

Prof. Dr. Drago Novak

On the occasion of his 70th birthday

The conversation was conducted and recorded by the primary doctor, Dr. Vladimir Cvetnić, an otorhinolaryngologist.

Prof. Dr. Med. Dragutin Novak is a physician and scientist, a traveller and a citizen of the world, a cartographer and a collector of old maps of Croatia, a sympathizer of fine arts. Dragutin Novak was born in Đurđevac on 20th March, 1933. He finished primary school and lower classes of high school in his hometown, and he graduated from high school in Koprivnica. In the academic year 1952/53 he started to study at the Faculty of Medicine in Zagreb and graduated within a due time, in 1957. He started working immediately as a junior practitioner in Rijeka, but had to interrupt his trainee period because of the army service in Banja Luka. Later on he went to Germany, to Duisburg. From 1961 to 1963 he specialized in surgery at St. Vincenz Hospital. He continued his specialization in Hamburg, and in the University Clinic in that town he started his specialization in radiology. In 1976 he finished his specialization, became a senior lecturer, got his *venia legendi*, and in 1977 he was granted the title of radiology professor. In the period between 1976 and 1980, he was a director of the Central Institute for Radiology in Ludwigshafen. Between 1980 and 1984 he founded he was a director in Janker clinic in Bonn for Röntgen diagnostics. In 1984 he founded his own Institute for Radiological Diagnostics and Nuclear Medicine in Bonn (CT, MRI, US, NUC). He was retired in the year 2001 and now lives in Čakovec.

Professor Novak, you celebrate your 70th birthday these days. I wish to address you with thou, we are the same generation, and we know each other from the students' days. It is the time when people sum up and analyse their achievements, especially if they are interested in many possibilities of the human mind. You are surely one of them. Still, you are first of all a doctor. Your were born in a small town in Podravina. Tell me, what motivated you to study medicine?

*Many years Dr. Petar Bazijanac worked in Đurđevac as general practitioner; I observed his work as a small boy. He was a very good diagnostician. And not only that, he tried to heal every patient, whenever it was possible. I remember a lady patient who broke her thumb bone at a typical spot. He adjusted the bones, diascoped it, and after finding out that the bones were responded, he immobilized the forearm with a cast. There were numerous cases like that or similar. I wanted to follow his example, he was my idol. He would send to the hospital only those patients who he could not treat in his circumstances. In the high school I read the book by Roger Martin du Gard – *Les Thibaux* (*Thibaux Family*). I was deeply impressed by the book. Those were important moments, with many other of course, that were crucial in my final decision to study medicine.*

Immediately after finishing your work as a junior doctor, you went abroad, to Western Germany of that time. Why?

It was not very easy to find a job and a home with perspective for further improvement. Apart from that, I had no flat which is also very important if one wants to start a family. In Germany I had more friends that I knew from my students' days. They really helped me so I was employed right away in St. Vincenz Hospital at the surgical ward in Duisburg. I started specializing surgery. I continued the same specialization in the Surgery Clinic and with Prof. Zenker in Munich. Surgery was not fulfilling enough for me. I started thinking about the branch of medicine that would be my final choice. Since I always felt that analysis and synthesis, the two indispensable approaches in medicine in making diagnosis, were completely meeting my wishes, I decided to try radiology believing that this would be a field completely adequate to my wishes. In 1964, there was a vacancy for an assistant at the University Clinic in Hamburg. Prof. Prevôt took me in and I was the first stranger at that Clinic. I would like to point

