

EDITORIAL

8th Danube Symposium of Paediatric Surgery and 2nd Slovak Day of Paediatric Surgery

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Dear friends and colleagues,

you are welcome at the 8th Danube Symposium of Paediatric Surgery. The birthplace of the congress is Linz, Austria and its father is Michael Engels. The symposium started to flow on the Danube river. The last meeting was for the first time held abroad in September 2001 in Visegrád, Hungary. There we obtained the relay for the organisation of the 8th Symposium. We are proud to have the opportunity of holding the Symposium in Bratislava, Slovakia and we are prepared to give it to another Danube city.

In 1953, our Department of Paediatric Surgery was founded in the Children's University Hospital in Bratislava. The history of paediatric surgery started of course earlier and is conjoined with the history of children's hospital and influenced by its leading personalities. Precongress of the 8th Danube Symposium of Paediatric Surgery will be the 2nd Slovak Day of Paediatric Surgery – celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Department of Paediatric Surgery and the 70th birthday of Professor Jaroslav Siman. At the meeting, we wish to turn back and remind of the most important personalities and events in the history of paediatric surgery in Slovakia. Let us give a chance to retell the history to you and to point out some important facts in our history:

- 1853 – 1st Children's Hospital in Bratislava, Slovakia was founded (2nd in Hungarian Kingdom)
- 1894 – new building of the Hospital (residence for the next hundred years)
 - begging of the paediatric surgery, surgeons from Hungary – Dr. Hauer, Dr. Schwarz, Prof. Imre
 - operations: hernia, cheiloschisis, appendix, immobilisations of fractures
- 1918 – Czechoslovak Republic was founded
- 1919 – Comenius University, School of Medicine was founded and Children's Hospital changed to University Hospital

- surgeons from Hungary left and a new team from Czech started the work under the leadership of Prof. Mikula

- operations: hernia, appendix, hepatal tumor; later orthopedic procedures

1942 – Dr. Žucha started his work at Children's University Hospital, his skills in neurosurgery and paediatric surgery were crucial for the next development

1946 – Department of Neurosurgery for adults (1st in Czechoslovakia) was created in Children's Hospital

1953 – *Department of Paediatric Surgery and Neurosurgery for adults was founded*

- Head of the Department: assoc. Prof. Žucha

- operations: 1941–1956 3626 neurosurgical procedures (910 intracranial)

1942–1962 26 000 children operated on, e.g.: atresia of bile ducts, oesophageal atresia, m. Hirschprung, op. on hydrocephalus, pectus excavatum etc.

1962 – Department of Neurosurgery for adults was separated and moved to another hospital, Dr. Žucha left

- Head of the Department of Paediatric Surgery: Prof. Kratochvíl

- operations and techniques: thoracic surgery (lobectomies) and cardiosurgery, surgery of portal hypertension (portocaval anastomosis), experimental surgery

- development of paediatric urology (assoc. Prof. Payer), orthopedics and traumatology (Dr. Spiššák)

1970 – Head of the Department: Prof. Janec

- operations and techniques: endocrinology, correction of pectus excavatum, prevention of trauma, infection etc

1989 – Head of the Department: assoc. Prof. Geryk

1990 – Head of the Department: Prof. Pekarovič

- operations and techniques: management of anorectal malformations, paediatric neurosurgery, traumatology, development of intensive care, endoscopy
- 1991 – Hospital was dislocated to the new building and new departments were created:
Department of Paediatric Urology, Haed assoc. Prof. Payer
- 1992 – Centre for Cardiac diseases, the surgical team was leaded by Prof. Siman
Department of Paediatric Orthopedics, Haed assoc. Prof. Huraj
- 1996 – Haed of the Department of Paediatric Surgery: Prof. Siman
 - operations and techniques: neurosurgery (neurotraumatology and operations of congenital malformations of CNS), thoracic surgery (all congenital and acquired diseases), abdominal surgery, traumatology, vascular surgery, plastic surgery, endoscopic surgery, transplant surgery
- 2000 – first succesfull operation of conjoined twins in Slovakia (Prof. Siman)
- 2003 – first liver transplantation in child in Slovakia (cadaver donor, Prof. Broelsch Essen, Prof. Siman)
 - Department of Paediatric Surgery: – 80 beds (3 dpts, 1 for children under 6 years, 1 for boys and 1 for girls), 3 halls for surgery, 1 for endoscopy
 - 3000 operations, 4500 admissions, 35000 patients at outpatient dpt. in one year
- 2003 – 8th Danube Symposium of Paediatric Surgery

Bratislava is located near the state border of four countries. The town in the past was the capital of the Hungarian Kingdom. Today Bratislava is the capital of Slovakia. In October 2–4, Bratislava will be the capital of paediatric surgery of the Danube and other regions. The history of paediatric surgery in Bratislava was mostly influenced by personalities from Hungary, Czech republic and Slovakia. At the 8th Danube Symposium of Paediatric Surgery we hope to remake old contacts and find new friends. The Symposium is the last important event in the history of paediatric surgery in Slovakia. We hope, that it will be the succesfull and important also for all participants.