

IN MEMORIAM

Professor Heinz Frahm, MD, PhD

Professor Heinz Frahm, MD, PhD, a great friend of Croatia and Croatian medicine, and honorary member of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Croatia, was born on October 13, 1928 in Kroepelin near Wismar, Mecklenburg district in north Germany. He enrolled in the Hamburg School of Medicine only in 1951, having completed secondary school after leaving the Soviet-occupied area (Wismar). As he had no scholarship granted for his university education, during the study he used to set to any work, with great help offered to him by his wife, a nurse, in the last semesters. He graduated from the



School of Medicine in 1957, however, still burdened with financial concerns. He was very anxious to deal with endocrinology and volunteered at II Department of Internal Medicine Hamburg-Eppendorf; however, he received his first salary only in 1961, being appointed scientific associate at the Department. He habilitated and was awarded the title of Assistant Professor in 1965 by his lecture on somatically oriented treatment of anorexia nervosa. The title of Professor was awarded to him in 1971. Prof. Frahm was appointed first managing director of the University Department immediately upon the introduction of the position, in 1975, having held it until his retirement in 1991. During his fruitful career, Prof. Frahm was lecturing in many countries, however, he developed most intensive collaboration just with Croatian physicians. The beginnings of this long-standing successful collaboration date back to 1962, when Academician Zdenko Škrabalo received a Humboldt scholarship for training in Hamburg and Prof. Frahm helped him establish the first thyroid cytology and cytochemistry laboratory at Eppendorf University Hospital. These ef-

forts resulted in long-standing professional and friendly collaboration, and even mutual godfatherhood. Prof. Frahm's collaboration with the late Academician M. Sekso and Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital began in 1966, when M. Sekso and T. Čabrijan organized Prof. Frahm's lecture on endocrinologic therapy for metastatic carcinoma of the breast at the Society of Endocrinology, Croatian Medical Association. In 1972, Humboldt scholarship was awarded to T. Čabrijan, at the proposal of Academician Škrabalo, thus intensifying Prof. Frahm's collaboration with both Vuk Vrhovac Uni-

versity Clinic and Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital. Stimulated by good collaboration established with Vuk Vrhovac University Clinic for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolic Diseases, Prof. Frahm also invited physicians from Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital to visit his Hamburg department. During the 1972-1999 period, more than 40 physicians, along with many biochemists, chemists and nurses from our hospital received mostly four-week or much longer training at Eppendorf University Hospital in Hamburg. In addition, as early as 1975, Prof. Frahm proposed medical student exchange, which led to a partnership agreement between the Zagreb and Hamburg Universities and Schools of Medicine, signed by the then deans Professor Zimolo and Professor Hölzer, and university heads Academician Grdenić and Dr. Fischer-Appelt, a long-standing director of the Interuniversity Center Dubrovnik.

It should be noted that the first lecture at the first postgraduate study in endocrinology was held in November 1977 by Prof. H. Frahm. The lecture was entitled "The pathophysiology and clinic of the hypothalamo-

neurohypophysis system". The first course of postgraduate training of physicians, entitled "The hypothalamus/hypophysis interactions", was organized during the first three days of the study, headed by Academician M. Sekso. It was the first ever course of postgraduate training held at the Zagreb School of Medicine, so that H. Frahm held the first lecture at the first course of postgraduate education at our School of Medicine.

Regular student exchange started in 1980. Every year, six Zagreb students went to Hamburg, while six Hamburg students came to Zagreb as student trainees, at first to Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital with a study visit to Vuk Vrhovac University Clinic, and later also to Zagreb University Hospital Center when Prof. D. Vrbanec had been awarded Humboldt scholarship. This tradition continued even during the war in Croatia, yet one-way now, and our students paid study visits to Hamburg; since 1996, however, medical students from Hamburg come to our institutions as student trainees every year.

