

History of Department of Pathological Physiology JFM CU in Martin

The history of Department of Pathological Physiology (DPF) of Jessenius Faculty of Medicine in Martin, Comenius University in Bratislava started in academic year 1964/1965. Teaching was provided by teachers of Department of Pathological Physiology of Faculty of Medicine Comenius University in Bratislava – Assoc. Prof. MUDr. E. Bárta, CSc., MUDr. A. Fizeľ, CSc., MUDr. L. Zlatoš and others.

From October 2nd 1966, the Department of Pathological Physiology began its activities at the newly formed Faculty of Medicine in Martin, Comenius University in Bratislava, in Martin at Sklabinská Street No. 26. Its founder and first head was Prof. MUDr. Juraj Korpáš, CSc.

During his tenure in this position (1966-1991), he made enormous efforts to build a modern scientific and pedagogical workplace comparable to similar workplaces in our country and around the world. This intention was achieved very soon by Prof. MUDr. J. Korpáš, DrSc., with the support of his colleagues – MUDr. I. Ľupták (1966-1967), Prof. MUDr. J. Hanáček, CSc. (1966 - until now as an emeritus university teacher), MUDr. E. Gajdoš (1967-1969), MUDr. D. Hnidková, CSc. (1967-1985), MUDr. E. Žiaková (1969-1972). In the years 1966-1968, research activities developed and the first results could be presented at scientific forums.

During this period, the main research focus of the department was also profiled - research into interoception of the respiratory organs with an orientation towards defensive reflex mechanisms of the respiratory tract. The highlight of the scientific and research activity of the department was the awarding of Prof. MUDr. J. Korpáš, DrSc. with the State Prize (1983) for his pioneering work in the field of defensive reflexes of the respiratory tract.

In the years 1970-1979, the following teachers worked at the ÚPF: MUDr. J. Holecyzová (1970-1971), MUDr. P. Back (1970-1971), RNDr. G. Znamenáková (1971-1975), MUDr. I. Gibala (1972-1973), MVDr. F. Záborský (1974-1975), MUDr. Ľ. Maršová (1976-1978). In 1975, prof. MUDr. M. Tatár, CSc. (1975-2023) joined the ÚPF team and in 1976 MUDr. H. Poláček, CSc. (1976-1986) joined the ÚPF team.

In 1989, MUDr. Beatrix Nagyová, PhD. (1989-1996) joined the department. After completing her doctoral studies in Oxford, she remained to work in United Kingdom. In 1990, the first research position was created at the department. This position was taken by Prof. RNDr. Mariana Brozmanová, PhD. (1990-present).

In 1991, the teaching and research base of the institute was strengthened by Prof. MUDr. Renata Péčová, PhD. (1991- present). Prof. MUDr. Juraj Korpáš, DrSc. worked at the institute since 1991 as an emeritus professor and died in 2009.

In 1991, Prof. MUDr. J. Hanáček, CSc. was appointed head of the department (1991–2003). After completing his term, he remained working as an emeritus university teacher. For a short time, MUDr. P. Štiak took up the position as an assistant (1995-1997). In 1998, Assoc. MUDr. M. Kollárik, PhD., began his career as a teacher and researcher, joining Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore on a research visit in 2001. He later worked at the University of South Florida in Tampa. He died in 2020. In 2004, after completing her doctoral studies, Prof. MUDr. Jana Plevková, PhD. took up the position of teacher (2000–2025).

In 2003, Prof. MUDr. Miloš Tatár, CSc. was appointed to the position of Head of the Department of Pathological Physiology JFM CU (2003-2021). Since 2021, Prof. MUDr. Renata Péčová, PhD., MPH has been working as Head of the Department of Pathological Physiology JFM CU (2021-present).

In 2006, after completing her doctoral studies, MUDr. Silvia Varechová Demoulin-Alexíková, PhD., started working as a researcher. In 2008, she completed a study stay at the Université de Lorraine in Nancy (France) and is currently working in Lille, France.

After completing his doctoral studies, MUDr. Tomáš Buday, PhD (2016 – 2025) took up the position of lecturer in 2016; MUDr. Martina Neuschlová, PhD. in 2024 (2024 – present) and MUDr. Peter Kunč, PhD. after completing his doctoral studies, took up the position of part-time lecturer (2023 – present).

Currently, after completing doctoral studies, the following researchers are working at the department: Mgr. Danica Jurčáková, PhD. (2019- present), Mgr. Dominika Hajdúchová, PhD. (2024- present), RNDr. Vincent Lučanský, PhD. (2023- present), RNDr. Ing. Ivana Baranová, PhD. (2023 - present). The positions of researches were held by RNDr. Marek Samec, PhD. (2021-2023) and RNDr. Katarína Dibdiaková, PhD. (2023-2025).

