E D I T O R I A L (CC BY-SA) UDC: 355.721:061.5 DOI: https://doi.org/10.2298/VSP2403133V



The first 180 years

Prvih 180 godina

Miroslav Vukosavljević

Military Medical Academy, Clinic for Ophthalmology, Belgrade, Serbia; University of Defence, Faculty of Medicine of the Military Medical Academy, Belgrade, Serbia

The jubilee of the Military Medical Academy (MMA) and its existence for 180 years in the service of its people, its army, and the country was marked on March 4, 2024, with a ceremonial academy in the presence of high-ranking officials.

On the occasion of this jubilee, which hardly anyone in the country and beyond has the opportunity to celebrate, it is difficult to summarize even just a decade behind us, let alone, by all standards, the binding history and tradition that the MMA inherits.

This year, on the eve of the birthday, each of which has so far deserved powerful words, we had a demanding task in front of us – to adequately present and mark the integrity of the MMA's existence. This institution is a symbol of the origin and development of the medical corps of Serbia and a solid foundation of not only military medicine but also Serbian medicine in general. The professional, educational, and scientific research work of generations of the best military and civilian doctors and nurses employed has been maintained and improved for decades, thus ensuring the continuity of trust of all patients and people in successful treatment, education, and quality care.



Archives of the Media Center "Odbrana" – the old building of the Military Medical Academy



Archives of the Media Center "Odbrana" – the new building of the Military Medical Academy

Precisely for these reasons, it is difficult and ungrateful to expect comprehensiveness during one event because numerous papers have been written about the MMA, and its value has grown and strengthened every day since. In addition to recalling the most important moments from the previous 180 years, a great effort was made during the ceremony to introduce numerous dignitaries to the continuity of progress and development of this first military healthcare institution, which developed from the Central Military Hospital of the Principality of Serbia in 1844 to today's "temple of health and education", to the pride of our country and beyond its borders.

Not long ago, I finished reading Thomas Carlyle's book "On Heroes". He advocated the theory that history was created only by great personalities, and great personalities who remain remembered can only be heroes. For me, it is very real and true, it is all those who built this house, as well as those who work in it now. I am asking you, right at the be

Correspondence to: Miroslav Vukosavljević, Military Medical Academy, Clinic for Ophthalmology, Crnotravska 17, 11 000 Belgrade, Serbia. E-mail: vuki032@yahoo.com

ginning, to find your heroes, who will be a true inspiration for some future success.

When we list all the decisions we have made to this day, it is perhaps best to start from the beginning, and a new beginning is what is at the end!

The jubilee has a special weight for me, a weight that is 18 decades old. You will admit that it is an imposing figure that dominates in its sustainability. The MMA was created with the idea of eternity, and the starting point of success is desire. All employees at the MMA have the desire to make everyday life more beautiful, it is part of our calling, and with true passion, we approach projects that continue to grow in scope even after these 180 years.



Intensive care unit



Hyperbaric chamber

When I became the head of this house seven years ago, I knew that there would be challenges and life changes, but I was even more aware of the fact that if the spirit was fearless, the head would be held high. Such spirit and enthusiasm have not left me even to this day. As long as there is creativity, imagination, and courage to make something happen or try something that has not been done before, I am the first in line to participate.

They say that a person goes through several stages in their life and working life. We are now clearly at a stage where proving ourselves is no longer on the agenda. I want us to make the team around us grow together with the program we will make in the best of faith. We waited to show and prove to the world how vital we are in all life's changes, challenges, years, hopes, and joys. We managed to return to the crown of surgery – transplantation, after a successful fight with the coronavirus pandemic. It is a permanent task not only for us but also for the entire country.



Scanner

The MMA is not just a name – it is an expression of identity, inspiration, and originality. Health is the most essential protagonist, and health means the existence of our only life. Openness, understanding, and cooperation can and must be bridges that connect, not walls that separate. Looking through this prism, our perspective becomes different. That is why the MMA is a world and a home for everyone who strives for excellence. A privilege you deserve. We have never been the ones who kept quiet and hid our faces behind our fists and walls. We have always been the ones who move things and stand on the right side of everything. Surrendering, anytime and to anyone, was never our option.



Stomatology



Health care service

The MMA is proud of all its generations of employees, successes, and brave endeavors in the diagnosis and treatment of the most serious diseases of its patients, always ready to progress and work more and better, transfer knowledge, learn, and always be in the company of the best.

Expecting that the younger generations, who are growing up in our ranks, will continue to proudly preserve the valuable heritage and build new values, we only have to remember all the successes in which we, together with our predecessors, have participated. Furthermore, we expect only the best results in future work because the MMA deserves it and has been proving it for 180 years.

Let the celebrating sounds of the MMA's 180 years be the codes of rebirth and new age. Until the next jubilee, cheers.