45 YEARS DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC MEDICINE AND MEDICAL LOW IN MEDICAL UNIVERSITY “PROF. DR. PARASKEV STOYANOV” VARNA

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The Department of Forensic medicine and deontology by Medical University of Varna “Prof. dr. P. Stoyanov” celebrated its 45-years anniversary in August 2008, not as a Department, but as an educational - scientific unit in the Department of General and Clinical Pathology. Because of increasing social importance of our area and on the other side, the presence of many problems, we mention our anniversary with truly desire to attract attention and to provoke deserved interest in the concerned institutions. It's good to turn back for balance and to plan forward in future.

Let me make a brief historical review of the past years.

The Department of Forensic Medicine in High Medical Institute – Varna established on August the 21st 1963 year with a first assistant professor Dr I. Jovchev (who had worked as a chief of the study in forensic medicine expertise in Shumen), a chemist - Ivan Krachmarov, two clinical and one chemical laboratory assistant, one hospital attendant and one morgue attendant. Before foundation of the Department, only Dr. Jordan Varbanov worked as a chief of the forensic medicine study in former Regional Hospital “Dr. Racho Angelov”. This study thoroughly united with the Department with the same equipment. The temporary guidance of the Department was assigned of Prof. Dr. Kiril Popov – at that time he was a chief of the Department of Pathology. The lectures delivered from Prof. Ruja Vasileva from the Department of Forensic medicine in Sofia and later from senior assistant Prof. dr. Stefan Neykov (Sofia) until the election of regular Assoc. Professor.

In 1966 dr. Pavel Pavlov was appointed as a intern who had worked before for a short time in bureau of health instructions. He became second Assistant Professor in 1967. Dr. Alexander Varro was accepted as intern (from 1967 to 1972) who was assistant professor between 1972-1977. He left the department, moved in Budapest, Hungary, where he continues to work in the Institute of Forensic medicine.

Prof. Dr. Ivan Popvasilev was a first chief of the Department in Medical University in Varna between 1967 and 1972. He had worked before as an assistant professor in the Department of Forensic medicine in Sofia and after that he was elected as a professor in the same department in the capital. Prof. Popvasilev worked out electric excitement of

the skeletal muscles in the relation with the time of death, set the base of forensic serology, worked in discovery of new antigens and phytoagglutinins. The laboratory of forensic serology was helped with materials and specialists from Forensic medicine Institute in Berlin.

For some time the department has been without a chief, after that, from 1972 to 1977, the chief is Prof. Stoicho Radanov (1932-2008), who is a lecturer in the Department of Forensic Medicine in High Medical Institute in Sofia. In 1974 year he was elected as a professor. He was many years in the Ministry in Health as primary national specialist in forensic medicine, participant and organizer of many scientific Conferences and Congresses of Forensic Medicine and Criminalistics with international participation, author and co-author of many articles in Bulgaria and abroad, editor of many textbooks and handbooks in Forensic medicine for students and specialists in Medicine, Dentistry and Low.

In 1977-1990 and 1992-1994 Prof. dr. Ivan Lazarov is a third chief of the Department (professor since 1989), who was graduated also in low in 1952 in the University of Sofia. He took part in the scientific conferences in the country and abroad, congresses of Forensic Medicine and Criminalistics, also he published articles in Bulgaria and abroad and he was coauthor in textbook in Forensic medicine (1992). In Varna he worked out PhD dissertation “Investigation for establishment of character during lifetime and the duration of lacerations and incised wounds” and defended the thesis in 1985.

In this period there were 4 scientific-technical laboratories: histological and histochemical, forensic serology, laboratory for material evidences and forensic toxicology laboratory. The fourth chief between 1990-92 and 1994-2005 was assoc. Prof. Pavel Pavlov. He graduated in Romania – Institute of Medicine and pharmacy in Bucurest. In 1979 he became Master of Science. He is author of more than 60 articles in Bulgaria and abroad and coauthor of 2 textbooks in Forensic Medicine (1992 and 1998) and 2 handbooks for practical exercises in forensic medicine (1990 and 1999), also one rationalization.

Dr. Dobrinka Radoinova became an assistant professor in 1977, she was assistant professor in the Department of General and Clinical Pathology previous year. Dr. Ivan Stankulov, who was the chief of the ward, in 1978 became also an assistant professor and later chief assistant profes-

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sor. He died suddenly in August 2007, only a month after his retiring.