During the first two years of war in Croatia, Prof. Frahm and Prof. Seitz (now Prof. Frahm's successor at the position of head of the Hamburg – Zagreb collaboration) along with Prof. Jung and co-workers collected humanitarian aid for Croatia of some 8 million DEM; by 1995, the value of this aid rose to about 12 million DEM. Prof. Frahm was always ready to offer any opportunity for training to our physicians. The author of these lines performed the majority of his doctoral research in Hamburg between 1972 and 1975, and Academician Ž. Reiner between 1980 and 1982.

All merits go to H. Frahm for having referred Ž. Gnjjidić, a neurosurgeon, for training to Prof. Kautsky and Dr. Lüdecke, and for Dr. Lüdecke having come to Zagreb to perform some operations and to present a number

of highly useful and expensive instruments. Above all, H. Frahm was a nice man having every understanding for his patients, his co-workers and also for all Croatian physicians and other medical professionals he had helped wholeheartedly during their long-standing close and fruitful collaboration. So, Academician Reiner wrote about him: "My stay in Hamburg was very interesting and pleasant indeed, as I was frequently invited to Prof. Frahm's home, who by no means fit the stereotype of people from the north of Germany, where he actually comes from; rather, his warm personality and serenity remind of the Mediterranean spirit. Along with his fellow workers, he made me frequently feel at home in the mostly rainy Hamburg".

The heart of the great man, excellent physician, extraordinary lecturer, sincere friend of Croatia, and beautiful husband, father and grandfather stopped on January 28, 2008, in Mönkeberg near Kiel, surrounded by his two daughters and four grandchildren. He was buried on February 5, 2008, in the family vault in Travemünde. A few years ago, some physicians of Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital launched an idea that Prof. Frahm, Prof. Seitz and Dr. Lüdecke be proposed for an order to be bestowed on them by President of the Republic of Croatia. I do believe that Prof. Frahm fully deserved to be decorated posthumously.

Tomislav Čabrijan

References

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2. Reiner Željko. In: ŠKRABALO Z *et al.*, eds. Prilozi za povijest dijabetologije i endokrinologije u Hrvatskoj. Zagreb: Nakladni zavod Globus, 1999:267-76.

IN MEMORIAM

Marija Vesna Vukadinović, MD
(1930-2008)

In May 2008, we had to face the grim fact that Marija Vesna Vukadinović, MD, our colleague, teacher and retired head of our Department of Microbiology, Parasitology and Hospital Infections, succumbed to severe illness and departed this life.

Dr. Marija Vesna Vukadinović was born on 1930 in Sarajevo. She graduated from the Zagreb University School of Medicine in 1956 and became specialist in medical microbiology and parasitology in 1967. She was awarded the title of Head Doctor in 1978. She was fully devoted to her profession and received additional training at microbiology centers in the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada. She took active part in numerous congresses and symposia in Croatia and abroad.

She was appointed head of the Department of Microbiology, Parasitology and Hospital Infections, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital in 1982, which position she held until her retirement in 1998. Dr. Marija Vesna Vukadinović was author of a number of professional and scientific papers published in Croatian and internation-



al journals. She was also very successful as lecturer in microbiology at Nursing College in Zagreb.

She was member of the Croatian Medical Association, European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, and Croatian Society of Microbiology. Her productive professional work in the field of hospital hygiene and hospital infection control contributed to better results achieved in the prevention of hospital infections. In the field of microbiology, her special interests were urinary tract infections, *Corynebacterium*

urealyticum, *Staphylococcus lugdunensis*, and *Helicobacter pylori* infections.

On behalf of Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital and Department of Microbiology, Parasitology and Hospital Infections, we express our sincerest and heartiest appreciation to the memory of the life and work of Dr. Marija Vesna Vukadinović. We express our deepest sympathy to her children Živana, Rajka and Ognjen.

May the memory of Dr. Marija Vesna Vukadinović long outlive her life.

Ines Jajić-Benčić