

NEWS

CELEBRATION OF THE 155th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SESTRE MILOSRDNICE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL (1846 – 2001)

Celebration of the 155th anniversary of the Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital from Zagreb was held on November 22, 2001. It was an opportunity for us to express our gratefulness in memory of the spiritual founder of the Hospital, cardinal Juraj Haulik, a Slovak by origin and a Croat by his noble endeavors invested to the benefit of the Croatian people, and of all those great and ordinary people, Sisters of Mercy of St. Vincent de Paul, who have been taking care of the people's health for more than six generations now. The anniversary was also a good opportunity for the present Hospital management to pay homage to the past times by opening the History Room, not a museum-like but a pleasant room for daily encounters, with a gallery of well caught portraits and photographs of the greats from the Hospital history reminding us that we have inherited the Hospital from our ances-

tors and are obliged to give it over to our successors, whereby each of us is expected to add his at least a small contribution to the prosperity of our Hospital during his relatively short active life.

The history of a central capital hospital mainly reflects the history of the people, especially in case of relatively small nations. This is best illustrated by recollecting the role of T. Wickerhauser, M. Čačković and D. Mašek, professors from our Hospital, in the foundation of the Zagreb School of Medicine, the crucial event in the history of health care in Croatia.

The tradition of our Hospital is an irreplaceable treasure, and the present excellence of the Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital rests on this very tradition. The present management deserves all merits for having consistently promoted the values of the Hospital tradition that had for decades been unjustly neglected.

Unfortunately, the Hospital has always been faced with shortages, which appears to be the fate of small nations. However, neither belonging to a small nation nor the shortages prevented the greats of the Hospital, pio-



neers of their time, to apply numerous novel diagnostic and therapeutic procedures soon after they had been introduced in rich and industrialized countries.

Ceremony of the celebration of the 155th anniversary of the Hospital foundation took place in the Great Lecture Hall, which had been thoroughly renovated for this occasion. The latest audio- and video-equipment as well as computer support have been installed, now the Main Lecture Hall matching the best conference rooms in hospitals and institutes abroad, whereby its intimate atmosphere we have been used to for decades being fully preserved. The renovated Hall will certainly mean great progress in the Hospital educational activities, to the benefit of the students from several University Schools receiving education at our Hospital.

After the Croatian anthem performed by Hrid Matić, a tenor singer from the Croatian National Theater in Zagreb, the anniversary ceremony was opened by Academician Zvonko Kusić, director of the Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital. He addressed and expressed gratitude



for lending solemnity to the ceremony to the distinguished guests: Mr. Stjepan Mesić, president of the Republic of Croatia; Professor Ivica Kostović; Vice-President of the Croatian Parliament; Mr. Zdravko Jelenović and Professor Esad Prohić, counselors of the president of the Republic of Croatia; academician Ivo Padovan, president of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts; Professor Branko Jeren, director of the University of Zagreb; Ms. Snježana Biga-Friganović, president of the Croatian Parliament Board of Labor, Social Policy and Health Care; Rajko Ostojić, M.D., Deputy Minister of Health; Dubravka Jurlina-Alibegović, M.S., Deputy Minister of Science and Technology; Ms. Vesna Podlipec and academician Ivo Šlaus, Members of Parliament; Ms. Morana Paliković-Gruden, Deputy Mayoress of the City of Zagreb; Professor Boris Labar, dean, and all members of the dean's conference of the Zagreb School of Medicine; Professor Vlado Carek, dean, and all members of the dean's conference of the Zagreb School of Dental Medicine; Head Doctor Vlasta Hrabar-Žerjavić, acting director of the Croatian Institute of Health Insurance; Professor Slobodan Vukičević, president of the Ministry of Health Council; Zvonimir Marić, Ph.D., Assistant Minister of Science and Technology; Professor Željko Reiner, former Minister of Health; Zvonimir Šostar, M.D., head, Municipal Health Department; Professor Asim Kurjak, president of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Croatia; Professor Zlatko Domljan, representative of the Croatian Medical Chamber; Professor Igor Francetić, president, and all members of the Hospital Managing Council; all University deans and directors of medical institutions, and heads of Hospital medical colleges; Ivan Jakovac, M.D., Assist. Professor Dubravko Petrač, and Ivan Valent, M.D., former Hospital directors; Ms. Zdravka Vučkovac, president of the Črnomerec City District Council; and Mladen Kovačić, M.S., and Mr. Milan Babić, directors of collaborative and friendly companies Medika and Farmacija. In his address, academician Zvonko Kusić expressed special gratitude to His Eminence, Bishop Vlado Kočić, delegate of the Zagreb Archbishop, and Reverend Prioress Agneta Tadić-Šutra, superior of St. Vincent de Paul's Sisters of Mercy, who have honorably managed the Hospital for 102 years. Director of the Hospital also expressed his gratitude to all those retired from as well as those currently working at the Hospital, who were present at the celebration ceremony of the 155th anniversary of the Hospital foundation.