In 1980 with the opening of the Branch of the Medical University in Dobrich, assoc. Prof. Ivan Jovchev was elected as a chief and Dr. Blagovesta Panajotova as a first assistant professor, who moved in 1982 in the Department in Varna. Dr. Villiam Dokov occupied her place. After the closing of the Forensic medicine unit in Dobrich (in Sept. 1992), he moved in the basic department.

From 1989 year dr. Irina Burulianova was appointed as a senior assistant professor. She had graduated and worked in the department of Forensic Medicine in Sofia.

Except for dipl. eng. Krachmarov in the forensic toxicology unit worked dipl. eng. Lilyana Ivanova, and at the moment works dipl. eng. Iliana Hadjidecheva.

From 2005 to 2007 the chief of the Department is assoc. Prof. Dobrinka Radoinova, who later became a chief of the educational-scientific unit.

In 1970 a student's circle of Forensic medicine was established. Many students were taught there and 3 of them are later elected as assistant-professors (dr. D. Radoinova, dr. B. Panajotova and dr. V. Dokov) and others became famous specialists in different areas of medicine (dr. St. Skochev, dr. P. Drumeva, assoc. Prof. V. Goranova, assoc. Prof. P. Petev).

Except for educational and scientific work, there is done in the Department versatile and considerable by amount practical work. All the forensic medicine expertise in Varna and the district of Varna concentrates here - autopsies, medical examinations, toxicological analyses, material evidences, forensic serology and written evidences. The Department is a methodological leader for the north-east Bulgaria and take part in the solution of all difficult cases.

The basis of Forensic medicine from the beginning was in the main building of Higher Medical Institute - Varna and included 2 teaching rooms, assistant's rooms, histological and serological laboratories, laboratory of material evidences, toxicology unit and laboratory, autopsy room with a basement for a storage of bodies, chancery and study for medical examinations of living persons.

In 1986 the Department moved in the area of the Therapy and part of the students' rooms, doctors studies, laboratories and medical examination rooms are located on the 3rd floor in the building of the psychodispensary. The autopsy room with subsidiary premises, laboratories and 2 educational rooms are in the Morphological unit of the University hospital.

From 1999 the Department included the Central laboratory of electron microscopy with her chief assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Chaldakov. In this unit in January 2004 dr. Anton Tonchev was appointed as an assistant professor, who moved in February 2008 in the Department of Anatomy and histology. Assoc. Prof. Chaldakov retired.

With the opening of "St. Marina" Hospital in 2000 year a Centre of Forensic Medicine and Deontology revealed with the personnel of the department who shared 50% with the Medical University of Varna. There are the following units:

1. Morphological unit with the autopsy room, histological and histochemical laboratories.

2. Examination room for living person – forensic medicine dispensary.

3. Unit for examination of material evidences with laboratories for identification of the personality by means of the biological secretions, a laboratory of expertises of disputable parent's origin.

4. Forensic toxicology unit.

This Centre is also the basic location place of the Department.

The basic educational priority is the teaching of Forensic Medicine and Medical law. In the 80th years there were 30 hours lectures and 45 hours practical exercises (one hour in the winter and 2 hours in the summer). Now the teaching by unified state requirements includes the lecture course of 45 hours yearly - 15 hours in the first and 30 hours in the second term, also 30 hours practical exercises (in the summer term). The educational program includes Forensic pathology, traumatology, toxicology, identification, clinical Forensic medicine (examination of the living person - physical and sexual assault, disputable parent's origin) and examination of material evidences, medical ethics and medical law. The practical exercises visualized with all current autopsies, drafts and schemes in all subjects and with the limited museum samples, including forensic osteological collection, which is the only collection in Bulgaria. In this year a teaching in forensic dentistry is beginning (8th term). Educational-scientific unit of Forensic Medicine is teaching Medical Ethics and Law for 7 specialties in the Medical College by the University, where the hours vary from 15 to 30 for every specialty. The same discipline is teaching to nurses and maternity nurses - bachelor degree, health management (bachelor and masters degree), health care - bachelor degree in Medical University.

In our unit of Forensic Medicine can be teach trainers for 45 days and postgraduation qualification for residents by government order and postgraduation paid teaching and by separate themes. Up till now the individual specialization in forensic medicine and medical law finished 18 forensic doctors and 9 trainers in clinical and general pathology passed 3-months courses. There are delivered lectures for trainers in general practitioners. Prof. I. Lazarov and assoc. Prof. P. Pavlov were visiting lecturers in Forensic medicine in the Faculty of Law by the Technical University in Varna and Free University in Varna. The doctors from the Department delivered lectures for coroners and examining magistrates.

