

**In memory
of the former longtime Editor-of-Chief of LIBRI ONCOLOGICI
and Director of the University Hospital for Tumors,
Professor MARKO TURIĆ, MD, PhD
(Župa, 1943 – Zagreb, 2015)**



On August 7, 2015 our former longtime Editor-in-Chief and Director of the University Hospital of Tumors, Professor Marko Turić passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. Throughout fifteen years, Dr. Turić was a major driving force behind this journal. We dedicate these lines to his memory.

Professor Marko Turić, MD, PhD, specialist in otorhinolaryngology and head and neck surgery, was born in Župa (Zagvozd) on January 30, 1943.

He received his medical degree from the Zagreb University School of Medicine in 1969, and subsequently became a specialist in otorhinolaryngology and head and neck surgery. He also completed his postgraduate studies in Biomedicine, and earned his master's and doctoral degrees in 1977 and 1980, respectively. In 1985, Dr. Turić was chosen as a Distinguished Doctor, and in 1995, elected for the scientific-teaching title of assistant professor. In 2001, he was promoted to the rank of associate professor at the Zagreb University School of Medicine, where he headed the postgraduate program in Otorhinolaryngology and Maxillofacial Surgery at the Otorhinolaryngology Department.

Throughout his medical career, Dr. Turić continued developing his professional capabilities both in the country and abroad. He took active part in numerous national and international medical conferences, and also proved his strong organizational skills in about fifteen.

He was involved in scientific research, wrote peer reviews for scientific and professional papers, authored 64 articles in national and international journals, and participated in many international research projects. In addition to his 15 year commitment as the Editor-in-Chief of our Libri Oncologici published by the University Hospital of Tumors where he held the position of Hospital Director for 20 years, Dr. Turić was also an active member of editorial boards of several other medical journals and books, as well as a member of the Croatian Medical Association, Croatian Medical Chamber, Croatian Society of Oncology, Croatian Society of Otorhinolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery, and Organization of European Cancer Institutes.

Dr. Turić was a member of the Croatian Parliament. He carried out his parliamentary duty in two parliamentary convocations and among others, served as chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Labor, Social Policy and Health.

Dr. Turić spent his entire medical career at the University Hospital for Tumors, or the Central Institute for Tumors and Allied Diseases at the time when he started his residency in Otorhinolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery at the Otorhinolaryngology Department of the "Sestre milosrdnice" Clinical Hospital. After completing his residency, he worked as a head and neck surgeon for years, outshined others in the field and had been recognized among the top in his industry.

As Head of the Department of Head and Neck Tumors from 1987 to 1990, and then Director of the University Hospital for Tumors, he never wasted time and effort. He was a hard working head and neck surgeon, teacher, mentor and guide who with his relentless energy and perseverance, patience, calm and equanimity, spread optimism and positive thinking among us all. He promoted and advocated friendly relationships, tolerance and solidarity, supported the spirit of fellowship, and always attempted at solving problems through dialogue, agreement and consensus.

Dr. Turić persisted on collaboration and teamwork in the field of both healthcare and administration, not merely declaratively but in practice, too. By virtue of his continuing insistence on a multidisciplinary approach to cancer care, with a team of experts from multiple specialties working together under one roof, our Hospital reached world standards in providing our cancer patients optimal outcomes. He was especially keen on achieving the balanced development of all cancer treatment modalities, from cancer prevention and early detection through surgery, radiation and chemotherapy to rehabilitation and palliative care.

Dr. Turić particularly took care of continuing education and training of young doctors and researchers, enabling them to attend conferences and meetings, take courses and participate in short-term study programs in the country and abroad. He also encouraged them to write papers and develop their professional capabilities and skills through postgraduate and doctoral studies.

A great deal of his time and effort he invested in the University Hospital of Tumors publishing activities. His high sense of teamwork helped him bring together over 200 distinguished experts, scholars and practitioners in various fields of oncology from around Croatia to contribute to the book on Clinical Oncology – the first such book in the Croatian language. His editorial efforts and co-authorship secured the prestigious award – Charter Josip Juraj Strossmayer in the category of the most successful publishing venture in 1997. This book was also a guidepost and an incentive to further publication activities of the University Hospital for Tumors. It was the merit of his daily effort that many a textbook of different fields of oncology finally saw the light of day: Medical Oncology, Surgical Oncology, Radiation Oncology and many others.

During his term of office, Dr. Turić made the old idea of extending the University Hospital for Tumors new and successfully brought it into reality. Replanning and redesigning the existing layouts within their fixed dimensions under his guidance resulted in a completely new Hospital annex and partial refurbishment of the old Hospital building, which has eventually provided both adequate facilities for employees and a high level of comfort for cancer patients.

During his directorship, and primarily with cancer patients in mind, the University Hospital for Tumors got equipped with state-of-the-art devices and instrumentation for diagnosis and treatment aimed at developing and improving the quality of cancer care to achieve world-class cancer outcomes.

Professor Turić left his mark on the Croatian health care system, Croatian oncology, our Hospital and on us all in too many ways. We are all proud of him and will remember him forever. May God rest his soul in peace.

Danijel Došen