

HISTORICAL REVIEW

As already mentioned in this section in No. 1, 2009, we have celebrated a number of important jubilees in the current year, among these ninety years of the foundation of the Lung Tuberculosis Ward. The beginning of the 20th century was characterized by launching organized struggle against lung tuberculosis. The first outpatient clinic for tuberculosis patients was opened in 1901, and Brestovac as the first health resort for lung tuberculosis patients in 1908. Merits for these events go primarily to Milivoj Dežman, a physician and a writer. The times before and during World War I were troublesome and difficult in terms of economy, which reflected in the increasing rate of lung tuberculosis patients. Therefore, it was decided to establish special wards at hospitals to admit these patients. At our Hospital, the first lung tuberculosis ward was organized in 1919. The ward had 60 beds and patients suffering from other pulmonary diseases were also treated there; therefore, some believe that it was the first pulmonology department in Croatia. Our renowned internists Lujo Thaller, Hugo Botteri and Milan Žepić invested all their efforts for the department to grow into the leading Croatian institution for the management of pulmonary diseases between the two world wars¹. After World War II, Head Doctor Stanko Dujmušić came to the Department in 1949; then the Department was divided into two divisions: one headed by Head Doctor Milan Žepić, where patients were exclusively treated with medicamentous therapy, and the other one headed by

Head Doctor Dujmušić, where patients were treated by pneumothorax with the use of operative thoracoscopy. Head Doctor Dujmušić published the famous *Atlas operativne torakoskopije* (Atlas of Operative Thoracoscopy), a work well known in the world. The new ward for lung tuberculosis patients, financially supported by the Zagreb Red Cross organization, was opened in 1958. The two parts of the Department were united after Head Doctor Dujmušić's death in 1960. At the time, there were 220 beds on the Department ward. As our Department of Radiology had a cobalt bomb at the time, first patients with bronchial carcinoma were also hospitalized at the Department, which was the first in Croatia providing treatment for these patients. Since 1962, the Department has been decreasing in size, the number of patients with lung tuberculosis being on a decline, and so only about 17% of these patients were treated at our Hospital in the 1990s. In the last two decades, Department of Pulmonary Diseases has undergone additional restructuring in line with changes in the development of Croatian and international pulmonology. Nowadays, it is one of the departments within the frame of our University Department of Medicine.

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Reference

1. Pardon R. Zavod za plućne bolesti i tuberkulozu. Anali Kliničke bolnice "Dr. Mladen Stojanović" 1985;24:152-6. (special issue)