

In memoriam

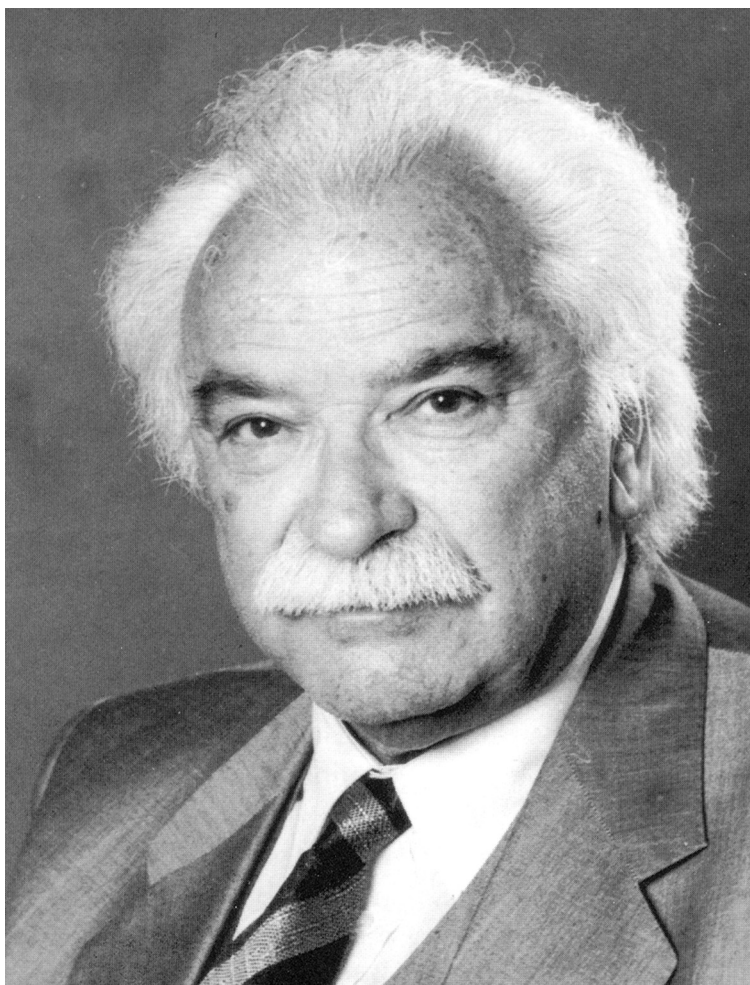
Akademiku Ljubomiru Čečku Omiš, 24. ožujka 1920. - Zagreb, 9. kolovoza 2002.

Dana nam je sposobnost i mogućnost sjećanja i pamćenja prošlosti te njezino vrednovanje i iz nje pisanje povijesti, spašavajući tako vrijednosti od zaborava. Istina je da u budućnosti može sudjelovati svatko. Pisanje prošlosti pitanje je i morala i savjesti da bi se prepoznalo stvarno značenje nečijega životnog djela u slijedu povijesnih zbivanja. Poznavanje prošlosti pomaže nam u promišljanju budućnosti, za kritičko prosuđivanje i donošenje pravednije procjene za naš stav prema svakodnevnoj praksi, prema nama samima te ćemo se tako lakše braniti od svih mogućih pogrešaka.

Akademik Ljubomir Čečuk svojim radom i djelom slijedio je suvremenu medicinsku misao, izgradio urološku školu u Hrvatskoj i oblikovao temelje nastave i razvitka struke. Tako

ostaje zapamćen kao znamen svojega vremena i generacije. Njegova ostvarenja predstavljaju dio struke i znanosti i ostaju izvorištem daljnjem napretku misli i stvaranja, kao međaš kojem se vraćamo u vrijeme traženja puta i donošenja odluka.

Studij medicine završio je u Zagrebu godine 1946. Radio je u Zavodu za patologiju i patološku anatomiju Medicinskog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu. U početku njegova radnog puta bilježi se Kirurška klinika u Skoplju te Urološka klinika u Beogradu. Završio je specijalizaciju iz urologije 1951., a iz kirurgije 1954. Tada je postao voditeljem Urološkoga odjela na Rebru. Slijedili su naslovi doktora znanosti, docenta, izvrednoga i redovitog profesora na Katedri za kirurgiju Medicinskog fakulteta.



