

IN MEMORIAM

Prof. Višnja Hudolin, MD, PhD (1923-2008)

Višnja Hudolin, a psychiatrist, was born on April 25, 1923 in Smederevo. She completed high school in Zagreb in 1941 and graduated from the Zagreb University School of Medicine in 1949. Then she served residency in neuropsychiatry at Department of Neuropsychiatry, Dr. Mladen Stojanović General Hospital, now Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital, until 1954. In 1965, she defended her doctoral dissertation entitled *The Shape of Turkish Saddle and Upright Posture* at Zagreb University School of Medicine. She worked at the Department until retirement in 1982. From 1960, she was head of the Division of Neurology (since 1971, Department of Neurology), University Department of Neurology, Psychiatry and Other Dependencies. In 1967, she was awarded the title of Asst. Professor, in 1974 Assoc. Professor, and in 1978 Professor at Zagreb University School of Dental Medicine. From 1974 till 1982, she headed post-graduate study in social psychiatry, alcoholism and other dependencies, and from 1976 till 1982 School of Social Psychiatry, Alcoholism and Other Dependencies at Dr. Mladen Stojanović University Hospital.

Prof. Višnja Hudolin was cofounder of the European Association for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (Basel, 1972), and cofounder and first president of the Croatian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology, and of the Section for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology of the Croatian Medical Association.

Prof. Hudolin's main fields of interest were cerebrovascular diseases, neurologic diseases in gynecology and obstetrics, myasthenia and pharmacotherapy in neurology. She also dealt with electroencephalography and ultrasound diagnosis in neurology and psychiatry, acute trauma and alcoholism, and monitoring of disability and evaluation of work ability in persons suffering from alcoholism.



Prof. Hudolin published about a hundred professional and scientific papers, and was engaged in issuing alcoholism bibliography. Her articles appeared in *Primaljski vjesnik* (1958, 1959, 1962); *Anali Kliničke bolnice "Dr. Mladen Stojanović"* (1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1980, 1984); *Saopćenja Pliva* (1962, 1964, 1966); *Lijekovi* (1963); *Alkoholizam* (1965); *Novosti Krka* (1965); *Neuropsihijatrija* (1966); *Alcoholism* (1967, 1973); *British Journal of Addiction* (London, 1967); and *Nuclear Medicine* (Stuttgart, 1967). She was Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Elektrofiziologija* from 1969 to 1975, and contributed to the following handbooks and books: Vladimir Hudolin, *Psihijatrija i neurologija* (Zagreb, 1975); Vladimir Hudolin, *Obiteljsko liječenje* (Zagreb, 1986); Asim Kurjak, *Ultrazvuk u kliničkoj medicini* (Zagreb, 1977); M. De Vlieger, *Handbook of Clinical Ultrasound* (New York-Chichester-Brisbane-Toronto, 1978); H. R. Müller, *Doppler sonografija u neurologiji* (Zagreb, 1982); and M. Vukec, *Alkoholizam mladih* (Zagreb, 1984).

Prof. Hudolin was cofounder of a number of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) clubs in Croatia and abroad, which was her main interest upon retirement. She organized and conducted education and training of professionals and volunteers for work at these clubs and in other field programs of mental health care. She took active participation in many one- to six-week courses of sensitization for alcohol induced problems, offered training for professionals in Croatia, Italy and other countries, where she was very active in the foundation of AA clubs. In addition, she was co-organizer of the Italian Academy of Alcoholology and Ecologic Psychiatry within the frame of the European School of Alcoholism and Ecologic Psychiatry in Trieste. She was also co-organizer of a number

of national and international congresses, symposia and professional meetings in the field of neurology, psychiatry and alcoholology, took active part in the foundation of the World Association of the Clubs of Alcoholics on Treatment (WACAT) and was highly active in the Italian Association of the Clubs of Alcoholics on Treatment by supervising group work.

In her socio-ecologic approach, Prof. Hudolin always put family in the very focus of events, with special reference to spiritual quality as part of anthropologic determination of the life of the individual, the family and

the community, i.e. the values of social culture, ethics and social equity in the struggle for peace and growth to the benefit of the society.

She pursued her activities to the very last months of her life, helping with her valuable advice by phone and receiving visitors from all over the world. Even when suffering from terminal disease, she was close to her profession and her disciples, who took due care of her, along with her family, to the very end.

May her memory liver forever.