Prof. dr. med. Drago Novak

U povodu 70. rođendana

Razgovor vodio i zapisao
prim. dr. sc. Vladimir
Cvetnić, otorinolaringolog

Prof. dr. med. Dragutin Novak je liječnik-znanstvenik, svjetski putnik-građanin svijeta, kartograf i kolekcionar starih zemljovida Hrvatske, ljubitelj likovne umjetnosti. Dragutin Novak rođen je u Đurđevcu 20. ožujka 1933 godine. U rodnom je mjestu završio osnovnu školu i niže razrede gimnazije, a više razrede s ispitom zrelosti u Koprivnici. Akad. god. 1952/53 upisao se na Medicinski fakultet u Zagrebu, koji završava u roku, 1957. Odmah započinje liječnički staž u Rijeci i završava samo dio zbog odsluženje vojnog roka. Drugi dio staža obavlja u Banja Luci. Odlazi u Njemačku u Duisburg. Od 1961. do 1963. specijalizira kirurgiju u St. Vincenz Hospitalu. Nastavlja zatim istu specijalizaciju kod prof. Zenkera u Münchenu. God. 1964. odlazi u Hamburg i na Sveučilišnoj klinici u tom gradu započinje specijalizaciju iz radiologije. God. 1976. završava specijalizaciju, postaje docent, dobiva venia legendi i u hamburgu postaje 1977. profesorom radiologije. U razdoblju 1976-1980. direktor je Centralnog instituta za radiologiju u Ludwigshafenu. U razdoblju 1980.-1984. direktor je u Jancker klinici u Bonnu za rendgensku dijagnostiku. God 1984. osniva vlastiti Institut za rendgensku dijagnostiku i nuklearnu medicinu u Bonnu (CT, MRI, US, NUC). Od 2000. god. je u mirovini i živi u Čakovcu.

Profesore Novak, ovih dana slaviš 70. rođendan. Oslovljavat ću Te s Ti, ista smo generacija, a poznajemo se od studentskih dana. To je doba, kada ljudi sumiraju i analiziraju svoja dostignuća, pogotovo, ako su imali interes za mnoga dostignuća ljudskog uma. Među njih zacijelo spadaš i Ti. Ipak, Ti si prvenstveno liječnik, i zato ću početi s medicinom. Rođen si u manjem gradiću u Podravini. Reci što Te ponukalo da si se odlučio za studij medicine?



U Đurđevcu je mnogo godina radio liječnik opće prakse dr. Petar Bazijanac. Promatrao sam njegov rad još kao dječak. Bio je dobar dijagnostičar. Ne samo to, on je nastojao izliječiti svakog bolesnika, kada god je to bilo moguće. Sjećam se jedne bolesnice koja je slomila palčanu kost na tipičnom mjestu. Namjestio je kosti, dijaskopirao je i kad je utvrdio da su kosti responirane, imobilizirao je podlakticu gipsom. Bilo je bezbroj

takvih ili sličnih primjera. Htio sam ga slijediti, bio mi je uzor. Samo nerješive bolesnike u njegovim prilikama slao je u bolnicu. U srednjoj školi pročitao sam knjigu Rogera Martina du Garda – Les Thibeaux (Porodica Thibeaux). Knjiga je ostavila na mene duboki dojam. Eto, to su bili važni momenti, naravno, uz još mnoge druge, koji su bili presudni u konačnoj odluci za studij medicine.

Odmah poslije završenog liječničkog staža otišao si u inozemstvo, tadašnju Zapadnu Njemačku. Zašto?

U domovini nije bilo lako naći zaposlenje, gdje bi postojala perspektiva za trajniji razvoj. Osim toga nisam imao stan, što je neophodno, ako planiraš zasnovati obitelj. U Njemačkoj sam imao više prijatelja još od studentskih dana. Oni su mi zaista pomogli, tako da sam odmah dobio mjesto u Bolnici St. Vincenz na kirurškom odjelu u Duisburgu. Započeo sam specijalizaciju iz kirurgije. Istu specijalizaciju nastavio sam u Kirurškoj klinici prof. Zenkera u Münchenu. Kirurgija me, međutim nije posve ispunila. Počeo sam razmišljati za koju bih se granu medicine konačno opredijelio. Budući da sam uvijek osjećao da me analiza i sinteza, dva neophodna pristupa u medicini u postavljanju dijagnoze, u potounosti zadovoljavaju, odlučio sam prijeći na radiologiju, misleći da bih upravo na tom području mogao ispuniti svoje želje. God. 1964. raspisan

out that I have never been sorry because it was the job in which I was able to realize all my ambitions. I started specializing radiology. From the first day I was able to work scientifically, to write for and report at congresses in the country and abroad. I was also the first stranger from Germany who became a member of the Radiological Society of North America. During the period 1964-76 I finished my specialization in radiology, wrote my doctoral thesis, became a senior lecturer, received my venia legendi and in 1977 I became a professor of radiology at the Faculty of Hamburg.

