professional improvement with the charm and customs of our beautiful country.

We were all aware of his exceptional strength and rare organising ability. I was always amazed at the speed of his thought and decision making. He had the rare ability of observing the importance of the moment and pointing out the essence of the problem.

As a man he was exceptionally impulsive and direct. Always ready to give his opinion, even when not acceptable as the opinion of the majority. He was always true to himself and his personality, just as we first knew him and up until our last meeting.

He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He always said that he preferred to spend his free time with his family in their weekend house in the hills of Zagorje.

As students, residents and later as coworkers, we always knew that we had his support. He always had the correct and well-meaning response to any of our questions or requests, with a clearly expressed personal opinion.

Prof. Zdravko Rajić was born in Čapljina in 1937. He graduated in 1963 at the School of Dental Medicine University of Zagreb. In 1971 he finished postgraduate study in Experimental Biology, Animal Physiology at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. In 1975 at the same Faculty he acquired the academic title of Master of Biological Sciences. In 1973 he acquired the title Assistant Professor and in 1974 he was elected University Assistant Professor. The same year he passed the specialisation examination in Pedodontics and defended his doctoral dissertation, acquiring the title Doctor of Medical Science. In 1979 he was elected Associate Professor, in 1983 Primarius, and in 1985 scientific consultant. The same year he was elected full Professor at the School of Dental Medicine University of Zagreb, and in 1992 Assistant Dean. He was a regular member of the Croatian Academy of Medical Sciences, and during one term a member of the Presidency.

During his work as a Professor, during the period 1986-1991, and 1998-2001, he carried out the duties of Head of the Department and Course for Paediatric and Preventive Dental Medicine at the School of Dental Medicine University of Zagreb. From 1986-1992 he was Head of the Dental Clinic at the Clinical Hospital Centre in Zagreb and a member of the Management Board of the Committee for Health of the town of Zagreb and the Clinical Hospital Centre. He worked with enthusiasm on two courses of postgraduate study at the School of Dental Medicine, and participated in parts of the teaching of analogous studies in the field "Alcoholism and Other Addictions", School Medicine, Genetics and Protection of the Mother and Child. He was mentor for more than 20 master papers and 5 doctoral dissertations. He was co-author and Editor-in-Chief of the textbook "Paediatric and Preventive Dental Medicine", and the book "Primary Health Care", "Hepatitis B and Dental Medicine", "AIDS and Dental Medicine".

He was also engaged in epidemiology and preventive caries. He was the author of a preventive programme and methods of complex prevention of caries, and in 2000 the New programme for the prevention of caries and advancement of oral health in Croatian children. He was Head of a Scientific Project of the Ministry of Sciences and Technology, and coworker in the WHO project "The Condition of the Oral Health of Children in Europe". His programmes of prevention were also successfully accepted outside the borders of Croatia. Namely, he organised a programme for the prevention of caries for the Republic of Macedonia and obtained financial support from the World Bank to carry out the programme.

He was always socially engaged. He was a member of the professional Medical Council of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia, and from 2000 to 2001 Head of the Committee for the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia.

He was an active member of the Croatian Medical Association, and for several years President of the Society of Paediatric and Preventive Dental Medicine and for his devoted work he received the plaque "Ladislav Rakovac" from the Croatian Medical Association. He was a member of the Editorial Council of "Acta Stomatologica Croatica" and "Collegium Antropologicum" and guest editor for publication of two supplements.

Nobody can choose the moment of death - it comes when one least expects it. We now know that we have lost a teacher and visionary, who had his sight set on the future, and who knew how to bring science closer to daily life by linking it with the world of the media.

Prof. Rajić was author of more than 150 TV Programmes on health care. He wrote more than 300 popular reports in the daily and weekly newspapers. I will not count them here, but I recall the large number of his successful publications.

He was the founder and Editor-in-Chief of the library "Preserving Healthy Teeth" (15 books). In his studies he particularly emphasised care of children, never making difference between villagers, Romany children, children with special needs or children from urban centres. He always told us that education of children is the most important, because if they accept the right attitude they will be good educators for their own children.

His greatest success was that he educated many paediatric dentists and inspired them with his idea that the most human work is care of children's health.

He has left us all with the pledge to care for future generations and to expand and promote his ideas.

Panta rhei; but a tiny stone in the river of life remains in the history in our hearts and minds.

Thank you Professor, for being our teacher and friend!

May you rest in peace!

Ružica Krsnik