*Darko Breitenfeld
Vida Demarin*

IN MEMORIAM

Prof. Branko Pražić, MD, PhD (1919-2008)

Branko Pražić was born in Zagreb in a civil servant family. He completed elementary and high school in Zagreb, and enrolled in the Zagreb University School of Medicine in 1937. He interrupted his studies due to World War II and joined National Liberation Army. At the end of 1945, he was discharged as medical corps first lieutenant. Then, he continued his medical studies at Zagreb School of Medicine and graduated from it in 1947. He served his first obligatory medical field-work in Čazma near Bjelovar. Then he decided to serve residency in neuropsychiatry. In 1959, Branko Pražić



was appointed vice-head of the Department of Neuropsychiatry of the then Dr. Mladen Stojanović General Hospital that subsequently grew into university hospital. He was awarded PhD title in 1967 and Head Doctor in 1968. The topic of his doctoral dissertation was the issue of Compensatory Neurotic Reaction Following Craniocerebral Trauma. In 1972, he habilitated at Zagreb University School of Medicine with his study entitled Drawing as a Diagnostic Tool in Psychiatry, having acquired the title of Asst. Professor and then Professor at Zagreb University School of Dental Medicine.

From the very beginning, Branko Pražić focused his professional and scientific interest on the specific field

of clinical psychiatry. He advocated culturological approach as a frame of therapeutic process irrespective of the type and manifestations of the disorder. According to this approach, in current circumstances, every individual should use all opportunities for active involvement in therapeutic program to realize himself and to achieve high-quality existence. His close scientific interest was psychopathology of visual expression he had introduced in clinical psychiatry in the 1960s, organized a dozen of scientific meetings in Croatia and abroad, and wrote a number of related articles and books.

Branko Pražić took active participation in the First European Medicine and Art Biennale, held in Torino, Italy, in 1975. As many as 318 exhibitors, artists and amateurs from all over Europe presented 558 works of art, and Professor Pražić was awarded gold medal for painting. It was a brilliant achievement of a gifted physician, amateur painter, who received due appraisal in Italian newspapers and in Croatian *Liječnički vjesnik*.

The first edition of his work entitled Drawing as a Diagnostic Tool in Psychiatry, published in 1971, was soon sold out, and a supplemented and improved edition entitled Drawing and Painting in Psychiatry appeared in 1987.

This edition contained many drawings and documents with extensive explanations, witnessing Prof. Pražić's manifold and rich psychiatric practice. The book is special for bringing a rarity, a portrait of Tin Ujević, a great Croatian poet, made by one of Prof. Pražić's patients.

In 1981, he founded the Society of Yugoslav Therapists Using Visual and Other Expressive Activities. He also organized and took part in a number of international meetings in Croatia and abroad on the topics of social psychiatry, culture and arts. He paid study visits to many psychiatry centers in Europe and the USA.

Prof. Pražić wrote a number of professional and scien-

tific papers, monographs and books in the fields of neuropsychiatry and psychiatry (e.g., Neurotic Reactions Following Craniocerebral Trauma; Drawing and Painting in Psychiatry; Vision and Illusion in Arts; The Van Gogh Case; Disasters; Psychotherapy; Drawing as a Diagnostic Tool in Psychiatry; etc.). He continued his activities upon retirement, when he wrote Vision and Illusion in Arts; Talking to Psychiatrist; and other scientific papers and books.

The personnel of the University Department of Psychiatry, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital will cherish the memory of our Professor Pražić.

Danijel Buljan

IN MEMORIAM

Asst. Professor Branko Kekić, MD, PhD (1953-2008)

Asst. Professor Branko Kekić, ENT specialist at University Department of ENT, Head and Neck Surgery, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital, died on Tuesday, August 19, 2008, at the age of 56.

Branko Kekić was born on May 3, 1953, in Zagreb, where he completed elementary school, high school and School of Medicine. He was an excellent student with a high average mark. He served his internship at Vinogradska Hospital, and then worked as general practitioner in Karlovac. He came to Vinogradska Hospital 28 years ago, in 1980, to serve residency in ENT, and passed specialist exam in 1984. Then, he worked at University Department of ENT for some ten years, when the Department was headed by academician Ivo Padovan. At first, his principal field of interest was audiology. At that time, the Audiovestibular Division was headed by Professor Mihovil Pansini. They developed close and fruitful cooperation, resulting in a very high level of audiology at our Hospital. Branko Kekić did not restrict his professional interest to the diagnosis and conservative treatment of patients; on the contrary, he broke the tradition



of engagement in audiology alone and embarked upon otosurgery and performed all ear related operations. In 1991, he was appointed head of the Audiovestibular Division, and in 1995 head of the Department of Otology. During this period, he grew into an excellent otosurgeon.