You participate at radiological congresses throughout the world very often.

It is true. I have always combined professional training with learning about the country the congress has taken place in. It is well known that radiology was developed and improved along with technical developments. A very small exclusion from this general development is felt immediately. I had 140 reports at congresses, published 120 works, mostly in American literature. I collaborated on the work on 22 books with single chapters. It might be convenient to mention now that I have initiated and organized the printing of the journal Medizin im Bild and was its chief editor for several years. The intention of the journal was to show the substrata of various illnesses of the human organism on pictures more than with words.

What is your contribution to the European and world radiology? Which of your works do you consider the most significant? I know it is not very easy to be separated from everything you have done.

I am going to mention a few titles that can reveal at least something about my work: Occlusion veinography and arteriography with balloon catheters of liver, kidneys and lungs. Embolization of tumour on kidneys and other organs. I have processed the complications with this method statistically using the data from world centres where embolization was practiced. Then, pharmacoradiology of gastrointestinal tract - hypopharynx duodenography without using probes, hypopharynx esofagography and control of small intestine with double contrast, and lung damage after the inhalation of toxic gasses and vapours.

Since you have mentioned the lung damage caused by inhalation of toxic vapours, does smoking belong to the same area?

True. It is a chronic damage of lung parenchyma by inhalation of nicotine and carcinogenic substances. I managed to prove proliferate changes in the lung parenchyma in a systematic examination of 600 chronic smokers along with the control group using CT. Such people can easily get ill of certain lung diseases, first of all chronic bronchitis, but also the malignant ones. It is already known, but there was not exact concept about what pathophysiological changes occurring in the lung parenchyma are responsible for it. I held a lecture on this topic two years ago in Croatian Academy of Science and Arts.

I understand from our conversation that you are occupied with the history of radiology lately?

Yes, it is true, but it has been going on for several years already. I have already presented some of this issues. I would like to highlight the area I deal with: A - Illustrated History of Angiography, B - Illustrated History of Medical Diagnostics with Ultra-Sound and D- Illustrated History of Gastrointestinal and Abdominal Radiology.

You are a member of many scientific and professional societies, let us hear a few of them.

I am a member of 11 societies. I will mention just a few: New York Academy of Sciences, Royal Society of Medicine London, Deutsche Röntgen Gesellschaft etc.

I know that you were rewarded several times at congresses. Which are your favourite rewards?

Each of them is very dear to me. But I will mention the two latest from the last year, at the world congress in Mexico in Cancun and the last BEST POSTER 2002, that I was rewarded by CIRSE (Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiological Society of Europe).

Apart from medicine, you are also a great sympathizer of books. During the studies at the Faculty of Medicine you also studied comparative literature with Prof. Hergešić. Today you own a library with about 7500 books. What kind of books are they, which field?

The books are classified as follows: 1. old radiological books, 2. travel books, books and guides of the countries I have visited, 3. literature about seas and ships, sea voyages, 4. fiction, homeland and foreign, 5. history and cartography.

Speaking about books, I know that you own a large collection of Ex libris.

je natječaj za asistenta na Sveučilišnoj klinici u Hamburgu. Prof. Prevôt me primio i bio sam prvi stranac na toj klinici. Želim odmah reći da se nikada nisam pokajao, jer je to bilo mjesto, gdje sam mogao ostvariti svoje ambicije. Započeo sam specijalizaciju iz radiologije. Od prvoga dana bio mi je omogućen znanstveni rad, pisanje i nastupanje na kongresima u zemlji i inozemstvu. Želim istaknuti da sam bio prvi stranac iz Njemačke koji je postao članom Radiological Society of North America. U razdoblju 1964-76 završio sam specijalizaciju iz radiologije, napisao habilitacijski rad, postao docentom, dobio venia legendi i 1977. postao profesorom radiologije na hamburškom fakultetu.

Često nastupaš diljem svijeta na radiološkim kongresima.