Then he presented some historical data on the foundation and work of the Hospital during the 155 years of its existence, in the form in which such a rich and fruit-



ful history of an institution could be briefly described. At the end, he enriched it with some anecdotal storiottes, which brought the history of the Hospital and its people closer to us, as we realized with relief and smile that the difficulties they had faced in the past were the same we are facing today.

Then, those present were addressed, with thanks for the kind invitation, on behalf of the respective institutions, by Professor Branko Jeren, director of the University of Zagreb; Dubravka Jurlina-Alibegović, M.S., Deputy Minister of Science and Technology; and Rajko Ostojić, M.D., Deputy Minister of Health.

After these speeches, the audience were addressed by Mr. Stjepan Mesić, president of the Republic of Croatia, as follows:

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to express my great pleasure to have the opportunity to greet you here today, all the guests but first of all the staff of the Sestre milosrdnice Hospital. It is a great pleasure for me to have such a jubilee under my patronage. And it is not just an anniversary, it is the 155th anniversary of this Hospital.

Director of the Hospital has informed us about everything that has been done to make this Hospital so important. Following its growth we can follow the development of medicine in Croatia as well. Without it, the Croatian medicine would have been very different. Maybe even the School of Medicine would not have been founded so early. And this gives us another reason to believe that this Hospital has always been up-to-date. At the time it was

founded, it followed European standards and development of medical sciences, but it has always corresponded with the society in general as the science developed accordingly. This Hospital is now at the very top in Europe, not only in treating patients but also in contributing to health in general. I compliment all of you who have made this contribution possible.

I would like to express my gratitude to the founders of the Hospital, to St. Vincent de Paul's Sisters of Mercy. Without them, the Croatian medicine would have never been the same.

I also express my gratitude to all of you who work here today, work diligently in unfavorable conditions indeed. I've been informed that not so long ago, you were forced to cut the expenses radically, maybe even brutally, but it seems to be done very economically. The Hospital is on the same course now, still following medical achievements worldwide.

My great compliments to all of you.

On the occasion of the celebration of the 155th anniversary, the Hospital Annual Award has been established, and was presented to three distinguished physicians who have marked the Hospital activities in the second half of the 20th century: academician Ivo Padovan, academician Mladen Sekso, and academician Šime Spaventi.

At the end of the official part of the ceremony, an occasional music program was performed: Camille Saint-Saëns, *The Swan*, performed by Lidija Suchanek, cello, and Branka Janjanin-Magdalenic, harp; and Jakov Gotovac,

Ode to the Earth from his opera *Mila Gojsalića*, performed by Cecilija Car, mezzosoprano, and Nina Cossetto, piano.

After the ceremony held in the Main Lecture Hall, the president of the Republic of Croatia with his escort visited the History Room and spent some time in relaxed and informal contacts with members of the Hospital management, Hospital employees and their guests.

What to say in conclusion? Maybe, *vivat, crescat, floreat* (let our Hospital live, grow and flourish). Probably it was the unspoken wish of all those present at the ceremony, and let it be our commitment until all or at least most of us gather again on the occasion of a future anniversary.

Miljenko Solter

25th Symposium of Intensive Care Medicine Zagreb, Croatia, November 29 – December 1, 2001

The Croatian Association of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine organized the 25th Symposium of Intensive Care Medicine in Zagreb, November 29 – December 1, 2001. The Symposium was held at the Croatian Medical Association premises and attended by more than a hundred anesthesiologists from all over Croatia. The main topics included treatment of patients with severe head injuries and ethics issues in intensive care medicine. On the first day of this traditional Symposium, invited lectures provided information on the new aspects and approaches in the physiology of brain and hydrodynamic changes in normal cerebrospinal fluid. Also, novel modalities of monitoring patients with neurotrauma were described, including the possibilities and alternatives in therapeutic procedures for these patients. In the afternoon session, free topics in intensive care medicine were presented.

On the opening ceremony, representatives of the Croatian Medical Association, Croatian Medical Chamber, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia, and City of Zagreb government addressed the Symposium. A short historical review of the development of intensive care medicine in Croatia was presented. The second day of the Symposium started with a very interesting topic of ethics and legal issues in intensive care medicine. Invited lectures pointed to current problems such as euthanasia, brain death, and position of physician between ethical and legal considerations. These topics were followed by transplantation issues, which was continued in the free topics focused mainly on anesthesiology.

The Symposium was well organized and invited lectures have been published in *Acta Anaesthesiologica Croatica*. It was quite encouraging indeed to see many young anesthesiologists and residents in anesthesiology having taken active part in the Symposium, mostly with scientific and professional papers on current topics.

Mladen Novkoski