Branko Kekić completed postgraduate study in ENT; then he defended his MS thesis in 1988 and his doctoral dissertation on the topic of artificial cochlea and rehabilitation of hearing in 2002.

He started his teaching activities in 1992, when he was awarded the title of senior assistant at Zagreb University School of Medicine Department of ENT with Audiology and Phoniatics. From that time on, he was actively included in undergraduate and postgraduate education at Zagreb University School of Medicine. Besides heading a course in postgraduate education, he was engaged in practical education, education in operative rooms and audiovestibular laboratories. For more than 15 years he actively participated in postgraduate education in school medicine, pediatrics, and mother and child welfare. Branko Kekić was a subspecialist in audiology.

In the course of his professional development and mastering surgical skills, he frequently paid study visits to respectable centers abroad. So, he stayed on several occasions at University Department in Zürich at renowned Professor U. Fisch, one of the greatest European otosurgeons. In 1996, Branko Kekić took active part at the international workshop on artificial cochlea implantation in Vienna, and several years later at Wullstein Symposium in Würzburg dedicated to bilateral cochlear implantation. Having acquired rich experience, he grew into one of the best Croatian otosurgeons.

In 1996, the first cochlear implantation in Croatia was performed at Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital. Besides Branko Kekić, the core team for cochlear implantation included Professors Pegan and Trotić and Dr. Ries. Branko Kekić was one of the initiators of the Let Them Hear project. Thanks to the well designed and properly organized drive, this successful team carried out the majority of cochlear implantation procedures. The team was also included in the national screening project, at the time unique and comprehensive at the national level and the first of the kind in Europe. Within the scope of the project, all maternity wards in Croatia have been supplied with appropriate devices for neonatal screening. Branko Kekić was a co-founder of the Croatian Society for Early Diagnosis of Hearing Impairment.

Branko Kekić was actively included in scientific projects related to computerization and cochlear implantation. Also, he worked as researcher on the project entitled Assessment of Perioperative Factors in Cochlear Implantation, launched by the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports.

Besides his primary ENT specialty, Branko Kekić had excellent knowledge of the entire medical science. He was a versatile intellectual, a physician of a broad culture, thus being devotedly engaged in many fields beyond the scope of his profession. From the very beginning of computerization, he introduced it at his department and took part in Hospital computerization. From the advent of the first Commodore to the present, Branko Kekić was in the forefront of his colleagues in acquiring computer knowledge and skills. In his teaching activities for medical students, he introduced a video link between seminar lecture hall and operative rooms. In this way, the lengthy and exhausting theorizing was enriched with modern, visual mode of presentation, thus offering the students a new, considerably easier way of teaching and learning.

The physicians from his hospital will remember Branko Kekić for high-quality slides and posters he made for them to be presented at an equal footing at numerous meetings all over the world.

Branko Kekić was also engaged in publication activities. He founded his own publishing company, and facilitated designing a number of programs, books of abstracts, posters and other printed material at his department, that are necessary in the organization of professional and scientific meetings. He was technical and graphic editor of the journal Symposia Otorhinolaryngologica, and all merits for its long-lasting issuing go to him.

Branko Kekić was a true hedonist. He found a reason to deeply enjoy everything he had embarked upon. He enjoyed sports, tennis and diving, and he did not want to give up skiing even when he could only use one of his arms due to disease. He was a true gourmet and imaginative master of preparing various foods. He enjoyed reading, detective stories in particular. He was a witty and charming, yet straight-talking person. He loved and enjoyed life. When he fell ill with one and then another disease 3.5 years ago, he did not want to give up. He bravely underwent all therapeutic procedures and continued his teaching, professional and scientific activities. While struggling against severe disease, to the very end, he took part in teaching and regular work at his department, and the more so, he chaired the Hospital Commission on Internal Surveillance and Control.

Many were involved in the care for Branko Kekić. On behalf of the University Department of ENT, Head and Neck Surgery, I take this opportunity to thank all the fellow physicians and other medical personnel from University Departments of Neurology, Neurosurgery, Surgery, Urology and Internal Medicine for having invested all efforts to relieve his suffering.

Branko Kekić was a great physician, excellent teacher and good organizer. Because of his high professional qualities, great knowledge and skills, he enjoyed high confidence and respect from his coworkers, colleagues, students and patients. We all who knew him will remember him for his persistence, optimism and dignity he showed throughout his life, especially when affected by the disease. His department will remember him for the broad spectrum of his activities he bequeathed to the Croatian ENT profession.

Vlado Petric