To je točno. Uvijek sam kombinirao stručno usavršavanje s upoznavanjem zemlje u kojoj se kongres održavao. Poznato je da se radiologija razvijala i usavršavala paralelno s općim tehničkim razvojem. Samo malo isključenje iz tog općeg razvoja odmah se osjeća. Održao sam na kongresima 140 referata, publicirao 120 radova, najviše u američkoj literaturi. Suradnik sam u 22 knjige s pojedinim poglavljima. Možda je prikladno ovdje spomenuti, da sam inicirao i organizirao tiskanje časopisa Medizin im Bild i bio glavnim urednikom više godina. Intencija časopisa je bila da se slikom više nego riječima pokažu supstrati najrazličitijih bolesti ljudskog organizma.

Koji je Tvoj doprinos europskoj i svjetskoj radiologiji? Koje od svojih radova smatraš najznačajnijima? Znam da to nije lako izdvojiti iz Tvog fundusa.

Nabrojati ću nekoliko naslova iz kojih se može zaključiti barem nešto o momu radu: Okluziona venografija i arteriografija s balon kateterima jetre, bubrega i pluća, Embolizacija tumora bubrega i drugih organa. Komplikacije te metode statistički sam obradio koristeći podatke iz svjetskih centara gdje se embolizacija prakticirala. Zatim Farmakoradiologija gastrointestinalnog trakta – hipotona duodenografija bez upotrebe sonde, hipotona ezofagografija i pregled tankog crijeva s dvostrukim kontrastom te oštećenje pluća nakon inhalacije tksičnih plinova i para.

Kad si već spomenuo oštećenje pluća zbog udisanja toksičnih para, ne spada li tu i pušenje?

Točno. To je kronično oštećivanje plućnog parenhima udisanjem nikotina i kancerogenih

tvari. Meni je sistematskim pregledom 600 kroničnih pušača uz kontrolnu grupu CT-om uspješno dokazati proliferativne promjene u plućnom parenhimu. Takvi su ljudi skloni obolijevanju od određenih plućnih bolesti prvenstveno od kroničnog bronhitisa, ali i malignih. To je poznato od ranije, ali kakve su patohistološke promjene nastale u plućnom parenhimu odgovorne za to, nije bilo točne predodžbe. O tome sam prije dvije godine održao predavanje u HAZU.

Iz razgovora sam shvatio, da si u posljednje vrijeme zaokupljen poviješću radiologije?

Da, istina je, ali to traje više godina. Već sam i prezentirao nešto od toga. Želio bih označiti poglavlja koja obrađujem: A – Ilustrirana povijest angiografije, B – Ilustrirana povijest medicinske dijagnostike ultrazvukom i D – Ilustrirana povijest gastrointestinalne i abdominalne radiologije.

Član si mnogih znanstvenih i stručnih društava, spomeni barem neke od njih.

Član sam 11 društava. Spomenut ću samo ove: New York Academy of Sciences, Royal Society of Medicine London, Deutsche Röntgen Gesellschaft itd.

Znam da si na kongresima dobio više nagrada. Koje su ti najdraže?

Svaka mi je nagrada draga. Ali spomenut ću dvije najnovije od prošle godine, na svjetskom kongresu u Meksiku u Cancunu i zadnja BEST POSTER 2002, koju mi je dodijelio CIRSE (Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiological Society of Europe):

Osim medicine veliki si ljubitelj knjiga. Za vrijeme studija na Medicinskom fakultetu upisao si komparativnu književnost kod prof. Hergešića. Danas imaš biblioteku od oko 7500 knjiga. Kakve su to knjige, koje vrste?

Knjige su razvrstane ovako: 1. stare rendgenološke knjige, 2. putopisi, knjige i vodiči zemalja koje sam posjetio, 3. literatura o morima i brodovima, putovanja morima, 4. beletristika domaća i svjetska, 5. povijest i kartografija.

Kad je riječ o knjigama znam da imaš veliku kolekciju Ex librisa.

Član sam njemačkoga društva Ex librisa. U Hrvatskoj su se ranije označavale i ukrašavale knjige ex librisima. Danas se to radi rijeđe. U slavenskim zemljama, zatim u Austriji i Njemačkoj to je običaj. Meni je 27 naših i stranih grafičara

I am a member of the German society of Ex libris. The books used to be designated and decorated earlier with Ex libris in Croatia. Today it is not done so often. In Slavic countries, then in Austria and Germany, it is a custom. 27 Croatian and foreign graphic artists have made ex libris with my name for me. Ex libris are exchanged with other collectors. I wanted, however, to decorate my books with my ex libris. It should be pointed out that ex libris has also an artistic value.

