Head Doctor Vesna Peharda, MD

Head Doctor Vesna Peharda was born in Rijeka on July 10, 1953, to mother Zdenka and father Zdenko. Raised in a family of music lovers, she attended high school and music school during the 1968-1972 period, then enrolled the School of Medicine in 1972, wherefrom she graduated in 1978.

Upon completion of internship at the Medical Center, she worked as a trainee at the Department of Dermatovenereology, Rijeka University Hospital Center. She became specialist in dermatovenereology in 1984. During her residency, she attended the postgraduate study in General Clinical Pathophysiology, field of Immunology.

From the very beginning of her career, Head Doctor Vesna Peharda’s area of interest were allergic diseases. She devoted her entire active life, more than 30 years, to allergology. She modernized allergologic testing techniques, introduced diagnostic tests for exposure to drugs, local anesthetics and diagnostic contrast agents. She modernized therapeutic protocols for allergic dermatoses and introduced continuous hyposensitization and hyposensitization of pregnant women. Her contribution to the profession advancement was long-term monitoring of the allergic contact dermatitis epidemiology, where she published several papers on the incidence and prevalence in the Rijeka area. Her most important works in this field have been published in the journals Acta Facultatis Medicae Fluminensis (Peharda V et al. Allergic contact dermatitis in the area of Rijeka, 1995) and Medicina (Peharda V et al. Considerations on allergic contact dermatitis in Rijeka region from 1997 to 2003, 2006).

In the area of occupational disease research, besides allergic contact dermatitis, she examined the impact of climate, especially ultraviolet radiation, on the skin of workers exposed to external factors (Peharda V, Gruber F et al. Occupational skin diseases caused by solar radiation. Coll Antropol 2006).

Head Doctor Vesna Peharda participated in many activities aimed at health care improvement. She published numerous articles in daily newspapers and professional journals. She also participated in radio broadcasts and lectures in the field of allergology for primary care physicians. Also, investing her own great efforts, she prepared and printed the Instructions for Avoidance of Certain Contact, Inhalant and Alimentary Allergens.

She actively participated in numerous congresses in the country and abroad, and at professional meetings of the Croatian Dermatovenereological Society. She was a valuable and committed worker, selfless and humane towards her patients and colleagues. Because of her merit and professional achievements, she was appointed Head Doctor in 2007.

Head Doctor Vesna Peharda was member of the Croatian Medical Association, Rijeka branch, since its foundation. She was also treasurer of the Croatian Dermatovenereological Society, Rijeka branch, for several terms. She was a devotee of life, music, theater and travel. She loved animals, she rescued, fed and treated them. She was always in good mood and ready to help. Silent and unobtrusive, she worked diligently, and the people she had treated for years in the allergology office were her friends rather than just patients. She passed away quickly, before her 60th birthday. We will miss her very much. We thank her for companionship, good will, help, friendship, fellowship, patience and exemplary courage to the very end. May her gentle soul rest in peace.

Prof. Ines Brajac, PhD