

HISTORICAL REVIEW

At our Hospital, development of anesthesia started in the late 19th and the early 20th centuries. In 1896, Dr Miroslav Čačković, our surgeon, published his paper *Pedesetogodišnjica narkoze* (The Fifty Years of Narcosis), in which he used the term 'anesthesia' and provided a review of inhalation anesthetics, ether and chloroform. At the beginning of the 20th century, in 1900, Dr Dragutin Schwarz, our surgeon, introduced modular anesthesia, while Dr Dragutin Mašek introduced local anesthesia with cocaine solution. At that time, health reports and numerous articles dealt with the development of this medical profession at our Hospital; however, it should be noted that independent Division of Anesthesiology was established as late as 1965, in spite of the fast and successful development of anesthesia. So, fifty years ago, it was decided to separate this profession from surgery and establish it as

an independent medical profession. It also appears interesting to note that Dr Nikica Radoš from our Hospital passed the specialist exam in anesthesiology, thus being our first specialist in anesthesiology; however, he decided to leave this profession and turned to urology. Dr Siniša Slijepčević was the first head of the Division of Anesthesiology. In 1966, he defended his doctoral dissertation to become the first anesthesiologist in Croatia with PhD degree. At that time, respective education of physicians and specialist exams were organized at the Division, and in 1974 it grew into Department of Anesthesiology and Resuscitation, with three divisions:

- Division of Surgery and Resuscitation,
- Division of ENT and Eye Diseases, and
- Division of Gynecology and Urology.

Since 1981, problems with Department premises have been solved, there are ever more young physicians choosing this demanding medical profession, and mortality has been reduced to zero in many cases owing to good education and hard work. Special attention has been paid to collaboration of anesthesiologists with other physicians at intensive care units (ICUs). ICUs at the Clinical Department of Surgery and Clinical Department of Neurosurgery are led by anesthesiologists.

Nowadays, Department of Anesthesiology and Resuscitation works at three locations, with sixty-five professionals performing this important and demanding segment of patient treatment, just as their predecessors have done over the past fifty years.



Department of Anesthesiology, Resuscitation and Intensive Care

Tanja Sušec