Akademik Ljubomir Čečuk / Academician Ljubomir Čečuk
Fotoarhiva: Medicinski vjesnik / Photo-archives: Medicinski vjesnik

Pod njegovim vodstvom godine 1970. počinje osamostaljenje Klinike za urologiju, kojoj je predstojnik od osnutka. Osnivanje Klinike za urologiju značilo je ostvarenje ukupnoga programa moderne urologije s transplantacijom bubrega. U godinama naporna i predana rada stvorio je uvjete i podlogu za ostvarenje urologije europskih standarda. Nadilaženjem okvira klasične urologije, akademik Čečuk omogućio je razvitak kirurških metoda liječenja bolesti nadbubrežnih i paratireoidnih žlijezda, renovaskularne kirurgije te radikalne kirurgije u urološkoj onkologiji i stvorio pretpostavke za primjenu najsuvremenijih minimalno invazivnih zahvata u urologiji, kao, na primjer, laparoskopske kirurgije.

Na tom zahtjevnom putu valjalo je organizirati dijelom bolesnika s kroničnom renalnom insufijencijom, organizirati Zavod za histokompatibilnost, educirati liječnike koji će pratiti i liječiti bolesnike s kroničnom renalnom insufijencijom te voditi imunosupresiju u bolesnika s transplantiranim bubregom. Na kraju bilo je potrebno riješiti sve kirurške aspekte transplantacije koji su u toj sredini ipak bili novi. Eksperimentalni program eksplantacije i transplantacije bubrega, dugotrajno njegovan i izgrađivan, osnova je i današnjega transplantacijskog programa. Govorio je kako medicinska skrb mora biti optimalna, uz najviše standarde, bez obzira na zdravstveni, financijski i gospodarski sustav, što je danas jedan od bitnih pristupa Europske urološke udruge.

Akademik Čečuk posjećivao je i boravio u najuglednijim europskim i svjetskim ustanovama, vodio svoje učenike i slao ih u najuglednija izvorišta medicinske struke i znanosti. Uvijek je u tome uspijevaao, ali se i vraćao, da okupi oko sebe studente i liječnike. Sve ih je inspirirao svojim zanosom za napornim i predanim radom. Govorio je: "Vi morate steći znanje i sposobnosti, to znanost i medicina od vas traže. Samo tako možete opravdati dato vam povjerenje da budete čuvari zdravlja naroda." Ponavljao je: "Svakom čovjeku koji je došao tražiti vašu pomoć napravite sve, sve što znanost može, a medicina dopušta."

Tako je akademik Čečuk boravio kod profesora Ciberta u Urološkoj klinici Medicinskog fakulteta u Lyonu te kod profesora Mallet-Guja na tamošnjem Odjelu eksperimentalne kirurgije, kod profesora Couvelairea u Parizu, u Urološkoj klinici prof. Brosiga u Berlinu, zatim na Northwestern University u Chicagu te na odjelu za transplantaciju Sveučilišne bolnice u Madisonu, SAD. To je tek malen dio njegovih studijskih boravaka; dalje bi nabranjanje obuhvatilo gotovo sve vodeće europske urološke ustanove. Ipak, valja napomenuti kako je akademik Čečuk njegovao srednjoeuropsku tradiciju.

Suradnja s Medicinskim fakultetom u Milanu, s prof. Mallanom, pa suradnja s centrom Scandiatransplanta u Aarhusu, studijski boravci naših liječnika i mnogobrojni posjeti prof. Kissmayera, prof. Fieldborge, govore o zamahu i zanosu u nastajanju nove vrijednosti i sadržaja.

Gosti Urološke klinike na Rebru bili su najugledniji urolozi toga vremena (Beltzer, Brasig, Hoenfeller).

Veliki ugled koji je profesor imao pokazuje i broj specijalizanata koji su dolazili učiti i stajati "iza leđa" u operacijskim dvoranama njegove klinike. Tu je u miru nalazio sebe. Volio je

kirurgiju i njegovi su potezi skalpela čuvali i vraćali funkciju, oblik i život.