You own a large collection of art works, especially the paintings from the second half of the 20th century. It is well known that you are not only passionate collector, but also a good connoisseur of fine arts, which was noticed by the critics who wrote about your exhibitions of these paintings. Before you buy any work, your first talk to authors.

This is my usual practice. I get the information from authors about artistic motivations that moved them to make a painting, sculpture or graphic. My collection contains more than 500 artistic paintings, graphics and sculptures. I have shown that at the exhibitions in the Museum of Peasant Rebellions in Stubica, in the Painting Gallery of the town Đurđevac, Koprivnica, Križevci, Bjelovar and Čakovec.

I think there was an idea that you would donate the collection to your hometown Đurđevac. Why did it not happen?

It has been postponed because we have not found suitable premises, but there have also been some other reasons.

Apart from medicine, your main preoccupation is cartography.

There is a society in London called IMCoS (International Map Collector's Society). It has about 500 members from the whole world. As a member of this society, I organized in 1989 in Zagreb a symposium and an exhibition of maps, and in Dubrovnik an exhibition of sea navigation charts. In 1992, I organised in the Art and Craft Museum in Zagreb an exhibition titled Croatian Borders on Old Maps. The exhibition was accompanied by a catalogue with the preface written by Dr. F. Tuđman. I wrote the introduction. The exhibition in just constituted state Croatia had very positive historical and political repercussions. About 80% of the exhibits were from my collections. Školska knjiga will soon publish the edition Five Centuries of Old Maps of Croatian Lands. The old maps are historical

documents par excellence. That's why all libraries take good care of such material.

Do you still wish to travel a lot?

I still have this urge. I have registered this year, too, to participate with lectures at three congresses abroad. I will combine the congresses with learning more about these countries. So far, I have visited more than 70 countries throughout the world.

Which countries have impressed you the most?

I have been to Japan several times. My deepest impressions are however connected with Burma (Mianmar), and especially Laos. The people there are good, honest and very religious. They are very skilled in manual activities and can make all kinds of objects for everyday usage that finally end up as works of art.

A part of your house looks like a museum.

It is not just like that, but I have brought something typical from every country I have visited and it will always remind me that I was there.

I would like to talk to you about the Homeland War. Where were you during that time?

It was the period of great engagement. I was trying to build a lobby for Croatia, to spread understanding for the establishment of an independent state, and as all Croats, I gave money for weapons. I find it very significant that I organized the constitution of the World Croatian Convention (SHS), the roof association of Croats in the world, I was the first secretary of that organisation. In 1992 I organized in Bonn a preparation meeting of SHS that resulted in the 1st meeting of the World Convention in Zagreb held in the Old Townhall.

You were received by the president, Dr. Franjo Tuđman. What was your impression?

Our meetings were very open-hearted, but he was not very thrilled by my lack of party commitment.

Please, tell me, what troubles did you go through to have the sabre of ban Jelačić back in Zagreb?

I found out that the sabre that belonged to ban Jelačić was being offered at an auction of valuable historical objects. It was before the Homeland War. I went to auction to Munich by my car. There was a traffic accident on the highway, which caused traffic jam. There was a

izradilo ex libris s mojim imenom. Ex librisi se razmjenjuju s drugim kolekcionarima. Moja je tendencija međutim ta, da vlastitim ex librisima s mojim imenom ukrašavam svoje knjige. Treba svakako istaknuti da ex librisi imaju nedvojbeno umjetničku vrijednost.

Posjeduješ veliku zbirku umjetničkih djela, posebno slika druge polovice 20. stoljeća. Poznato je da nisi samo strastveni kolekcionar već i dobar poznavatelj likovne umjetnosti, napisali su kritičari u vezi s izložbama tih slika. Prije kupovanja bilo kojeg umjetničkog djela razgovaraš s autorom.

To je moja ustaljena praksa. Od autora dobivam informacije o umjetničkim porivima zašto su napravili upravo takvu sliku, skulpturu ili grafiku. Moja kolekcija sadrži više od 500 umjetničkih slika, grafika i skulptura. To sam i pokazao na izložbama u Muzeju seljačkih buna u Stubici, u Galeriji slika grada Đurđevca, Koprivnici, Križevcima, Bjelovaru i Čakovcu.

