



PHI UNIVERSITY CLINIC OF RHEUMATOLOGY

Prof. Dr. Irena Kafedziska was born in Skopje. She graduated from the Medical Faculty within the University Ss. Cyril and Methodius. Since 1985 she has been employed in the University Clinic of Rheumatology. She performs the health activity as a specialist internist, subspecialist-rheumatologist. In 1994 she realized a study stay in Marseille. In 2002 she visited the Institute of Rheumatology in Sienna (Istituto di Reumatologia, Università degli Studio di Siena-Italia) for professional improvement, under the mentorship of the Director of the Institute, Prof. Dr. Roberto Marcolongo. For many years she was the head of the Department of Ambulatory-Policlinic Activity of the Clinic, and since 2006 she is the head of the Department of Inflammatory Rheumatism. In recent years as a Medical Director, she organizes the medical activity, and she is a part of the Clinic's managerial team. She has contributed in the scientific-research activity in the field of rheumatology with the implementation for the first time at the University Clinic of Rheumatology, and at the same time in the R. of Macedonia, of a quantitative approach in assessment of the activity of rheumatoid arthritis and quantification of the therapeutic outcome in this most frequent autoimmune disease. She is a participant in professional and scientific publications as an author and coauthor, as well as in the education of young staff at the Medical Faculty. She participates in scientific and professional congresses, symposia, intersection meetings, workshops, academies, schools, courses, and trainings for good clinical practice, both in the R. of Macedonia and in other countries.



Medical Director
Prof. Dr. Sci. Irena Kafedziska



Organizational Director
MSc. Hisen Ameti

Msc. Hisen Ameti was born on November 21, 1982, in Skopje, where he finished primary and secondary education. He graduated from the Faculty of Law within the University Ss. Cyril and Methodius in 2009. He has passed bar examination and notary examination. He earned a master's degree in public health with the topic "Administrative Authorities Competent for Public Health in the R. of Macedonia". He builds his work experience primarily with an engagement in the sector of legal affairs in the Municipality of Chair from 2008 to 2009. His career continues in the PHI Dental Clinical Center St. Pantelejmon as the head of a sector of accounting-legal and general affairs from 2009 until 2010. Since April 2011 he has been appointed Organizational Director of the PHI University Clinic of Rheumatology – Skopje, where he is responsible for the organization of work in the clinic and its material-financial operations. During this period the Clinic was supplied with the latest medical equipment and a modern laboratory where various examinations in the field of rheumatology are performed. MSc. Ameti continuously upgrades his professionalism by participating in various seminars, such as: Political School in Strasbourg in 2008, Health Management EULAR 2014 in Paris, Management of Public Institutions ACR 2014 in Boston, Health Management EULAR 2015 in Rome, Health Management EULAR 2016 in London, as well as in other seminars and congresses in the field of management.

The PHI University Clinic of Rheumatology is a public healthcare institution whose healthcare activity is of public interest and at a tertiary level of healthcare in the field of rheumatology. It conducts organized healthcare activity at tertiary level by realizing health services that require professional, organizational technologically complex and multidisciplinary health treatment. The activity of the Clinic is based on previously established attitudes from 1975 when it was founded by the doyen of the Macedonian internal medicine, Academician Prof. Dr. Dimitar Arsov and his worthy successors and heads of the Clinic: Prof. Dr. Boginja Gucheva, Prof. Dr. Ljubomir Chaparoski, Prof. Dr. Mane Grlichkov, and Prof. Dr. Jordan Chalovski, who continued its development. In the past decade, the University Clinic of Rheumatology experienced a very dynamic development which is a reflection of the revolutionary achievements in the field of rheumatology due to the basic medical researches and knowledge, introduction of new therapeutic strategies with the development of the biological agents, and introduction of new diagnostic methods.



The University Clinic of Rheumatology has about sixty employees. Fifteen employees are doctors - specialists in internal medicine, fourteen of which are subspecialists - rheumatologists, five are doctors of science, two are masters, and four are doctoral students at the moment. For the purpose of professional improvement, most of the doctors have travelled to the United States, the Netherlands, Italy, and Slovenia. The organization of the Clinic's operation is based on the principles of availability, rationality, efficiency and continuity in the implementation of healthcare. Within the activity, the Clinic has a role and a responsibility to conduct specialist-consultative and hospital healthcare in the field of rheumatology. The Clinic performs the most complex types of secondary and tertiary healthcare in the field of rheumatology, it builds and implements professional-medical and doctrinaire criteria within its field, following the doctrinal views, criteria and recommendations from practices based in the United States (American College of Rheumatology (ACR) and European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR)).