Akademik Ljubomir Čečuk bio je dugogodišnji pročelnik Katedre za kirurgiju Medicinskog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu. Godine 1981. osnovao je Katedru za urologiju i postao njezinim pročelnikom. Na taj način potvrđena je cjelovitost i neovisnost urologije, s dodiplomskom i poslijediplomskom nastavom. Akademik Čečuk posebno je njegovao eksperimentalni rad te klinička istraživanja.

Kao dekan zagrebačkoga Medicinskog fakulteta posebnu je pozornost posvetio unapređivanju nastave. Utemeljio je Studij medicine u Osijeku i Splitu te začetke nastave na engleskom jeziku za strane postdiplomante. Uz to je organizirao i vodio kiruršku službu Instituta za tumore i slične bolesti u Zagrebu te omogućio otvaranje urološke klinike u današnjoj Kliničkoj bolnici "Sestara milosrdnica".

Pokrenuo je i zahtijevao vrednovanje objavljenih publikacija po međunarodnoj citiranosti i indeksiranju. Bili su to pomaci u nastavi, struci i znanosti koji su slijedili najviše kriterije suvremene medicine.

Godine 1981. postao je članom današnje Hrvatske akademije znanosti i umjetnosti. Iste godine imenovan je i dekanom Medicinskog fakulteta Sveučilišta u Zagrebu. Primio je Nagradu Grada Zagreba te Nagradu za životno djelo. Bio je član Svjetske i Europske udruge urologa i predsjednik nacionalnih kirurških udruženja.

Primio je mnogobrojna priznanja, odličja, nagrade i izraze zahvalnosti za rad, ne samo na području medicine, već za cjelokupni opus za boljitak društva i pojedinca.

Visoki kriteriji koje je zahtjevala struka, nastava i znanost i sva težina zadatka koje je obavljao nisu umanjili srdačnost i brigu prema suradnicima, a osobito prema bolesnicima. Bio je liječnik, i to je u potpunosti prožimalo njegovu osobnost.

Duboke su bile njegove rane od bodlji života. Sve je podnosio dostojanstveno, zračeci još većom ljudskosti i dobrotom. Davao je sve. Vodila ga je ljubav. Radeći u vrijeme kada nije bilo dostatno znati, željeti i htjeti, a da ne budeš ostavljen sam, nepotreban, medicina mu je bila i ostala štiti, štoviše, i nezaobilazan smisao koji ublažava strahove i strepnje čovječanstva. Tim putem vodio je svoje suradnike na putu ostvarenja cilja.

Kada nas ispuni sjećanje na silinu njegova stvaralaštva ili kad nas pak zapeče savjest radi straha od zaborava - pitat ćemo se jesu li naše procjene i naša mjerila dovoljna za ispunjenje njegovih očekivanja; može li naše viđenje dozvati odobravanje i blagoslov velikoga meštra koji je stvarao i oblikovao suvremenu hrvatsku urološku kirurgiju i medicinsku misao.

Bolest koja ga je shvrala nije bila obazriva: nemilosrdno ga je udaljila od nas.

Naša posljednja šetnja bila je dugim hodnikom na Rebru, od njegove sobe u Klinici za urologiju na istoku do zadnjih vrata na Odjelu za plastičnu kirurgiju Kirurške klinike na zapadu zgrade. Išli smo ruku pod ruku kroz sve odjele u kojima je davno prije započeo svoj put. Na povratku, kada je već umoran sjeo i popio ponuđenu kavu, rekao je. "Hvala Vam, osjećam se čovjekom." Kad je otišao, nije se više vratio.

Zato ću ponoviti riječi koje sam izgovorio na njegovom ispraćaju tih vrelih ljetnih dana: isto kolovoško sunce žarilo je kad smo ga očiju punih suza ispratili iz Zagreba i kad je pokopan u Omišu; plakali smo - a ista su zvona zvonila, zvona njegove domovine Hrvatske.

Neka mu sivi kamen hrvatske Dalmacije bude nježan, a šum mora pjesma majke.