Forensic Medicine has a multipurpose profile and scientific-research work has different directions. In the beginning Dr. St. Neikov, Prof. Radanov and Prof. Lazarov worked in the area of medical law in medical practice. Prof. Popvasilev in collaboration with dr. Pavlov and dr. Varro settled the beginning of the detailed isoserological investigations for the purpose of the expertise in contested parental origin. Assoc. Prof. Pavlov initiates hematological and cytological examinations of the material evidences and the contested parental origin. There were worked out the problems of Forensic determination of the time of death, Forensic Traumatology, Forensic Pathology and Toxicology (Prof. St. Radanov, assoc. Prof. I. Jovchev, Prof. I. Lazarov,

assoc. Prof. P. Pavlov). Mechanical asphyxias were examined by assoc. Prof. I. Jovchev. Up till now there were defended 5 dissertations for PhD in the department:

1. Assoc. Prof. I. Jovchev: "Morphological changes and laboratory diagnostics by drowning in sea water (1975)
2. Assoc. Prof. P. Pavlov: "Genetical and forensic medicine investigations of the serum system posttransferines (Pt) (1979)
3. Assoc. Prof. I. Burulianova: "Morphology of the conduction system of the human heart in sudden death from acute and chronic ischemic heart disease" (1992)
4. Assoc. prof. D. Radoinova: "The estimation of the human stature by the long bones in Forensic Medicine and Anthropology (2002)

Dr. Anton Tonchev as a free postgraduate student, defend the theses (2003): "Quantity and fenotyp of the proliferating cells in the post ischemic brain in adult monkeys (2003). Two theses for PhD degree were defended: Prof. I. Lazarov (1985) and Dr. A. Tonchev "A long term fate and molecular control of the endogenec progenitor cells in telencephalon in adult primates (2007). From the foundation of the Department up till now the collaborators of the Department took part separately and in co-authorship in more than 450 articles and scientific reports in magazines and books here and abroad.

Assoc. Prof. I. Burulianova, who was elected as an assoc. Prof. in 2007, is an author of the book "Heart rhythmus disturbances as a cause of sudden cardiac death" (2001), Assoc. Prof. D. Radoinova - Forensic medicine and osteology ekspertise (2003) in co-authorship with Prof. Y. Yordanov and "Crime scene investigation of the vehicle accident" with Prof. Serafimov (2006).

In the last 10 years began the establishment and confirmation of the unit of Forensic anthropology (with the active participation of dr. Dokov), where there are collected, restored and investigated the bones and bones remains. This collection is unique and the only one in the country.

The doctors from the department perform not only an educational and scientific work, but huge expert and diagnostic

work of the whole northeast part of Bulgaria, sometimes in the other parts of the country. Educational-scientific unit of Forensic Medicine is the methodological leader for a north-east Bulgaria and a district of Bourgas.

Unfortunately, the problems of Forensic medicine in our country become much more serious. From 2006 year the health care is financed basically by National health insurance pay-desk and this affected the forensic medicine units. There aren't clinical pathways in the area of Forensic Medicine. In spite of many written reports for help to Ministry of Health concerning our statement, we haven't received a competent answer. This led to close the Center of Forensic Medicine in the structure of the University Hospital "St Marina" in August 2007 (Order Nr P-184/21.06.07) and the Center is transferred in the Diagnostic-consulting Center on the full self-support. This had the negative effect on the practical work and the searching for forensic medicine help. Because of the reduced number autopsies in the educational year 2007/2008 the practical exercises aren't enough illustrated with the autopsies. The students in the Medical University can watch the autopsies only in our department. It's very important to restore them.

We hope to draw the attention of all that have relation to Forensic Medicine in order to assist us in formation of the statement that can be confirmed the fact we are the part of the state system organization of the country. Educational-scientific unit of Forensic medicine and medical law has the following members: Assoc. Prof. D. Radoinova – a chief, Assoc. Prof. I. Burulianova, dr. B. Panajotova and dr. W. Dokov – senior assistant professors, dr. E. Kaisheva – assistant professor. In our staff works dr. D. Gospodinova, who is on the pay-roll in Diagnostic-Consulting centre, also and Dipl. Eng. I. Hadjidecheva.

In spite if the economical restrictions in the last years, the doctors from the Forensic Medicine manage to answer to the high inquiries in jurisprotection and jurisdiction.