



Identity Card

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Presentation of the Institute of Oncology

Institute of Oncology Ljubljana is a public health institution providing health services on the secondary and tertiary level as well as performing educational and research activities in oncology in Slovenia.

As a principal national institution, the Institute supervises the programs on comprehensive management of cancer diseases in

- prevention
- early detection
- diagnostics
- treatment and rehabilitation
- research and education.

A multidisciplinary approach to cancer treatment and team work, significant achievements in medical work and scientific research, fruitful cooperation with local health institutions and effective integration in the network of Slovenian health care services as well as cooperation with similar institutions in Europe and the rest of the world have remained the fundamental mainstay of further progress.

The major vision of the Institute of Oncology Ljubljana is to remain the leading cancer center in Slovenia and to retain a distinguished position among the cancer centers in Europe also in the future.

Major Historic Events

In the early years of the past century, the medical profession became aware that the clinical management of cancer should be passed into the hands of qualified and experienced specialists.

It was essential that each clinical case of cancer was presented to and discussed / considered by a team of specialists in therapy and diagnostics who could acquire the necessary qualifications and experiences only through managing a great number of most varied cancer cases and through assessing the treatment efficiency by regular follow-up of the patients after completed therapy. In view of fulfilling the conditions of such comprehensive approach to the cancer patient, the establishment of the institute of oncology was inevitable.

1937

The Regional Institute for Research and Treatment of Neoplasms was established by the decree issued by the authorities of Drava Province. On August 1st, 1938, first patients were admitted into the reconstructed buildings of the former 'Šempeter Barracks' (presently Building A). In the first year of existence, the Institute, with a capacity of 28 beds, accommodated 818 patients.

1946

Adoption of a new name Institute of Oncology

1947

Establishment of the Chair of Oncology and Radiotherapy at the Medical Faculty of Ljubljana

1950

Establishment of the Cancer Registry of Slovenia following the enforcement of the regulation on compulsory registration of cancer diseases in Slovenia

1951

First applications of cytostatics and of systemic cancer treatment

1952

An intense progress of the work in the field of specialties and research in oncology as well as a concept of team work were two preconditions for developing a multidisciplinary approach to cancer treatment

1976

First invitations to cooperate in international clinical studies

1983

Establishment of the Department of Psychooncology – a comprehensive approach to cancer patient treatment was further upgraded by offering psychological support to cancer patients and to their relatives

1996

By the Resolution of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Slovenia, the Institute of Oncology Ljubljana was awarded the title University Institute and Hospital of Oncology for the term of five years.

1997

The start of the construction of a new building of the Institute of Oncology

2004

In August, the hospital pharmacy moved from the ground floor of the Building B to the basement of the new Building H and a month later, in September 2004, the first and the second floors of the Building H were opened for inpatient care of hospitalized patients.

2005

In April 2005, the Department of Pathology and the Department of Cytopathology moved in the Building D (second floor) and the same year in November, the whole outpatient clinic moved from the basement of the Building H to the basement of the renovated Building D.

2006

The Department of Laboratory Diagnostics settled in the fourth floor of the renovated Building D.

Board of Directors and Managing Organs

Board of Directors

Director General

Prof. Zvonimir Rudolf, MD, PhD.

Professor Rudolf has been employed at the Institute since 1977. This is now his third term of office. He held the post of director general in the periods between 1986-1991 and between 1996-2000. In the period between 1991-1996, he was appointed Assistant Director for Research. He started the present term of office in July 2003.

Professor Rudolf is a university teacher and a renowned investigator with rich production of works published also in medical literature abroad. From 1996, he has been also chairing the Chair of Oncology and Radiotherapy at the Medical Faculty of the University of Ljubljana.

Assistant Director General for Legal Services

Alenka Benedik Senčar, LL.B.

Medical Director

Assist. Prof. Hotimir Lešničar, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor Lešničar has been working at the Institute since 1977. As a specialist in radiotherapy, he specialized in the treatment of head and neck cancer patients. Assistant Professor Lešničar has published a great number of articles, reporting of the results of his research team. Many of his publications were cited in most eminent international manuals on cancer and in American cancer treatment guidelines. He has participated in designing and organizing of numerous local and international experts meetings. In the period between 1995 and 2000, he was Head of the Department of Radiotherapy. In November 2003, he was appointed Medical Director of the Institute of Oncology Ljubljana.

Assistant Medical Director for Research and Education

Prof. Gregor Serša, Dsci (Biol.)

Professor Serša was employed by the Institute in 1979. In December 2003, he was nominated as Assistant Medical Director for Research and Education. He is in charge of directing and coordinating research and educational activities at the Institute and is also principal investigator of a number of cancer research projects in Slovenia. As investigator, Professor Serša also cooperates in the researches on experimental oncology and is engaged in the study of electroporation aiming to increase drug delivery in tumors and of radiobiology. He has also gained rich experience in managing research projects and in international cooperation.

Assistant Medical Director for Nursing – Head Nurse

Brigita Skela Savič, MSc. (Org.)

Ms. Brigita Skela Savič, MSc., has been working at the Institute of Oncology Ljubljana since 1989. In September 2003, she was appointed Assistant Medical Director for Nursing. She is actively engaged in the projects of comprehensive quality control in health care, focussed particularly on nursing and care. Ms. Skela Savič is well qualified in business excellence in health care as she was one of the initiators of this discipline in health care. She published over 50 papers on management, leadership, comprehensive quality control, and personnel development in health care, as well as on oncology, particularly on oncology nursing and care. Using a team approach, Ms. Skela Savič has been introducing the standardization of work, keeping records, quality control in nursing and up-to-date methods in assessing the satisfaction of the health care users with nursing services.

