

100th anniversary of the birth of academician Ivo Padovan

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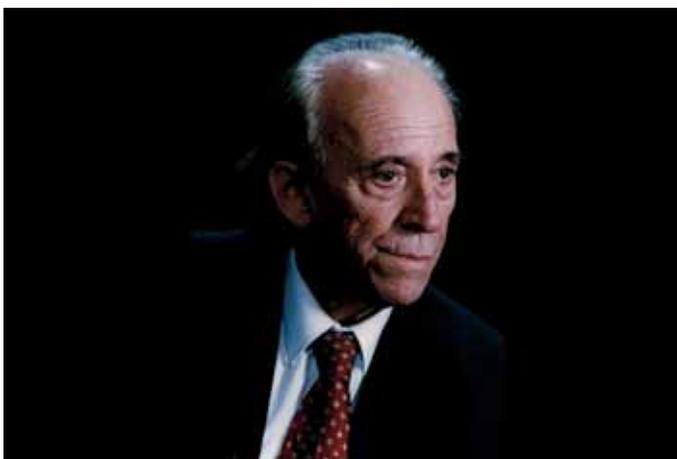
GORAN GEBER

Ivo (Dživo) Padovan was born on February 11, 1922 in Blato on the island of Korčula, where he attended elementary school. He completed his secondary schooling in the Classical Lyceum in Dubrovnik and Zagreb, and studied medicine at the School of Medicine, University of Zagreb. He chose otolaryngology as the field of specialist training, and in 1947 he joined the team of prof. Ante Šercera in the Sestre milosrdnice hospital and in 1950 he passed his national board exam. From 1966 to 1988 he was the head of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery in that hospital.

During the early stages of his career, he received additional training at numerous university clinics in France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Great Britain, USA, Canada and Russia. He tried to apply the acquired knowledge and experience in clinical work in the best possible way. In particular, he was one of the founders of clinical audiometry, and he was involved in the diagnosis and therapy of malignant tumors and plastic-reconstructive surgery.

In the period from 1946 to 1966, the staff of the Department in Sestre milosrdnice hospital published 196 papers. Through the development and application of new surgical methods at the Department, scientific research work was nurtured. Successes in this area resulted in the establishment of the Institute for the Study and Protection of the Ear and Respiratory Organs in 1961, which later evolved into the modern Center for Hearing and Balance, and in 1965, the creation of Šercera's comprehensive Otorhinolaryngology, a capital work of professional otorhinolaryngological knowledge at the time.

From 1956, Ivo Padovan participated in educational activities at the School of Medicine, University of Zagreb as an assistant pro-



fessor, from 1961 as an associate professor, and from 1967 as a professor. He was entrusted with the construction of a large lecture hall, on the construction of which he worked closely with prof. Andrija Štampar.

The age of technological revolution in world medicine was beginning, and the Department under the leadership of Ivo Padovan followed that development hand in hand. From 1966 to 1988, more than 4,000 students passed through the Department. Together with the faculty of the Otorhinolaryngology department in Šalata, a textbook on otorhinolaryngology for students was published in 1968, and the journal *Symposia Otorhinolaryngologica Jugoslavica* was also published in 1966. The journal became the only regularly published otorhinolaryngology journal in the country, and it was published until 1999.

During Padovan's time, a completely different way of teaching was introduced, which he got to know during his stay in America. The relationship between students and teachers has become more liberal, the classical ex cathedra style of teachers has been modified, and textbooks were becoming more accessible. The Department in Sestre milosrdnice hospital, organized the first postgraduate study programme in 1976, called Otorhinolaryngology with audiology and phoniatrics, which is the first postgraduate study programme organized at the School of Medicine of the University of Zagreb.

During that period, the educational circumstances at the Department were significantly improved. Classes were characterized by a modern pedagogical approach, a modern concept of synthesis of the latest scientific achievements, which were presented to students in an appropriate way, with a special emphasis on clinical and practical value. Certain narrow specialties in otolaryngology were beginning to develop, and new departments were being organized. In 1956, the Laboratory for Phoniatrics was founded and electronic strobolaryngoscopy and microlaryngoscopy were introduced on the audioscope-Padovan device, which was constructed by Ivo Padovan.