Mislim da je postojala ideja da tu zbirku pokloniš rodnom gradu Đurđevcu. Zašto se to nije ostvarilo?

To je odgođeno jer nismo našli adekvatne prostorije, a bili su posrijedi i drugi razlozi zbog kojih se to nije ostvarilo.

Osim medicine Tvoja glavna preokupacija je kartografija.



16/100 drvolet, 1989. Branko Vujanović

U Londonu postoji društvo koje se zove IMCoS (International Map Collector's Society). Ima oko 500 članova iz čitava svijeta. Kao član toga društva organizirao sam 1989. u Zagrebu simpozij i izložbu zemljovida, a u Dubrovniku izložbu pomorskih karata. God. 1992. u Muzeju za umjetnost i obrt u Zagrebu organizirao sam izložbu pod naslovom Granice Hrvatske na starim zemljovidima. Izložba je bila popraćena katalogom čiji je predgovor napisao dr. Franjo Tuđman, a uvod sam napisao ja. Izložba je u tek stvorenoj državi Hrvatskoj imala vrlo pozitivan povijesni i politički odjek. Oko 80% izložaka bilo je iz moje zbirke. Uskoro će izaći iz tiska u izdanju Školske knjige edicija Pet stoljeća starih karata hrvatskih zemalja. Stari zemljovidni su povijesni dokumenti par excellence. Zbog toga sve nacionalne biblioteke pomno čuvaju takav materijal.

Imaš li još neutaživu žeđ za putovanjima?

To me još drži. I ove godine prijavio sam predavanja na tri kongresa u inozemstvu. Kombinirat ću kongrese s upoznavanjem dotičnih zemalja. Dosada sam posjetio više od 70 zemalja diljem svijeta.

Iz kojih si zemalja donio najljepše dojmove?

U Japanu sam bio više puta. Najdublje sam međutim dojmove donio iz Burme (Mianmara), ali posebno iz Laosa. Ljudi su tamo dobri, poštjeni i prožeti dubokom religioznošću. Manuelno su jako spretni u izradi svakodnevnih predmeta, koji na kraju ispadnu umjetničko djelo.

Dio Tvoje kuće izgleda kao muzej.

Nije baš tako, ali iz svake sam zemlje koju sam posjetio donio nešto tipično za tu zemlju što će me uvijek podsjećati da sam bio tamo.

Želio bih s Tobom razgovarati o Domovinskom ratu. Gdje si se Ti našao u tom vihoru?

Bilo je to razdoblje velike angažiranosti. Lobirao sam za Hrvatsku, širio razumijevanje za stvaranje samostalnih država, kao i svi Hrvati davao sam novac za oružje. Ono, čemu pridajem značenje je činjenica da sam organizirao stvaranje Svjetskog hrvatskog sabora (SHS), krovne udruge hrvatske dijasporne, bio sam prvi glavni tajnik te organizacije. God. 1992. organizirao sam u Bonnu pripremni sastanak SHS-a, koji je doveo do 1. sastanka Svjetskog sabora u Zagrebu održanog u Starogradskoj vijećnici.

Primio Te predsjednik dr. Franjo Tuđman. Kakav si dojam stekao?

risk I would be late. I asked a friend by phone to represent me, and I came in a last minute and the sabre was bought. After that it was a problem to bring the sabre to Zagreb. Everything was settled down with the customs office in Germany, but the problem was in the customhouse at the Zagreb airport. The chief officer of the custom-service who was not at work then, wanted to see the sabre, so the officers left it till the next day. The next day, the sabre was given to the director of the Historical Museum in Zagreb where it is kept today.

You were loyal to the University in Hamburg for a long time. Later on, you became a director of the Central Institute for Radiology in Ludwigshafen, and then in Janker Clinic in Bonn, and in the end you founded your own Institute for Radiological Diagnostics and Nuclear Medicine (CT, MRI, US, NUC). My next question is connected to it. Did you get homesick during your stay in Germany, die you have any problems in developing your career?

