

PEML 2002. 15 Years After...

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At the beginning of December 2002 a unique event was held in Prague – **Prague Emergency Medicine Lessons, or PEML 2002**. Only then, for the first time, important representatives of the branch called Emergency Medicine from Europe and USA visited Prague to give lectures.

Some have understood importance of this educational activity and supported it by their patronage. Here we have to mention Professor **Jaroslav Blahoš**, then the President of the Czech Medical Association of Jan Evangelista Purkyně, Professor **Štěpán Svačina**, then the Dean of the First Faculty of Medicine of Charles University, also **Marie Součková**, then Minister of Health as well as Professor **Jiří Pokorný senior**, at that time Head of Department of Emergency and Disaster Medicine of Institute for Postgraduate Education.

Well, I remember with pleasure of the senior consultant **Čestmír Kalík** of Příbram, then research secretary of Czech Society for Emergency and Disaster Medicine, and also colleagues **Jiří Pokorný junior**, **Milan Šašek**, and **Jose Dizon**. At that time we still believed that the change is possible in the foreseeable future.

In the course of the agenda preparation, we were incredibly lucky. Our invitation was namely accepted by the greatest personalities of world emergency medicine. We could welcome **Professor Judith Tintinalli** from USA, chief editor of the most prestigious textbook of emergency

medicine, 8th edition of which was published in 2016. American College of Emergency Physicians was represented by **Professor C. James Holliman**, who in the Aula Magna (ceremonial hall) of the renowned Prague Carolinum held his inaugural, keynote lecture on topic “What Is Emergency Care?”. Full text of his simultaneously interpreted lecture can be found in Prague Medical Report, Vol. 105 (2004), No. 1, p. 5–12, published by the First Faculty of Medicine of Charles University. Czech translation was published on July 10, 2003 in medical supplement “Lékařské listy” of the professional periodical “Zdravotnické noviny.” European Society for Emergency Medicine was represented by then its research secretary, **Professor Francesco Della Corte** from Italy, and British school was represented by **Professor John Ryan**, who nowadays works back in Dublin.

Where the Last Year's Snows Are?

Well, progress cannot be stopped – today we have established medical branch “Emergency and Disaster Medicine” and in most hospitals we can run into “Urgent Care Reception Department.” Young doctors can study quality books in Czech. Among which there stands out the book from Martin Polák “Urgent Care Reception”, published in 2016 already in its second, supplemented edition. **But all this is not yet the very “emergency medicine” in its widest sense and within all necessary organizational, economic and social links.** It still worried me a few years ago. However, after some weeks spent in real Emergency Departments in England, Ireland, and USA I regained my composure. New young generation will come and will be doing it in its own way.

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