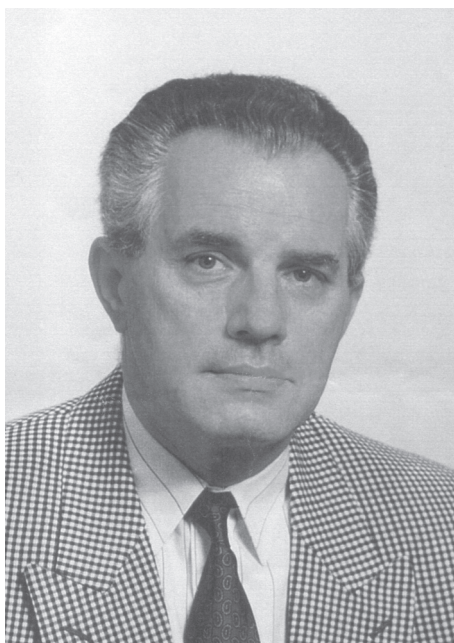


IN MEMORIAM

Head Doctor Borislav Šeni, MD (1942-2009)

Head Doctor Borislav Šeni, MD, our dear friend and colleague, departed from this life in 2009. Borislav Šeni was born on December 6, 1942 in Zagreb, where he completed elementary school, high school and School of Medicine. As a young physician, he started working at Ambulance Service in Sisak in 1970, then at Ambulance Service in Zagreb 1972-1975. He took residency in surgery and passed specialist exam in 1980 at our Hospital. Since then, he worked continuously at our Department of Surgery, later University Department of Surgery, Division of GI Surgery, where he introduced the method of esophagogastroduodenoscopy by use of fiberoptic device as a routine outpatient procedure.



As a surgeon, Dr. Borislav Šeni was devoted and caring but decisive and brave in solving the most challenging surgical cases. He always stayed calm when approaching major and unpredictable surgical situations.

Dr. Šeni wrote a number of professional and scientific papers, especially in the field of GI surgery, and transferred his skills and knowledge unselfishly to junior colleagues and visiting physicians at his Department.

Dr. Šeni was long-standing president of the Hospital labor union, paying due care to welfare standards. Once he wrote: "The culture of living and staying in hospital is of great importance and it should always be to the benefit of ordinary people".

He was secretary of the Section of Surgery, Croatian Medical Association during the 1985-1989 period.

Dr. Šeni took a very demanding and precious role during the war in Croatia as head of the War Hospital in

Velika Gorica. He organized this Hospital according to the principles of war hospital, in the form of echelons with all functions pertaining to a war hospital situated close to the front line. Along with medical personnel from Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital and Velika Gorica Health Center, displaced health care professionals from Vukovar, Slunj, Pakrac and Glina worked at the War Hospital. Headed by Head Doctor Borislav Šeni, MD, Velika Gorica War Hospital performed successfully all the surgery/anesthesiology/resuscitation procedures and activities required in medical service covering the south-line defense of the City of Zagreb and Kupa River

valley. At the War Hospital, 2524 wounded persons and patients were treated, 670 minor and major operative procedures were performed by two surgeons, with self-denying assistance by residents in urology, ophthalmology, ENT, anesthesiology, gynecology, internal medicine and dental medicine, other medical professionals and technicians. Dr. Šeni and War Hospital personnel were fully devoted to humane principles and provided medical aid to all those in need, including injured enemies. Articles on Velika Gorica War Hospital have been published in Croatian medical literature as well as in renowned international periodicals. The first of these papers appeared in the special issue of our Hospital's journal *Acta Clinica Croatica*, entitled *The Work of the War Hospital of the Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital at Velika Gorica Health Center*.

After the war, Dr. Šeni returned to our Hospital to continue working as a surgeon. However, his health was

deteriorated by chronic stress and continuous strenuous work in operative room. He underwent cardiac surgery and, despite advice to take a rest, he continued working until retirement. This short period in retirement he devoted to his family, grandchildren, and to his hobbies, photography and carpentry.

Head Doctor Borislav Šeni, MD, died in "his" Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital on April 8, 2009, and was buried at the Zagreb cemetery Mirogoj, with his family, relatives, friends, colleagues and many patients in funeral procession.

Miroslav Bekavac Bešlin