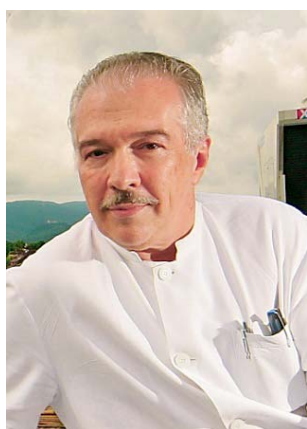# REMEMBERING DANIJEL DOŠEN
(1948. – 2024.)

In February 2024. we lost our respected colleague and friend Danijel Došen.

He was born on 5th September 1948. and passed away on 15th February 2024. in Zagreb.

In sadness, he left his wife Dubravka, two sons Karlo and Fran, he was so proud of, and three grandchildren Marko, Marija, and Marta whom he enjoyed all the days they had together.

Growing up as the only child in the family he got a broad education and developed an interest and passion for music, arts, and literature. He started school before turning six and finished classical high school. With a classical foundation in Latin and Greek, he easily learned foreign languages. He was fluent in French, English, and Italian, and could use German, which opened possibilities for international education. He graduated from Medical School in Zagreb in 1972. He finished his ENT residency in 1978. as the youngest ENT specialist at the time. From his early professional years, he spent training periods in Belgium, France, Spain, Great Britain, and Italy, collecting knowledge and professional philosophy that he unselfishly shared with colleagues.

From his early days as a resident to retirement, he worked in the University Hospital for Tumours. He was the head of the Department of Head and neck surgery and deputy director of the hospital for more than 20 years. He was a member of the Croatian Physicians Organisation, an active member and president of Croatian Oto-Rhino-Laryngology and Head and Neck Surgery, and a member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and EORTC corporative group for head and neck cancer. He published more than fifty scientific papers and ten book chapters. In this journal, he served as a member of the editorial board and technical editor.

He treated patients using knowledge and surgical skills never forgetting empathy. Multidisciplinary collaboration with colleagues was part of everyday work for many years before it became the standard of care. With participation in several international projects, he brought to the hospital the improvement of daily practice and techniques to a higher level. He was a boss, professional mentor, and life coach that many dream of, but rarely have. Under his mentorship, the young people were treated with respect as team members and carefully guided towards harder choices and decisions. He supported their innovative ideas and without exception backed up nonideal results.

Danijel Došen was a visionary who introduced new ways of working in everyday practice as they appeared on the world stage. One of the greatest was the informatization of the hospital. University Hospital for Tumours was the first in Croatia, years before the others.

He was proud to be Croatian in a way typical only for the greatest nations. He was a big sports fan and followed all the games played under the Croatian flag. He died at home, in his armchair, during one of his favorite activities, watching the world championship water polo semifinal (Croatia won the gold medal several days later). For years he volunteered as a basketball team physician.

He loved life and shared it with a considerable number of friends enjoying classical music, theatre, dancing, traveling, and fine dining.

He would not agree with our choice of his photo because photography was his passion, and he knew the best.

He had a dream of making hospital, that he worked in, respectable in Croatia, Europe, and the entire world. As the hospital lost its independence that dream suddenly stopped. I am not sure if he was ever fully aware of the impact, he was having on all of us that have been under his mentorship. We learned medicine, oncology, head and neck surgery, empathy for patients, and respect for colleagues. We learned how to pass our knowledge to younger generations, and we are doing that daily.

It was an honour and privilege, not just to write this text, but even more, to grow up under his guidance professionally.

Dr. sc. Marija Pastorčić Grgić, dr. med.