

## IN MEMORIAM

## PROFESSOR VIŠNJA FABEČIĆ-SABADI, MD, PhD

October 20, 1930 – July 4, 2007



In summer 2007, Professor Višnja Fabečić-Sabadi fought her last battle, this time for her own life; unfortunately, she departed this life in the morning July 4, 2007. She succumbed to the disease, her silent departure leaving a loud message to us. She died at her home, with her husband at the head of her bed. According to her will, she was seen off to her burial place only by her close family.

Professor Višnja Fabečić-Sabadi was born in Zagreb, where she completed elementary school and high school. She graduated from the Zagreb University School of Medicine on November 26, 1955; served internship at our Hospital, then worked at Department of Internal Medicine, General Hospital in Vinkovci till 1959, to return to Zagreb, to the then Dr. Mladen Stojanović General Hospital, first as resident in pediatrics and then, upon passing her specialist exam as a pediatrician from July 1962.

She was awarded the title of Head Doctor in 1973; appointed head of Cardiology Division in 1974, and head of Department of Cardiology and Nephrology, University Department of Pediatrics in 1977, which position she held until retirement in December 1995.

First of all, Professor Višnja Fabečić-Sabadi was a physician with profound, traditional education, a devoted pediatrician and clinician, and an excellent teacher and researcher. She was bound to pediatric cardiology by fate, and founder of the Cardiology Division and Polyclinic at University Department of Pediatrics. As early as 1977, in the then Yugoslavia, she introduced the use of echocardiography in pediatric cardiology.

Being focused on pediatric cardiology, she devoted years of her professional work to special training and acquiring practical skills abroad (Warsaw and Wrocław 1965; London 1965 and 1990; Belgrade 1975; Berlin 1977; Bonn 1980; and Hamburg 1986).

She published more than 160 professional and scientific papers, many of them in international periodicals cited in Current Contents and Science Citation Index. She took active part in numerous conventions, congresses and symposia in Croatia and abroad. Mention should here be made of her presentations held at conventions of the German Society of Pediatric Cardiologists and at the first three World Congresses of Pediatric Cardiologists held in London, New York and Bangkok.

She defended her doctoral dissertation in June 1980; a year later appointed senior research assistant; in October 1987 appointed Assistant Professor and two years later Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Zagreb University School of Dental Medicine; scientific advisor in 1991; and then Professor of Pediatrics at Zagreb University School of Dental Medicine. She held lectures in pediatrics for both undergraduate and postgraduate stu-

dents at Zagreb University School of Medicine and School of Dental Medicine; she was supervisor to a number of MS theses and doctoral dissertations as well as to residents in pediatrics and school medicine. She also took active part in several research projects.

Professor Višnja Fabečić-Sabadi was member of many Croatian and international professional societies, i.e. member of the Managing Board of the Section of Pediatrics, Croatian Medical Association; secretary of the same Section; member of the Managing Board of the Section of Cardiology, Croatian Medical Association; member of the Managing Board of the Section of Ultrasonography, Croatian Medical Association; member of the German Society of Pediatric Cardiologists, European Society of Cardiology, and European Society of Pediatric Cardiologists.

She received many awards and credits for her work, to mention our Hospital tribute on the occasion of the Hospital 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary, for her extraordinary personal contribution to the Hospital development; and a scroll

by the Section of Pediatrics, Croatian Medical Association, for her personal engagement in upgrading children's health care, in pediatric cardiology in particular.

These are facts about Professor Višnja Fabečić-Sabadi, however, she was much more than this. She was a woman in terms of poetry. She was mother, having coped in a miraculous and sublime way with her personal tragedy, the loss of daughter in her early motherhood. She was a wife, living with her husband Rudi, one for another, emotionally rich and unique life. She was real friend, devoted and loyal to old friends to the bottom of her warm heart, making new friendships, always being aware of the part of her heart thus given away.

Every departure from life at the same time implies turning back to the very beginnings of life. Everything will remain and stay in the natural, omnipresent order, except for her whom we will not meet anymore. Her material part will find some new forms in some other lives, while her spirit will continue living in our memories.

*Zvonimir Jurčić*

## Professor Branko Hodek, MD, PhD

November 30, 1933 – August 9, 2007



Dear colleagues, nurses-midwives, ladies and gentlemen,

Professor Branko Hodek, MD, PhD, our colleague, teacher and retired head of our University Department, succumbed to the lingering and severe illness.

Branko Hodek was born on November 30, 1933 in Zagreb, where he completed high school in 1952 and graduated from the Zagreb University School of Medicine in 1958. In 1961, he came to Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital as a young physician to serve residency in gynecology and obstetrics, to stay until his retirement in 2002.

During the forty years of his work at our Hospital, he passed all the way from specialist in gynecology and obstetrics (1967) through head of Risk Pregnancy Unit (1982), head of Maternity Ward (1987) to head of University Department (1991) until his retirement. In parallel with his professional career, Professor Hodek had successfully pursued his rich scientific and educational activities. In 1978, he earned doctoral degree having defended his dissertation entitled "A contribution to ultrasound antenatal fetal biometrics for gestational age and birth weight assessment". He was appointed Assistant Professor at Zagreb University School of Medicine in 1985, Associate Professor in 1992, and Professor at Zagreb University School of Dental Medicine in 2003.

Professor Hodek was a prolific author of professional and scientific papers published in Croatian and international journals, and of a number of book chapters.

Professor Hodek belonged to the generation of Croatian obstetricians, subsequently subspecialists in fetal medicine and obstetrics, who were faced with a difficult task to bridge the gap between the indisputable tenets of classic obstetrics on the one hand, and novel clinical laboratory and molecular biology concepts of modern obstetrics on the other hand. His contribution to the early screening for chromosomopathies and introduction of up-to-date concepts on the role of ultrasonography in obstetrics should be noted. Professor Hodek provided for the basic requirements for his Department to grow into University Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, having continuously invested all his efforts to upgrade the profession, education and scientific thought both in daily routine and as a teacher and supervisor to many undergraduate and postgraduate students, MS and PhD candidates. As a young professional, Professor Hodek was very successful as lecturer at Nursing-Midwifery High School in Zagreb.

Professor Hodek was born and raised in a Zagreb middle-class family with proper upbringing, gentle as a true and genuine gentleman in contacts with his fellow physicians, coworkers and patients. To us who came to the Hospital as young residents in the 1970s, he inspired confidence and responsibility in the hard and delicate work in delivery room, where he, then in the prime of his professional strength and enthusiasm, taught generations of young physicians on the model of his own, as a genuine teacher.

We will remember Professor Hodek as a man and a physician who earned respect both as a teacher and as a colleague. We will remember friendly gatherings, now faced with the sad truth of having to say farewell to our dear friend and teacher.

We express our deepest sympathy to his wife Mira and daughter Hana.

May his memory live forever.

*Goran Grubišić*

