

## FOREWORD

*Dear colleagues, esteemed readers,*

It is my distinct pleasure to announce this special edition of Acta Clinica Croatica Journal, dedicated to the twentieth anniversary of the Reference Centre for Prostate Tumors of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia. The title of the reference centre was awarded to the Department of Urology of Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital Center on 2 December 1998. Over the last 20 years, Department employees have been striving to justify the award of the title of center of excellence for prostate tumors through their professional and scientific work. Published articles represent only a portion of the work and activities of the center of excellence over the past twenty years. Introductory article provides an overview of the history of our Department, which is the origin of urology in Croatia. It is followed by an outline of significant events which marked the twenty years of the Reference Centre for Prostate Tumors. In the thematic part, we discuss current epidemiological situation of prostate cancer in Croatia in comparison to other countries. Considering the specificity of prostate tumors, oncologists, pathologists, radiologists and other specialists are involved in the diagnostics and treatment of patients alongside urologists, indicating that a multidisciplinary approach is essential in providing high quality efficient care to patients. The result of such cooperation is the article on the application of multiparametric magnetic resonance imaging in prostate cancer patients, which is assuming an increasingly important role in the diagnosis, initial assessment and monitoring of prostate cancer patients. The article on cognitive fusion biopsy in patients with initial negative prostate biopsy is the result of outstanding cooperation with our radiologists. The next article analyses economic feasibility of introducing this new method in diagnosing prostate cancer. Cooperation with our pathologists resulted in the article on the expression of LMO2 (LIM domain only) protein in prostate carcinoma and adjacent prostatic parenchyma. Results of the study support the potential role of LMO2 in prostatic carcinogenesis and cancer progression. We studied the latest discoveries in pelvic lymphadenectomy during radical prostatectomy and histopathological results after radical prostatectomy based on a new grading system. The incidence of incidental prostate cancer in patients who underwent surgery for benign prostate hyperplasia at our Department in the last twenty years was determined. Patients who become incontinent after radical prostatectomy are treated with transobturator AdVance® sling suspension at our Department. In cooperation with our radiologists, we present the theory, technical details and potential benefits of prostatic artery embolization applied in the treatment of lower urinary tract symptoms in men suffering from benign prostatic hyperplasia. We conclude with a case report of a patient with prostate cancer with Paneth cell-like component. Selected articles have undergone the process of double blind review and proofreading before acceptance and publication.

I would like to thank all Department employees, all distinguished predecessors who transferred their knowledge and surgical experiences to us, encouraged us and believed in us. Current generation of urologists at the Department of Urology of Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital Center represents a group of top experts and is a guarantee of the bright future of urology in Croatia.

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