The Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Traumatology of the Clinical Center of Vojvodina is today a modern hospital providing health care for the patients with trauma and disorders of the locomotion system. It all started in the 1930s in Novi Sad, when top surgeons of the time, including Dr. Vujčić, Dr. Pravdica, Dr. Holender and Dr. Brezovski [1] started to treat orthopedic patients. A great impulse in treating orthopedic patients came from Dr Katherine MacPhail who established Children’s Sanatorium for the Treatment of Bone Tuberculosis in Sremska Kamenica, which was in operation until 1992 [2, 3]. After the end of the Second World War, there was a department for orthopedic surgery within the Main Provincial Hospital which in 1956 grew into the first independent Department of Orthopedics and Traumatology led by the experienced orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Vladimir Raženj. From 1959 till 1963 the Department was led by Prim. Dr. Dobrivoje Gradištanac. In 1963, this Department together with the former “English Hospital” at Sremska Kamenica was incorporated into the so-called Clinic for Surgical Diseases and divided in the Department of Orthopedics (led by Prof. Milenko Dosen [4–6]) and separate Department of Traumatology (led by Prim. Dr. Stojan Letić [7, 8]) which existed as such until 1975, when they were integrated again into a single unit which evolved into the Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Traumatology in 1980 [9]. In 1998, the head of the Clinic was Prof. Dr. Jovan Krajičinović [10], under whose leadership the orthopedic surgical practice in Vojvodina transformed into a modern surgical discipline with the Department being a leading centre for treating foot and ankle pathology [11, 12]. During the social turmoil in the last decade of the 20th century, the medical doctors of the Department took an active part in treating the wounded and injured people both at the Department and in the field. A significant contribution to the organization of the medical care service at that time was given by Prof. Dr. Djordje Janjić [13] who was the head of the Department between 2000 and 2003, and after that Prof. Dr. Goran Ercegan [14] (2003-2007) became a medical doctor of the hospital. He was succeeded by Prof. Dr. Miroslav Milankov, who occupied this position for a short time, to be followed by Prof. Dr. Dragan Savić [15], who was a medical director from 2007 to March 2016. He introduced the European standards into the operation of the Department. Prof. Dr. Dragan Savić was replaced at this position by Dr. Aleksandar Lažetić [16] who made great efforts to introduce new osteosynthesis techniques for the treatment of fractures into the routine orthopedic trauma practice. Today, the medical director of the Department is again Prof. Dr. Miroslav Milankov [17].

The modern osteosynthesis techniques for the treatment of fractures have successfully been applied at the Department for many years now. Intramedullary locking nails were introduced into daily practice by Prof. Dr. Saša Vukadinović [18] in the 1980s. The first hip replacement surgery was conducted back in 1969 and such a surgical procedure has become a common practice at the Department [19]. Namely, some 500 hip prosthetic implants are placed each year. Since 1990, when Prof. Dr. Goran Ercegan conducted the first knee replacement surgery [20] some 350 knee implants are placed each year. Bone allo-transplantation was introduced within the transplantation program back in the 1980s upon the initiative of Prof. Dr. Aleksandar Jovanović and today bone allografts are used in revision hip surgery and revision anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) reconstruction surgery.

Sports traumatology has always held an important place at the Department [21]. The first arthroscopic meniscectomy was conducted at the Department in 1993, and arthroscopic reconstruction of the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in the knee was done in 1998 [22–24], followed by the arthroscopic...
shoulder reconstruction in 2010 [25]. Today around 330 ACL reconstructions in the knee are done each year at the Department, as well as 300 arthroscopic interventions in the knee, shoulder, elbow and ankle.

Bone infections have always posed huge problems for orthopedic surgeons [26, 27]. Therefore, the infection control ward has been for many years headed by Prof. Dr. Stevan Vukadinović [28, 29], and today by Prof. Dr. Milan Stanković.

Spine traumas have also been treated at the Department for many years, and excellent results have been achieved thanks to Prof. Dr. Aleksandar Jovanović and Prof. Dr. Aleksandar Miličić [30, 31]. Their work has been continued by Prof. Dr. Milan Stanković and Dr. Vaso Keçojević.

Credits for the development of scientific thinking and for publishing of a great number of scientific papers in domestic and renowned world medical journals go to Prof. Dr. Želimir Mikić [32–34] who has directed young generations of orthopedic surgeons and shown them how to develop their scientific and academic career. Experimental surgery was well developed at the end of the past century when a huge number of master’s and doctoral thesis were written [35, 36]. The Department’s medical doctors attended many medical conferences in the country and abroad where they presented our results. In addition, our young medical doctors gained valuable medical experience at the orthopedic centers throughout Europe.

Today the Department employs 23 medical doctors, 47 nurses and medical technicians, 6 physiotherapists, and 3 medical statisticians. In the Clinics 2,400 surgeries and 32,000 medical examinations are done on a yearly basis. The Department is the base of educational activity of the Faculty of Medicine of Novi Sad and it employs three full professors, four assistant professors and 8 assistant lecturers.

### References


Medical and non-medical staff employed at the Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Traumatology, Clinical Center of Vojvodina, Novi Sad

Svi zaposleni Klinike za ortopedsku hirurgiju i traumatologiju Kliničkog centra Vojvodine Novi Sad