Prof.dr.sc. Zvonimir Mareković
Predstojnik Klinike za urologiju, Zagreb

Ljubaznošću prof. dr. sc. Zvonimira Marekovića i Razreda za medicinske znanosti HAZU, objavljujemo u cijelosti pretisak: Mareković Z. In memoriam akademiku Ljubomiru Čečku. U: Dekaris D, ur. Ljubomir Čečuk 1920. - 2002. Zagreb: Razred za medicinske znanosti HAZU. Spomenica preminulim akademikima. Sv. 117. 2004. str. 33-6.

In Memoriam

Academician Ljubomir Čečuk Omiš, 24th March, 1920 - Zagreb, 9th August, 2002

We are given both capability and possibility to reminiscence and remember the past, as well as evaluation of the past and writing history out of it, saving in that way values from oblivion. The truth is that everyone can participate in the future. Writing history however, is the question of moral and conscience in order to recognize the real meaning of somebody's lifetime achievement in the sequence of historical events. Knowing history helps us in pondering upon the future, helps us in critical judgment and in reaching impartial evaluation for our attitude towards everyday routine, towards ourselves and in that way we'll be able to defend ourselves from all possible mistakes.

With his work academician Ljubomir Čečuk has followed the contemporary medical idea; he founded the school of urology in Croatia and has laid the corner stone for teaching and profession development. In that way, he'll stay remembered as the mark of his time and generation. His accomplishments represent a part of the line of work and science and remain the source of further progress of thoughts and creation, remain the milestone to which we return when seeking the right track and reaching decisions.

He graduated from the Faculty of Medicine in Zagreb in the year 1946, and after that worked at the Institute for Pathology and Pathological Anatomy of the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Medicine. In the very beginning of his work path Surgery Clinic in Skopje and Urology Clinic in Belgrade are to be chronicled. In the year 1951 he specialized in urology, and in 1964 in surgery. After that, he became the Head of the Urology Department at Rebro Hospital. What followed were the titles: Ph. D., Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Full Professor, all at the Department of Surgery of the Faculty of Medicine.

Under his guidance, in the year 1970, the Urology Clinic starts with the process of becoming independent. Academician Čečuk was the Head of the Clinic since its foundation. The foundation of the Clinic meant the fulfilment of entire program of modern urology, along with kidney transplantation. During the years of hard and dedicated work he established conditions for implementing the urology of European standards. By surpassing the framework of classical urology, Academician Čečuk has enabled the development of surgical methods in treating the diseases of adrenal and parathyroid glands, renovascular surgery, as well as radical surgery in urologic oncology and established conditions for application of high-tech minimally invasive surgery in urology, as is, for example, laparoscopic surgery.

On this demanding path the dialysis of patients with chronic renal insufficiency as well as the Institute for histocompatibility had to be organized, the doctors had to be trained and educated so that they could follow up the course of disease and treat patients suffering from chronic renal insufficiency, as well as conduct immunosuppression in patients with transplanted kidney. The last, but not the least, all surgical aspects of transplantation had to be dealt with, since the procedure itself was new to

the people from our social environment. Experimental program of kidney explantation and transplantation, which was taken care of and worked on for a long period of time, is the foundation of today's transplantation program. He stressed that the medical care has to be optimal, has to follow highest standards, regardless of health, financial and economic system, what is nowadays one of the most important lines of thought in the European Urological Association.

Academician Čečuk visited and stayed in the most renowned European and world institutions, he either took his students or sent them to the most respected sources of medical profession and science. He always managed to rally behind himself the students and the doctors and he inspired them with his enthusiasm for hard and dedicated work. Academician Čečuk used to say: "You have to obtain knowledge and competences; this is what medicine and science demand from you. Only in that way can you justify the entrusted - to be the guardians of the nation's health." He used to repeat: "To each person who came asking for your help, you must do everything what science can and medicine allows."

Academician Čečuk stayed at Professor Cibert at the Urology Clinic of the Faculty of Medicine in Lyon, at Professor Mallet-Guj at the Department of Experimental Surgery, at Professor Couvelaire in Paris, at the Urology Clinic of Professor Brosig in Berlin, then at the Northwestern University in Chicago and at the Transplantation Department of the University Hospital in Madison, USA. The above-mentioned sojourns were only a little part of his site visits; further listing would encompass almost all leading European urological institutions. However, it has to be mentioned that Academician Čečuk fostered middle-European tradition.