In order to realize the goals, the Clinic's operation is organized into internal organizational units that represent an organizational-technical entirety in the process of operation, as follows:

- ◆ Department of inflammatory rheumatism and diagnostics of structural-functional impairments of the locomotor apparatus
- ◆ Department of metabolic diseases and extra-articular rheumatism
- ◆ Department of degenerative diseases of the locomotor system, therapeutic interventions, and cytohistological chemical examinations
- ◆ Department of systemic diseases of the connective tissue and immunology
- ◆ Department of daily hospital, intensive care and specialist-consultative activity



Legal, accounting-financial, administrative-professional and general affairs are organized in services for common affairs.

The specialist - consultative activity of the Clinic is performed every day in four rheumatological subspecialist outpatient clinics, where specialist-subspecialist consultative activity and treatment of patients with rheumatic diseases are performed. In 2016, 20.433 outpatient examinations were performed.



The Clinic disposes of modern rheumatology and immunology laboratory for determination of a wide range of specific autoantibodies in the autoimmune systemic diseases, with the ELISA method introduced in 2000. They are important for diagnosis and clinical monitoring of the therapeutic outcome of the immunosuppressive therapy. The laboratory also disposes of a biochemical analyzer A15 for determination of serologic tests. In 2016 a total of 37.659 analyses were performed.

A cabinet/department for nailfold capillaroscopy functions at the clinic for 35 years. It is a noninvasive method that is important for diagnosis and monitoring of patients with Raynaud's phenomenon (RF) and systemic diseases of the connective tissue. The analyses are performed according to internally introduced capillaroscopic models (Prof. Dr. Bozhinovski) and according to the capillaroscopic models of Merrick and Cutolo. From 1983 until now, more than 9.500 analyses have been performed.

The University Clinic of Rheumatology disposes of Cabinet for Ultrasound Densitometry since 2006 (Achilles device), which is a screening method in the detection of patients with a deviation in the density of the bone mass (osteopenia, osteoporosis). It also disposes of a DXA device MEDIX 90, MEDILINK, France, since 2012. Densitometry is a "gold standard" in the detection and treatment of patients with impaired bone density. The number of examinations at an annual level is 2.400 patients.

The Cabinet for Ultrasound Sonography of the musculoskeletal system disposes of a modern device Medison Accuvix V10 (since 2013). It is an important diagnostic method for early detection of structural joint changes and extra-articular impairments, detection of synovial effusions, tendonitis, and bursitis in patients with rheumatic diseases. On average, 100 patients are examined annually.



The Cabinet for Physical Therapy is equipped with modern combined apparatus (ultrasound, DD, Tens, laser therapy, magnetic therapy) for application of physical procedures in patients with rheumatic diseases in order to improve the functional capacity and to prevent disability, with/or without medicament therapy.

The hospital part of the Clinic disposes of 26 beds and one apartment. Approximately 700 patients are annually treated in the hospital part.

In recent years, with the development of biological therapy, new protocols have been introduced for treatment of the most severe rheumatic diseases in the group of autoimmune diseases. Since 2006, the biological medicine Rituximab (MabThera) has been introduced at the Clinic of Rheumatology, intended for treatment of patients with an aggressive, evolutionary rheumatoid arthritis that is resistant to second-line treatment. In these patients, the therapy is applied in standardized conditions in accordance with the criteria stipulated for application of biological therapy. With the participation of the Clinic in national and international projects, part of the patients with an aggressive and resistant rheumatoid arthritis have an opportunity to feel the benefit of a first-line biological therapy.

Healthcare workers are continuously educated and they follow the latest findings, recommendations, therapeutic protocols, in accordance with the recommendations from ACR and EULAR through the most recent scientific information in literature, scientific papers, the EULAR congresses that take place once a year, regional professional meetings with the neighboring countries, and professional stay in the renowned medical centers in Europe and worldwide.

As a University Clinic, in addition to the healthcare activity, the Clinic also implements educational and scientific-research activity. It conducts education of students in medicine, stomatology, associate and higher schools of medical staff, specializations, sub-specializations and doctoral studies in the field of rheumatology and internal medicine. In the clinical practice it applies knowledge and skills from other countries. It conveys knowledge and skills to other institutions at secondary and primary level in the Republic of Macedonia. It conducts scientific-research activity by participating in national and international projects. The Clinic cooperates with experts in the field of rheumatology from other countries, with international organizations and associations.

The University Clinic of Rheumatology will continue to follow and implement the new trends in the field of rheumatology within the opportunities and in accordance with the circumstances.



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