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In a country that has things settled and regulated, a man easily gets used to that kind of life, especially if you can fulfil your wishes in profession and life in general. The circumstances in Germany were completely different from those in our country. I was constantly in connection to Croatia, earlier as well as recently, I used to come several times a year to my country, and I knew more or less what was going on in Croatia in order to be more connected to my homeland, I made my specialists exam in radiology in Zagreb after having it done in Hamburg. I would say that there are problems and difficulties everywhere. To live and to work abroad is rather specific. As long as you are equal inter pares and at working place where they need you, there are no problems. The problems can be created at the moment when you become different from the others, especially in your profession. It can be prevailed by persistent work and huge energy. I have mentioned that I used to exercise managing duties.

My next question is different from what we have spoken about so far. You are the man who was always interested in social events as well. You are a member of the American Academy of Political Sciences. Tell us, what do you think about our young experts going abroad even today?

Foreign countries are still attractive. Today we live in different times compared to the time when

I finished my studies. The things are developing in such a way that the interest for foreign countries will fade away, although I think too slowly. But whether our young experts stay home or go abroad, they must understand that a lot of energy and work above all must be invested in prosperity. I am not sure whether our young generations accept that. The society is obliged to create the conditions at home and motivate these people. In such circumstances young experts will go abroad just to improve their skills, and then they will come back home. However, it should not be forgotten, that general globalization causes migrations of people. This process is inevitable and cannot be stopped. But general civilization and culture equalization of people will cause nostalgia for their roots and origins. This will be another reason for coming home.

Your are now retired, you live in Čakovec. This is a small, but very pretty town. Have you found your peace? I ask you because you have always been connected to Đurđevac. No "picokijada" could take place without you.

I am very satisfied. I live in harmony with the landscape and people of Međimurje. My parents have gone to Prelog long time ago, so it is in some way coming back to our roots. Apart from that, my wife Zlata comes from Međimurje. I often visit Đurđevac.

Professor Novak, when you were 65 years old, your friend, more than 50 of them, published on that occasion a Memorial Book – Festschrift to your honour titled *Ispod duge most, Rainbow bridge* and in German, *Regenbogen-Brücke*. Those were the people with various professions and from various countries, and wrote very interesting contributions in their own language and their field of activity. Thus, they wanted to point out your and their own cultural and historical interests. They wanted to point out your connection with your country. Will they do something similar for your 70th birthday?

I do not know for sure, but I have heard some rumours. In any case, if it happens, I will be very happy.

Professor Dr. Drago Novak is still working with almost the same energy as he used to a few year ago. He has still not realized all his plans. Even if he want write anything else, he left a deep trace not only in medicine, but also in other activities of human mind. I thank you most kindly, professor, for the conversation and wish you a long life and a lot of health. Ad multos annos!

Susreti su bili vrlo srdačni, ali moja stranačka neopredjeljenost nije ga oduševila.

Molim Te, reci nam, kakve si sve peripetije morao riješiti da sablja bana Jelačića dospije u Zagreb?

Doznao sam da se na aukciji vrijednih povijesnih predmeta prodaje i sablja bana Jelačića. Bilo je to prije Domovinskog rata. Krenuo sam automobilom u München na aukciju. Na autoputu se dogodila prometna nesreća. Bio je veliki zastoj u prometu. Prijetila je opasnost da zakasnim. Telefonom sam tada angažirao jednog prijatelja da me zastupa, a ja sam došao u zadnji tren i sablja je kupljena. Nakon toga nastaju problemi s donošenjem sablje u Zagreb. S carinom u Njemačkoj je bilo sve sređeno, ali na carini zagrebačkog aerodroma nastaje problem. Šef carine, koji tada nije bio u službi, htio je vidjeti sablju, pa su je službenici ostavili do sljedećeg dana. Sablja je sutradan predana direktorici Povijesnog muzeja u Zagrebu, gdje se i danas čuva.

Dugo si bio vjeran Sveučilištu u Hamburgu. Kasnije si postao direktorom Centralnog instituta za radiologiju u Ludwigshafenu, zatim u Janker klinici u Bonnu i na kraju si osnovao vlastiti Institut za rendgensku dijagnostiku i nuklearnu medicinu (CT, MRI, US, NUC). U vezi s tim je moje sljedeće pitanje. Za vrijeme boravka u Njemačkoj, da li je postojala nostalgija za domovinom, jesi li imao problema u postizanju karijere?