In 2013, the department's employees actively participated in the preparation of the Biomedical Centre Martin (BioMed Martin) project (completed in 2015), when the department, together with other departments of the faculty, moved to a new building at Mala Hora 4C. Within BioMed, a Department of Neuroscience in Pathological Physiology was established at the department. The head was Mgr. Alžbeta Kráľová – Trančíková, PhD. (2016-2022) and in the years 2016-2018 Mgr. Roman Holič, PhD. also worked here, after completing their doctoral studies MUDr. Michal Hennel, PhD. (2017-2020) and Mgr. Jana Harsányiová, PhD. (2020 –

2022). The current head of the department is RNDr. Michal Pokusa, PhD. (since 2016 - present) and RNDr. Andrea Evinová, PhD. (since 2022 - present) works at the department.

The staff of the department in non-teaching positions included: E. Miklošová (1967-1972), M. Javorníková (1967-1977), M. Koložvářiová (1967-1984), I. Lehocká (1969-1985), K. Šotníková (1969-2002), T. Trenčáková (1970-1973), M. Fořtová (1970-1985), K. Jungwirthová (1970-1989), Ing. M. Vrabec (1970-present), J. Pavlovič (1972-1975), S. Tomašíková (1972-2001), A. Blahová (1974-1976), J. Valentová (1978-1980), T. Šimeková (1978-1984), M. Ilovská (1981-2021), Ing. V. Záhradný (1982-1984), A. Černegová (1984-1996), M. Čikkelová (1984-1988), J. Kapráliková (1985-1987), I. Martinická (1986-1989), I. Hoangová (1987-1995), R. Tvarožná (1988-1992), N. Frančáková (1989-1991), Z. Košútová (1990-2023), B. Telgarská (1992-2002), P. Páleš (1992-1994), T. Zaťko (1994-present), L. Mazúrová (2004-2024), M. Slašťanová (2008-2011), K. Štrbová (2011-present), M. Letrichová (2019-present), Daaniel Kovalčík (2019-present), Ing. A. Hulejová (2020-2023), Ivica Kubíková (2023-present). The current secretary of the department is Mgr. Petra Morgošová (2024-present).

Pedagogical activity:

Since 1966, the teaching of pathological physiology (PF) in the General Medicine Study Program has been developed mainly in the form of practical exercises on simple models of pathological processes in small laboratory animals. After 1989, seminars significantly dominated teaching over practical exercises. Since 2006, an optional form of teaching called tutorials has been introduced. It was focused on self-study, students did not have to attend seminars, which were mandatory in the classical form of teaching, and the learning material was checked during 4 meetings between the teacher and a small group of students. In the classic form of teaching, continuous monitoring of studies during the semester is carried out through electronic tests in the computer room. The content and form of the final exam in PF have been changed. A significant stimulus for the further development of pedagogy was the beginning of teaching foreign students in English (in the academic year 1993/1994). In 1990, the teaching of Pathological Anatomy and Pathological Physiology in non-medical study programs of Nursing, Public Health and Midwifery also began.

The Department of Pathological Physiology also provides teaching of two compulsory elective courses: 15 hours of Sleep-related Breathing disorders in the summer semester of the 4th year in cooperation with the Department of Pneumology and Phthisiology of the JFM CU and University Hospital Martin (UNM) (1996-present) and 15 hours of Clinical Pathophysiology in

the winter semester of the 5th year in cooperation with the Department of Pneumology and Phthysiology, 1st Internal Clinic and Internal Clinic - Gastroenterology of the JFM CU and UNM (2002-present).

Prof. MUDr. Renata Péčová, PhD., MPH is a co-guarantor of the habilitation procedure and inauguration procedure in Normal and Pathological Physiology (study field of General Medicine) (2022-present) and a member of the doctoral study guarantee group for the study field of General Medicine - study program in Normal and Pathological Physiology (2022-present).

Long-term study stays abroad

AMN in Moscow (prof. Korpáš, prof. Hanáček, prof. Tatár, MUDr. Giačová), in Oxford and London (prof. Korpáš, prof. Hanáček, prof. Tatár, MUDr. Nagyová), in New Delhi (prof. Korpáš, prof. Hanáček), in Galveston in the USA (prof. Tatár), in Hull in the UK (prof. Péčová), in Baltimore in the USA (doc. Kollárik, prof. Brozmanová, prof. Plevková, Mgr. Surdeniková, Mgr. Trančíková) and in Nancy in France (doc. MUDr. Varechová Demoulin-Alexíková).

Department of Pathological Physiology (thanks to prof. Korpáš) established the tradition of Martin's Breathing Days (since 1969), which have become an internationally recognized event. Pathophysiological congresses with international participation have been organized by the department twice.