Co-operation with the Faculty of Medicine in Milan, with Professor Mallano, then co-operation with Scandiarttransplant Center in Aarhus, study visits of our doctors and many visits of Professor Kissmayer and Professor Fieldborg indicate the impetus and enthusiasm in creation of new value and contents.

The guests of the Urology Clinic at Rebro Hospital were the most respected urologists of that time (Beltzer, Brasig, Hohenfellner).

The enviable reputation Professor had is best observed in the number of residents who came to learn and to stay "behind Professor's back" in the operating rooms of his clinic. There, in the quiet, he found himself. He loved surgery and the moves of his scalpel maintained and returned function, form and life.

Academician Ljubomir Čečuk was the Head of the Department of Surgery at the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Medicine for many years. In the year 1981 he founded the Department of Urology and became its Head. In that way, both the coherence

and independence of urology with graduate and postgraduate studies has been acknowledged. Academician Čečuk particularly fostered experimental work and clinical research.

As the Dean of Zagreb Faculty of Medicine he specially devoted his attention to the promotion of tuition. He founded the Satellite Study of Medicine in Osijek and Split, as well as laid the corner stone for Medical Studies in English for foreign postgraduate students. In addition, he organized and lead surgery team of the Institute for Tumours and Similar Diseases in Zagreb, as well as provided opportunity for the opening of Urology Clinic in the today's Clinical Hospital "Sestre milosrdnice".

He both started and insisted on evaluation of published papers according to international citation and indexation. That led to breakthroughs in teaching, profession and science, following the highest criteria of modern medicine.

In the year 1981 he became member of the today's Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. In the same year he was elected Dean of the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Medicine. He was granted City of Zagreb Award as well as Lifetime Achievement Award. Academician Čečuk was a member of World and European Association of Urology and the President of national surgical associations/societies.

He received many certificates of merit, medals, awards and public acknowledgements not only for his work in the field of medicine, but also for his entire work for the benefit of the society and individual.

High criteria set by the profession, tuition and scientific work, and all difficult tasks he performed didn't detract from his cordiality and care for his colleagues, and especially for his patients. He was a doctor, and that completely saturated his personality.

Deep were his wounds from the thorns of life, but he endured everything with dignity, radiating even greater humanity and kindness. He was giving everything. Love has guided him. Working at the time when it was not enough to know, to desire and to want, in order not to be left alone, superfluous, medicine was and remained his shield, moreover, it was his indispensable life mission which has the ability to reduce the fear and anxiety of human race. That was the path along which he guided his colleagues towards reaching a goal.

When we get overwhelmed by the greatness of his creativity or when we get bothered by our conscience because of the fear of oblivion - we will ask ourselves whether our assessments and our criteria are enough to meet his expectations; can our perception call upon approval and blessing of the Great Master who shaped and created modern Croatian urological surgery and medical concept.

The illness that overpowered him wasn't at all considerate; lacking mercy it took him from us.

Our last walk was down the long corridor at Rebro Hospital, from his office at the Urology Clinic in the east to the last door at the Department of Plastic Surgery of the Surgery Clinic in the western part of the building. We walked arm in arm through all the departments where he had long ago started his journey. On

the way back, when he sat down already tired and accepted a cup of coffee I offered, he said: "Thank you, I feel like a human being." After that he left and didn't return any more.

This is why I am going to repeat the words I said at his funeral farewell during those hot summer days: the same August sun was blazing when we, our eyes filled with tears, said our last good-bye to him in Zagreb and when he was buried in Omiš; we cried - and the same bells tolled in mourning, the bells of his Motherland, of his Croatia.

Let the grey rocks of the Croatian Dalmatia be gentle to him, and the sound of sea - the mother's song.

Prof. Dr. Zvonimir Mareković
Head of the Urology Clinic, Zagreb

Thanks to the kindness of Professor Zvonimir Mareković and the Department of Medical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, we are able to publish the reprint in its entirety: Mareković Z. In Memoriam Academician Ljubomir Čečuk. In: Dekaris D, ed. Ljubomir Čečuk 1920 - 2002 Zagreb: Department of Medical Sciences, the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. Memorial to the Deceased Academicians. Volume 117. 2004. pp 33-6.