

FOREWORD

This Supplement to Acta clinica Croatica appears on the occasion of the 160th anniversary of the Bjelovar Hospital foundation. In order to briefly introduce the readers into the history of the Bjelovar General Hospital, I point to a note engraved in German on the old building of the Department of Medicine, stating that the premises of the "Imperial and Royal County Hospital of the Varaždin Military Border" were constructed in 1845, the year considered as the official beginning of the hospital service in the community.

Initially, it was a military hospital with some eighty beds. At the time, the chief medical officer was surgeon (*Patronus chirurgicum*). From 1878, the hospital now named General County Hospital was managed by County authorities, and from 1918 by the state government. Towards the end of the 19th century the Hospital had 120 beds and two physicians. The construction of the new building was completed in 1924, when the first operative procedure was performed and specialist services started develop at the Hospital. Since then, surgical and gynecologic patients have been treated there, whereas internal diseases stayed in the old building. In 1931, Dr. Nikola Karlić opened a private sanitarium named Villa Maria, which was bought up by the municipal government and attached to the Hospital in 1940. In 1937, the Hospital had 252 beds, five physicians and 39 employees.

After World War II, the Hospital started working almost all over again because the inventory and instruments were to a great part destroyed and gone. In January 1946, the surgery-gynecology department and internal medicine department with dermatology and infectious disease divisions were established. Particular specialties started developing more intensively in 1953, when ENT department was established, and then in 1958 with the foundation of ophthalmology, neuropsychiatry and radiology departments. Until 1970, the Hospital underwent several annex constructions and reconstructions. In 1976, a foundation-stone was laid for the new building, which was completed in three years to accommodate a number of specialist services: gynecology-obstetrics, pediatrics, ENT, ophthalmology, derma-

tology-venereology, women's clinic, laboratory diagnosis, general medicine, emergency medicine, and central sterilization. These activities were soon followed by modernization of the diagnostic service and hospital pharmacy.

During the war in Croatia, although attacked by the aggressor itself, the Hospital had a major role in the care of numerous wounded soldiers and civilians.

The development of particular Hospital services in terms of spatial, diagnostic, personnel and professional upgrading during the 1995-2005 period is presented in detail in the Hospital Monograph that has also been issued on the occasion of its 160th anniversary. The purpose of this Supplement is to bring professional contributions of our physicians, resulting from the fortunate coupling of theory and experience acquired through long-standing hard work and enthusiasm.

I take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues, authors and coauthors who have contributed by their self-sacrificing endeavors to this publication. Deep gratitude goes to the Editorial Board of Acta clinica Croatica and its Editor-in-Chief, Professor Zvonko Kusić, as well as to Ms. Tanja Sušec for her valuable assistance and advice. The true and constant support offered by Mr. Miroslav Čačija, grad. iur., Director of the Bjelovar Hospital, is greatly appreciated indeed. And the last but not the least, deep respect and thanks are due to Mr. Damir Bajš, Head of the Bjelovar-Bilogora County, under the auspices of which the celebration of the 160th anniversary of the Bjelovar Hospital has been organized and celebrated.

*Homines enim ad deos nulla re propius
accedunt quam salutem hominibus dando*
(Nothing can make the people approach gods
as close as saving other people)

Cic. Pro. Lig. 12, 38

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