Council of the Institute of Oncology

The Council of the Institute of Oncology is the supreme organ that supervises and directs the activities of the Institute. It consists of the representatives of the founder of the Institute (The Government of the Republic of Slovenia) and of the Institute's employees, of one representative of the City of Ljubljana and one representative delegated by the Health Insurance Institute of the Republic of Slovenia.

Members of the Council, representatives of the founder of the Institute:

- prof. Tadej Battelino, MD, PhD, **Chairman**
- Lucija Šikovec-Ušaj (Law)
- Milka Oblak, MD
- Berta Jereb, MD, PhD
- Stojan Marijan Krebelj
- Tatjana Brinc, MSc (Econ.)
- Romana Reja, MSc (Ekon.)
- Tina Jamšek (Law)

Members of the Council, representatives of the Institute's employees:

- Erik Brecelj, MD, PhD
- Peter Koren, RN
- Božidar Casar, BSc (Physics)
- Jerica Češarek, MSc
- Assist.Prof. Primož Strojjan, MD, PhD **Vice-Chairman**

Member, representative of the City of Ljubljana:

- Jani Möderndorfer

Member, representative delegated by the Health Insurance Institute of the Republic of Slovenia:

- Borut Miklavčič, BSc

Medical Board of the Institute of Oncology

- Assist.Prof. Hotimir Lešničar, MD, PhD, Medical Director
- Assist.Prof. Marko Hočevar, MD, PhD, Head of the Division of Surgical Oncology
- Assist.Prof. Primož Strojjan, MD, PhD, Head of the Division of Radiotherapy
- Assist.Prof. Branko Zakotnik, MD, PhD, Head of the Division of Medical Oncology
- Assist.Prof. Matej Bračko, MD, PhD, Head of the Division of Diagnostics

Medical Advisory Boards

- Council of the Institute of Oncology
- Board for Research and Education
- Protocol Review Board
- Committee for Medical Ethics
- Committee for Hospital Infection Prevention and Control
- Nursing Board
- Administration Board

Sectors of the Institute of Oncology

The Institute of Oncology Ljubljana is a comprehensive national cancer center, in charge of undertaking appropriate actions against cancer and of maintaining the balance between the development medical and health-related professions in the endeavors of competing against cancer on the state level.

The areas of work at the Institute of Oncology are distributed among five sectors:

- medical care,
- research,
- education,
- administration,
- epidemiology and cancer registries.

Organization-wise, the work in the sector of medical care at the level of diagnostics and treatment is performed in mutual dependence with different divisions (e.g. surgical division) and with multidisciplinary advisory teams, specialized in cancer sites or types. The teams join together oncologists involved in the diagnostics and treatment of a particular cancer site or type (e.g. advisory team for breast tumors, advisory team for malignant lymphomas, etc.). These teams may be extended by inviting the experts from other institution, if the treatment of a specific cancer type so requires.

Medical Care Sector

At the Institute of Oncology Ljubljana, organization and performance of medical care are considered as two separate sections.

The organization of medical care follows the provisions as laid down in the Statute of the Institute, specifying that the medical care at the Institute of Oncology Ljubljana is performed at the following seven divisions:

- Division of Diagnostics
- Division of Surgery
- Division of Radiation Oncology
- Division of Medical Oncology
- Rehabilitation
- Nursing and Care
- Pharmacy

Its performance is intended to the care of the patients in in- and outpatient departments of the Institute. The most recent approaches to the management of a cancer patient require that the diagnostics is carried out on an outpatient basis, and that several days long hospitalizations are shortened to one-day hospitalization by giving therapies to the patients in the day clinics or outpatients departments. The multidisciplinary approach to cancer patients may thus facilitate the reorganization of hospital divisions by diagnosis (e.g. patients with gastrointestinal tumors) rather than by the type of treatment (e.g. irradiation, systemic treatment).

Research Sector

In its capacity of a comprehensive cancer center, the Institute of Oncology Ljubljana is also undertaking research. The Research Sector has two divisions: preclinical research, carried out by the Department of Experimental Oncology, and clinical research (treatment and nursing of patients), carried out at the clinical departments and other units of medical care sector. Such a division of research allows a rapid transfer of knowledge from preclinical studies into clinical practice via the so-called translational research studies.

Education

Education is an on-going process in all organizational units and sectors of the Institute of Oncology. It involves in-house training of the employees as well as education of Slovenian medical and lay community in oncology. Education is conducted through the organization of regular seminars, training courses, workshops, medical experts' meetings, and publishing.

Epidemiology and Cancer Registries

The service Epidemiology and Cancer Registries of the Institute of Oncology is involved in all aspects of cancer epidemiology. Besides analyzing routinely collected data it is involved in several national and international studies. It serves as learning basis of cancer epidemiology for medical students and also the students of other undergraduate and postgraduate schools.

The service comprises, besides Cancer Registry of Slovenia, also the hospital-based Cancer Registry of the Institute of Oncology, Epidemiology Unit for epidemiologic studies and the newly established Cancer Screening Registry, a unit that is in charge of coordinating the nationally organised cervical cancer screening programme.

Administration

- Informatics Department
- Legal Office
- Personnel Department
- Department of Financial Planning and Analysis
- Accounting Department
- Technical Service and Maintenance