U sređenoj zemlji čovjek se lako privikne na život, pogotovo, ako možeš ostvariti svoje želje u struci i općenito u životu. Prilike su u Njemačkoj bile sasvim druge u usporedbi s našima. Stalno sam bio u vezi s Hrvatskom i ranije i u najnovije vrijeme, dolazio sam i više puta godišnje, znao sam uglavnom o svemu što se u Hrvatskoj događa. Da bih bio što bolje vezan za domovinu i u Zagrebu sam položio specijalistički ispit iz radiologije nakon završene specijalizacije u Hamburgu. Rekao bih da problema i teškoća ima svugdje. Živjeti i raditi u inozemstvu je specifično. Dok si jednak inter pares i na radnom mjestu, gdje te trebaju, nema problema. Problemi nastaju onoga momenta kada si odskočio od ostalih u bilo čemu, posebno u struci. Ustrajnim radom i golemom energijom i to se može prevladati. Spomenuo sam, da sam vršio i direktorske dužnosti.

Ovo moje pitanje odudara od onoga o čemu smo dosada razgovarali, Ti si čovjek kojeg su uvijek zanimala i društvena zbivanja. Član si i American

Academy of Political Sciences. Reci nam, što Ti misliš o odlasku naših mladih stručnjaka i danas u inozemstvo?

Još uvijek je inozemstvo primamljivo. Danas je ipak drugo vrijeme i prilike u usporedbi s vremenom kad sam ja završio studij. Stvara se takva klima, ali mislim prepolako, da će interes za inozemstvo splašnjavati. No bez obzira na to, da li naši mladi stručnjaci ostanu u domovini ili odu u inozemstvo, moraju shvatiti da je za prosperitet potrebno uložiti golemu energiju i rad iznad svega. Nisam siguran da naše mlade generacije to prihvaćaju. Društvena je, međutim, obaveza stvoriti kod kuće uvjete za rad i motivirati te ljude. U takvim prilikama odlaziti će mladi stručnjaci samo na usavršavanje u inozemstvo, privremeno, i vraćati će se kući. Ipak valja imati na pameti da opća globalizacija dovodi do migracija ljudi. Taj je proces neizbježan i nezaustavljiv. Ali opća civilizacijska i kulturna izjednačavanja ljudi dovest će do nostalgije za korijenima i izvorima. To će biti još jedan razlog vraćanja kući.

Sada si u mirovini, živiš u Čakovcu. To je mali, ali lijepi gradić. Jesi li našao svoj mir? To Te pitam za to, jer si uvijek bio vezan uz Đurđevac. Nijedna picokijada nije bila bez Tebe.

Vrlo sam zadovoljan. Živim u harmoniji i skladu s krajolikom i ljudima Međimurja. Moji roditelji su odavna u Prelogu, pa je to na neki način povratak korijenima. Osim toga moja supruga Zlata je prava Međimurka. Đurđevac i dalje posjećujem.

Profesore Novak, kada si navršio 65 godina života Tvoji prijatelji, više od 50 njih izdali su tim povodom Spomen knjigu – Festschrift Tebi u čast pod naslovom Ispod duge most, Rainbow bridge i na njemačkom, Regenbogen-Brücke. Bili su to ljudi različitih profesija iz raznih zemalja pa su i napisali zanimljive priloge na svojem jeziku i iz svojeg područja. Time su htjeli istaknuti Tvoje i svoje kulturne i povijesne interese. Htjeli su time naglasiti i Tvoju povezanost s domovinom. Da li će Ti i u povodu 70. rođendana učiniti nešto slično?

Ne znam točno, ali nešto sam načuo. U svakom slučaju, ako se to ostvari, jako će me razveseliti.

Profesor dr. Drago Novak još radi gotovo istom energijom kao i prije nekoliko godina. Još nije ispunio sve svoje planove. Da i ne napiše više ništa, ostavio je duboki trag ne samo u medicini nego i u drugim djelatnostima ljudskoga uma. Ja Ti profesore srdačno zahvaljujem na razgovoru i želim Ti dug život i obilje zdravlja. Ad multos annos!