



Beginnings of University Dental Education in Croatia: A Short Historical Review

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Improvement of biomedical sciences resulted with recognition of dental medicine as an independent profession, and establishment of dental schools in Europe and America.

The founder of dental high education in Croatia was Dr. Eduard Radošević. He was born on February 22, 1884, in Mrkopalj, Gorski kotar, Croatia. After finishing University of Vienna, School of Medicine (1909), and specialization of dentistry in Berlin (1910), he returned to Croatia and opened a private dental office in Zagreb.

In 1921, Eduard Radošević applied for a habilitation in dentistry at the University of Zagreb, School of Medicine with the thesis named *Problems of dentistry in the light of physical chemistry* [1]. Professors Committee of this University awarded him with the right of teaching dental medicine and dentistry (*venia docendi*) to students of general medicine on January 20, 1922. Two days later, on January 22, 1922, it was founded the Chair of Dentistry at the University of Zagreb, School of Medicine and Eduard Radošević was elected for its first head [1-3]. This date is considered to be the beginning of university education in dental medicine in Croatia [2].

Eduard Radošević was appointed as a director of the new founded University Dental Clinic in Zagreb in 1931 [1]. He wrote numerous scientific and professional papers which were published in Croatian and international journals. Eduard Radošević also published a monograph *Physiology and pathology of the teeth* in 1935, which represent his life work [1,3]. In 1924, he became an associate professor of the University of Zagreb, School of Medicine and stayed on this function until his death on February 6, 1939 [1].

He was succeeded by Dr. Ivo Čupar (1901-1981), the father of maxillofacial surgery in Croatia, who directed this profession towards surgery of jaw and face. In 1943, Dr. Juraj Kallay (1901-1989) also joined to the Chair of Dentistry [3,4].

Development of clinical dental medicine in the Dental Clinic and adequate professional staff made possible the foundation of Department of Odontology at the University of Zagreb, School of Medicine [2,3]. The first generation of 47 dental medicine students started their five years study in 1948, and the first eight students graduated in 1954 [3,5,6].

The realization of independent School of Dental Medicine at the University of Zagreb was accomplished in 1962 [3,7] with the dean professor Živko Bolf (1894-1982) [3,7-9].

Later, dental studies were founded in other Croatian cities. In 1973, Study of Dental Medicine was opened at the University of Rijeka, School of Medicine [3,10], while University of Split, School of Medicine founded its Study of Dental Medicine in 2007.

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