At the same time, postgraduate classes were held in cooperation with the ENT Clinic in Šalata, and interns, residents and specialists from Canada, Austria, FR Germany, Israel, Bulgaria, Syria, Lebanon and Italy were educated.

The greatest contribution to the written word of that period is the trilogy on surgical procedures in otolaryngology, written and edited in 1981 by Professor Ivo Padovan. From 1955 to 1982, 39 dissertations were defended in the field of otorhinolaryngology, and Professor Padovan participated in Professor Ivo Čupar's books Head and Neck Surgery I and II (1975 and 1978) and the oncology textbook Clinical Oncology (1975 and 1981).



Among the scientific research works, it is worth highlighting that prof. Padovan and Prof. Guberina from SUVAG created the first audiometers for tonal and speech audiometry, while Prof. Pansini created speech audiometry with noise, slowed speech audiometry, impaired audiometry, FII audiometry with testing of intelligibility in limited frequency and intensity areas. Verbotonal audiometry was developed according to the method of Prof. Guberina and developed three-channel electronystagmography, the central semiology of electromyographic examinations. A method of measuring the threshold for the rapid component of nystagmus and its diagnostic value was found. Cortical audiometry and electrocochleography were introduced. In phoniatrics, the effects of testosterone on vocal muscle regeneration after cordectomy in dogs and voice analysis after partial laryngectomies were tested. Several international rhinosurgery courses were held from 1967 onwards, and in 1970 the first electronic rhinomanometer was acquired in the country. Special attention was paid to the respiratory physiology of the nose and the improvement of functional rhinosurgery. As early as 1964, the Center for Head and Neck Tumors and Reconstructive Surgery was established, which laid the foundations for a modern team approach of surgeons, radiologists and pathologists to the problems of head and neck oncology. He was a member of many prestigious professional and scientific organizations in USA, Great Britain, France and Switzerland, and for eight years he was also a member of the Council of the International League Against Cancer. In 1975, he became an adjunct member, and from 1983 he was a regular member of the Department of Medical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. From 1989, he was the secretary of the Department of Medical Sciences, from 1991 to 1997, vice president, and on two occasions, from 1998 to 2004, the president of the Academy. He has published more than 120 scientific and 200 professional papers and eight books in the field of otorhinolaryngology and plastic surgery of the head and neck. He was the editor-in-chief of the Medical Encyclopedia, Medical Lexicon and Medical Dictionary, founder and editor-in-chief of the scientific journals *Symposia Otorhinolaryngologica* and *Libri Oncologici*. Academician Padovan received the Lifetime Achievement Award in 1993 for his outstanding medical and research work, and for his contribution in the field of rhinoplasty, he received the World Congress of Otorhinolaryngology Award in 1985. Also, on May 28, 1995, he was awarded the Order of Danica Hrvatska with the image of Ruđer Bošković for special merits in science.

His character is best described by the multitude of his achievements, the intensity of his work energy, which was equally divided between surgery, science and education, in addition to numerous protocol, social and family obligations. He impressed everyone who knew him, and for a long time it seemed that there was nothing that happened in the Croatian scientific and medical community that was not somehow connected to Ivo Padovan. His main characteristics were wisdom, persistence, diplomacy, adaptability and liveliness of character. Perhaps more than anything else, he was characterized by fantastic patience - he was almost impossible to upset. He used to say about himself that he fought many battles, but that he never lost a single one.

Thus, we could list endless achievements because it is almost impossible to summarize the rich professional, scientific and all-round work of Ivo Padovan.

On November 8, 2022, a commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of academician Ivo Padovan, the legendary Croatian otolaryngologist and president of the Academy from 1998 to 2003, was held in the palace of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. Current and former presidents of the Academy, academician Velimir Neidhardt and academician Zvonko Kusić, and the secretary of the Department of Medical Sciences, academician Vida Demarin spoke on behalf of HAZU.

The mayor of Blato municipality Ante Šeparović spoke on behalf of the native island of the academician Padovan. On behalf of the University Department for Otorhinolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery at Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital Center, prof. Goran Geber and distinguished otorhinolaryngologist and scientist prof. Livije Kalogjera presented the multifaceted scientific research and surgical work of the academician Padovan at his hospital and abroad. A common thread emerged from all reminiscences that emphasized the extraordinary life and professional energy of Ivo Padovan, which shaped the era in which he lived and worked through his strength of character and vitality.

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