

## Academician Srećko Šimić (1929-2011)

Lidija Lincender – Cvijetić



Born in Travnik in 1929, academician Srećko Šimić graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Sarajevo in 1954, and completed his specialization exam in gynaecology and obstetrics in 1961 at the Clinic for Gynaecology and Obstetrics in Sarajevo. In 1968 academician Srećko Šimić began his academic career in habilitation, defending his doctorate dissertation in 1972. There followed a period of active training and professional development in the field of gynaecology at clinics in Ljubljana, Graz, Vienna, Munich, Hamburg, Kiel, Stockholm, London and Oxford. He began his teaching career in 1961 when he was elected assistant in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, then in 1968 he was elected assistant professor, in 1974 associate professor and full professor in 1982. From 1974 to 1994 he worked as the director of the gynaecology/obstetrics clinic in Sarajevo during which period the clinic proved to be among the leading medical centres in Europe, delivering around 10 000 newborns annually and performing thousands of gynaecological surgeries. In his time at the clinic, academician Srećko Šimić introduced modern methods of diagnostics and therapeutics. He introduced a number of abdominal and vaginal operations, of which vaginal surgery for cervical cancer is especially significant. He was the first who introduced culdoscopy and laparoscopy into clinical practice to the territory of the former Yugoslavia (1962). From 1984 his devotion to the artificial insemination project resulted in the clinic's first successful artificial pregnancy in 1990, making the Sarajevo Clinic the third in Yugoslavia to do so. As a member of several gynaecological/obstetrical associations, academician Srećko Šimić actively participated in myriad conferences and symposiums around the world as well as domestic gatherings of international repertoire. Upon his retirement in 1998, after 40 years of active work, he was honoured as professor emeritus by the University of Sarajevo. From 1998 he worked as a consultant at the gynaecologic/obstetrics branch at the "Prim. dr. Abdulah Nakaš" General Hospital in Sarajevo. From 2003 he was the acting head of the department for gynaecology, childbirth, and health care at the Faculty of Health Studies, University of Mostar, where he was active until the very end. In 2002 he was elected as a corresponding member of ANUBiH, and in 2008 he became a full member; during his time in ANUBiH he organized three symposiums on the topics of gynaecology and perinatology. During his extensive career he was the author of seven books, co-author of ten, and published 198 articles in various journals. In addition to his professional activities, professor Srećko Šimić was a good father to his sons, who were his pride. As a doctor-gynaecologist he was always willing to help those patients who had gynaecological problems as well as his colleagues. He left a constellation of other young and now even senior gynaecologists, physicians who had the good fortune and honour to learn from professor Srećko Šimić.