

## HISTORICAL REVIEW

In 1972, forty years ago, Division of Radioisotope Utilization separated from Department of Radiology of our Hospital, having grown into independent Department of Nuclear Medicine and Oncology.

According to Professor Šime Spaventi, the first head of the Division of Radioisotope Utilization, then head of the Department of Nuclear Medicine and Oncology<sup>1</sup>, from 1963 when the Division was established until 1972, the scope of Division activities and staff members had increased considerably, in line with the development of nuclear medicine and nuclear medicine technology in Croatia and worldwide. Division of Radioisotope Utilization was first located in a separate building on one of our hills (initially it was pediatric department and then urology department). Subsequently, the building was reconstructed and adapted to the new purpose, while radiation protection measures were applied with great caution. Professor Spaventi emphasizes the role of Professor Božo Metzger, chief physician, who introduced the radiation protection measures and modern densitometry

methods while still working at Department of Oncology; this department was established in 1954 and was equipped with the first telecobalt unit in former Yugoslavia as early as 1958. In 1977, Department of Nuclear Medicine and Oncology grew into University Department of Nuclear Medicine and Oncology; the premises have since been continuously renewed and a new building was constructed in 1982, to the current area of 3000 m<sup>2</sup>. In 1974, computer was first used for diagnostic data processing with Ph camera; in the then Yugoslavia, computer data processing in nuclear medicine was first introduced here. Professor Spaventi underlines the very important collaboration with Ruđer Bošković Institute, Institute for Tumor and Allied Diseases, and other clinical departments on a number of projects that contributed to the rapid and quality development of the Department, then University Department of Nuclear Medicine and Oncology. Since 1990, it has been headed by academician Zvonko Kusić and consists of seven departments with 148 employees, 27 physicians and 20 physicians, 21 PhDs,



*Premises of the Division, then Department of Nuclear Medicine and Oncology.*

five professors and one assistant professor, working at two university chairs at the Zagreb University School of Medicine and School of Dental Medicine each; it has two national referral centers, two Croatian research projects, and five international projects in collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC).

These forty years of the work and development from a Division to a respectable University Depart-

ment recognized at both the national and European levels have enabled all the favorable international achievements in the field to be implemented in the management of our patients and in additional training of our medical professionals.

*Tanja Sušec*

## Reference

1. SPAVENTI Š. Klinika za nuklearnu medicinu i onkologiju. Anali Kliničke bolnice "Dr. M. Stojanović" 1985;24 (special issue):79-81.