

A CONCISE HISTORY OF FORENSIC MEDICINE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

SAŽETA POVIJEST SUDSKE MEDICINE U ČEŠKOJ REPUBLICI

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SUMMARY

This paper presents the most important historical facts about all forensic medicine workplaces in the Czech Republic since the beginning till present day, including a perspective on how to establish a new one. Each of the University Forensic Medicine Institutes or district Departments is covered by at least one author. The oldest institute is in Prague and in Brno, the youngest is in Pardubice.

Key words: history; forensic medicine; forensic sciences; legal medicine; Czech Republic

INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC MEDICINE AND TOXICOLOGY, FIRST FACULTY OF MEDICINE, CHARLES UNIVERSITY AND GENERAL TEACHING HOSPITAL IN PRAGUE

One of the first academics that was systematically interested in forensic medicine in the Bohemian Kingdom was a doctor (graduated in Prague) and lawyer (graduated in Roma) Johannes Franciscus Loew von Erlsfeld, professor from Charles-Ferdinand University in Prague and multiple dean of the Faculty of Medicine. He was the first author of specialised applied of forensic medicine publications the Central Europe. His “*Theatrum medico-iuridicum*” was published shortly after his death in Nuremberg in the 1725.

The beginning of the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Prague dates back to 1785 when the Seat of Forensic and Police Medicine in Prague was established. At first external professors lectured there using the same textbooks as used at German universities. Joseph Berndt was the first regular professor of forensic medicine in Prague between the years 1808 – 1813. He wrote and published his first textbook there, the first part of which was named “*Systematisches Handbuch der gerichtlichen Arzneikunde*”. Other noteworthy excellent professors included Prof. Jan Knobloch (born 1750) and Prof. Eduard von Hofman (1837 – 1897). It was Hofman that started to give forensic medicine lectures in Czech, and who also published in the Czech language in the Journal of the Czech Physicians. After the separation of Charles-Ferdinand University into a Czech and a German branch by the law in 28.2.1882, Prof. Josef Reinsberg (1844 – 1930) became the first chairman at the Czech Institute of Forensic Medicine. The Institute was situated in the newly built building of the theoretical institute in Katerinska Street. Besides other things he worked at the universities in Strasbourg and Heidelberg. He wrote the comprehensive “*Study of Forensic Medicine*”. He was the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine for a few terms of office and in the 1899 was voted a rector of the University. In the 1889 lectures for lawyers were introduced; these were

given by Assoc. Prof. Belohradsky, Prof. Reinsberg and then Prof. Slavik. The Institute of the Forensic Medicine was moved from Katerinska Street to the newly built Hlava's Institute, Studnickova Street (formerly Preslova Street) in 1921. There it stands as the Institute of the Forensic Medicine and Toxicology of the First Faculty of Medicine of the Charles University in Prague till now. Prof. Vladimir Slavik (1866 – 1933) was the chairman there. He was voted as the Dean of medical Faculty of the Charles University in Prague several times and ultimately became a rector there. The chairman of this institute was Prof. Frantisek Hajek (1886 – 1962) in office from 1933 till 1957 (except for the period of Nazi occupation – Dr. Günter Weyrich was appointed in 1941). Professor Hajek wrote an extensive textbook of forensic medicine and was also a Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. Prof Dr. Jaromir Tesar, DrSc. became his successor, and was an author of numerous scientific studies and textbooks about forensic medicine. He was vice-Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. His successor was Dr. Jiri Sobotka who focused especially on forensic serology. Prof. Dr. Premysl Strejc, DSc. (born 1942) was the head from 1986 till 2012 and Assoc. Prof. Alexander Pilin, Ph.D. leads this institute now. Given its long history, the Institute has in its keeping precious and important archive documents – used to-date in re-opened cases of suspicious death. In 1999 the Institute of Forensic Medicine was joint with the Institute for Toxicology and Forensic Chemistry. The Institute of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology of the First Faculty of Medicine of the Charles University in Prague and General Faculty Hospital in Prague was created. The national reference laboratory for forensic toxicology is located in this insitute.

INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC MEDICINE, FACULTY
OF MEDICINE MASARYK UNIVERSITY AND ST.
ANNE'S UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL BRNO

If we were to ignore the first historically documented autopsy in Brno performed by Dr. Simon Grynaeus in 1594 (he dissected a young suicide victim – something which comes under the mantle of forensic medicine) then it becomes necessary to take as the beginning of forensic medicine in Brno the work of such great masters as Prof. Dr. Carl Sternberg (discoverer of generally known Sternberg-Reed cells). His own autopsy protocols are to-date archived Institute of Forensic Medicine Brno with great respect. That was however in times when the areas of pathology and forensic science overlapped. The beginning of proper forensic medicine activities is hence

associated with the founding of Masaryk University in 1919. At this stage the institute got a new building – the only new building built for the Faculty of Medicine. Prof. Dr. Frantisek Berka was tasked with the creation of this department. Thanks to his never-ending effort a new and in the European view totally unique building for Forensic Science was inaugurated. It is in this building that the institute resides to date. Prof. Berka made a contribution by educating other very important forensic doctors. Particularly Prof. Dr. Adolf Rozmaric (the future director of Forensic Medicine in Olomouc) and Prof. Dr. Josef Kohout, Ph.D. who was the successor of Prof. Berka in Brno from 1946. Prof. Kohout was the director of the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Brno till 1960. After him came a brief tenure of Dr. Miroslav Krticka, Ph.D., who was supplanted by Prof. Dr. Stanislav Janousek, Ph.D. in 1961 - he lead this institute till 1991. Between 1991 to 1994 Prof. Dr. Josef Korbicka, Ph.D. was the director and nowadays Prof. Dr. Miroslav Hirt, Ph.D. leads this institute.

INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC MEDICINE, FACULTY OF
MEDICINE IN HRADEC KRALOVE CHARLES UNIVERSITY
AND UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL HRADEC KRALOVE

The Institute of Forensic Medicine in Hradec Kralove was established in 1945 as a part of the Faculty of Medicine of the Charles University. The first director of this institute was Prof. Dr. Edvard Knobloch (1898 – 1957). This institute was merged with a division of the Military Medicial Academy of Jan Evangelista Purkynje between 1951 – 1957 and since 1958 was merged back with Charles University. From the time of its founding the scientific interests of the Institute of Forensic Medicine were focused on the field of shooting injuries, suffocations, sudden dead in childhood, anthropology and usage of new visualization methods. In 2011 a new pavilion was built in the Faculty Hospital. The directors of this institute were Prof. Dr. Edvard Knobloch between 1946 – 1951, Assoc. Prof. Jiri Beran, Ph.D. 1951 – 1971, Prof. Dr. Milan Srch, Ph.D. 1971 – 1995, Assoc. Prof. Petr Hottmar, Ph.D. 1995 – 2010 and Dr. Petr Hejna, Ph.D. 2010 until now.

INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC MEDICINE AND MEDICAL LAW,
FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY PALACKY UNIVERSITY
OLOMOUC AND UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL OLOMOUC

The Institute of Forensic Medicine and Medicine Law of the Faculty Hospital Olomouc and Faculty of Medicine of Palacky University was since 1946 inseparably connected to its first director Prof. Dr. Adolf Rozmaric who first gave lectures in a provisional wooden house situated near the hospital kitchen. Three years later autopsies started to be performed there. The history of the Institute of Forensic Medicine of the Faculty Hospital is dated since 1.4.1961 when the regional Forensic Medicine Department was established. This encapsulated the aims of three directors of forensic medicine to integrate toxicology (until then just a separate subject of study) as an integral part of medical service.

The directors of this institute were Prof. Dr. Adolf Rozmaric between 1946 – 1961, Prof. Dr. Svatopluk Loyka, Ph.D. 1961 – 1984, Prof. Dr. Lubomir Neoral, DSc. 1984 – 1991, Prof. Dr. Alois Kosatik, Ph.D. 1991 – 1999. The present head of the Department of Forensic Medicine in Olomouc is Assoc. Prof. Svatopluk Loyka, jr., Ph.D. 1999 – 2013, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Peter Ondra, Ph.D.

INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC MEDICINE, THE FACULTY
OF MEDICINE IN PILSEN CHARLES UNIVERSITY IN
PRAGUE AND UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL PLZEN

The history of the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Pilsen begins in 1946, with regular autopsies being performed by 1949. The first director was Assoc. Prof. Jaroslav Jerie. His assistant was Dr. Stanislav Hajek, who later became a prestigious professor of forensic medicine in Prague. From 1970 -1993 the institute was led by Assoc. Prof. Karel Pitr, Ph.D. Assoc. Prof. Helena Kvapilova led until 2012, and it is currently under Dr. Miroslav Dvorak.

INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC MEDICINE, THIRD FACULTY
OF MEDICINE, CHARLES UNIVERSITY AND FACULTY
HOSPITAL KRALOVSKÉ VINOHRADY, PRAGUE

In 1952 the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Kralovské Vinohrady Hospital came into being along with the Medical Faculty of Hygiene of Charles University. The first director of this institute was prominent specialist Prof. Dr. Edvard Knobloch that established the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Hradec Kralove in 1945. Prof. Dr. Stanislav Hajek, DSc. took over this institute in 1957 after Prof. Knobloch's death. Under his management the non-educational Forensic Medicine Department of the Faculty Hospital was established. Prof. Hajek's monograph called "*Traumas in forensic medical practice*" published in 1986 was the first of this specialization in our country. After that Prof. Dr. Zdenek Gregora, DSc. worked at this institute. He worked as a deputy editor of the magazine *Czech and Slovak Pathology and Forensic Medicine* for a few years and as a editor in chief of the independent appendix called *Forensic Medicine*. From 1986 to 2002 the institute was led by Prof. Dr. Jiri Stefan, DSc. where he works as a consultant professor to date. Since 2002 Dr. Jiri Hladik is the director.

MILITARY INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC MEDICINE,
MILITARY UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL PRAGUE

In 1954 the Military Institute of Forensic Medicine was created as part of the Central Military Hospital in Prague. The founding commander was Col. Dr. Zdenek Snupek. After his sudden death in 1973 the leadership passed on to Col. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Michal Dogosi, Ph.D. who was at the same time a visiting lecturer at the Czech Police Academy. From 2003 the institute is led by Col. Dr. Milos Sokol, Ph.D., and aerial incident investigations became part of the institute's activities. A central forensic toxicology lab was also established for use by the Czech Army to analyse drugs in biological materials. This department works closely with the Faculty of Military Healthcare at the Defence University in Hradec Kralove.

FORENSIC MEDICINE SUB-DEPARTMENT OF INSTITUTE OF
POSTGRADUATE HEALTHCARE EDUCATION, PRAGUE

A sub-faculty inside the Department for medical postgraduate education was created in 1.10.1962 in Prague, working inside the Institute of Forensic Medicine of the Faculty of General Healthcare in Studnickova Street. This sub-faculty was led from its inception till 1987 by Prof. Dr. Jaromir Tesar, DSc. who prepared its conceptual strategy as well as general postgraduate education concept which is used to date and updated as new findings appear in the field. After the departure of Prof. Tesar in 1987 Assoc. Prof. Dr. Premysl Klir, Ph.D. became director, and is in that post to date. Due to unfavourable circumstances the sub-faculty was moved to the Faculty Hospital Kralovske Vinohrady in 1988, where, until 1996, it collaborated with the Institute of Forensic Medicine of the Third Medical Faculty of Charles University in Prague (led by Prof. Dr. Jiri Stefan, DSc.). From 1996 the sub-faculty operates in the pavilion of pathology in the Faculty Hospital "Na Bulovce" in Prague. It was there that research collaboration with the Institute of Forensic Medicine of the Second Medical Faculty of Charles University, led by Prof. Dr. Ivan Bouska Ph.D., started.

INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC MEDICINE, SECOND
FACULTY OF MEDICINE, CHARLES UNIVERSITY AND
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL NA BULOVCE, PRAGUE

On the 1.1.1964 a Department of Forensic Medicine under the Department of Pathological Anatomy of the Faculty of Pediatric Medicine of Charles University in Prague was created. This was directed by Dr. Ladislav Rehanek. From 1977 this department was led by Prof. Dr. Ivan Bouska, Ph.D. until 2007. Under his tenure the department moved up to Institute of Forensic Medicine. It is led from 2007 by Dr. Michal Beran, Ph.D. An anti-alcohol Unit and a unit dealing with persons under the influence of psychotropic substances additionally belong to this institute.

DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC MEDICINE AND
TOXICOLOGY, REGIONAL HEALTH CORPORATION –
MASARYK HOSPITAL IN USTI NAD LABEM

An ordinariat in the Department of Pathology in Usti nad Labem was established in 1964 and was led by Dr. Zdenek Pech till his death in 1977. After that the Department of Forensic Medicine was established and led by senior doctor Dr. Josef Gotz. From 1994 to 2012 the Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology situated in Masaryk Hospital in Usti nad Labem was led by Prim. Dr. Jiri Fialka, Ph.D. and Prim. Dr. Andrea Vlckova leads the institute now. During 1991 – 2001 an independent Sub-department of Forensic Medicine was in operation in the hospital in Most led by Prim. Dr. Pavel Kubista.

DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC MEDICINE,
CESKE BUDEJOVICE HOSPITAL, INC.

The Department of Forensic Medicine in Ceske Budejovice – in 1. 9. 1964 was established the independent position of senior consultant (primariát) and it was cancelled in 30. 4. 1965 on personnel grounds and the activity was performed by Department of Pathology. Due to the activity of Prof. Tesar a Forensic-Medical Department was established in 1. 9. 1974 in the County Hospital in Ceske Budejovice (led by prim. Dr. Vaclav Sekyra). By 1997 the department was led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Frantisek Vorel, Ph.D. junior. In 1997 it was at this department that the first forensic genetic laboratory in the Czech Republic was put into operation within the scope of forensic medicine.

INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL IN OSTRAVA

In 1985 a Department of Forensic Medicine was established in Ostrava. The department was led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svatopluk Loyka, Ph.D. who was responsible for the set-up of Symposium called Toxicology (forensic) days in Ostrava. Assoc. Prof. Loyka led the institute in Olomouc and Department in Ostrava for a few years but in 2000 came to Olomouc permanently and since that time the Institute of Forensic Medicine is led by Dr. Igor Dvoracek, Ph.D. A completely new pavilion of forensic medicine in the campus of the Faculty Hospital in Otrava-Poruba was opened in 2005, including a regional toxicology laboratory led by RNDr. Marie Stankova, Ph.D.

DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC MEDICINE, HOSPITAL SOKOLOV

The Department of Forensic Medicine in the hospital of Sokolov was opened in 1994. The toxicological laboratory is working from 1991. The founder was the County Office of Sokolov. The department was led by prim. Dr. Rudolf Machacek with a statute of region workplace for the whole Karlovy Vary region.

DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC MEDICINE, REGIONAL HOSPITAL PARDUBICE

In Pardubice Region Hospital an independent Department of Forensic Medicine was established in 2007. The department is led by prim. Dr. Pavel Toupalik, Ph.D.

ORDINARIATE OF FORENSIC MEDICINE IN JABLONEC NAD NISOU

The Ordinariate of Forensic Medicine in Jablonec nad Nisou was founded in 2004 in the Department of Pathology. From the beginning until 31.3.2013 was led to Mr Radovan Havel MD. The workplace performs about 600 autopsies annually and cooperates on trade publications with the Department of Forensic Medicine - Medical Faculty in Hradec Králové and with the Department of Forensic Medicine in Pardubice. It provides a full range of forensic medicine services for the whole Liberec region, and cooperates with Division of Clinical and Forensic Toxicology in Liberec (which was established in 60's as a Toxicological Laboratory, in 70's was the lead by Ing. Ludek Kriz and from 1. 7. 2004 is headed by Mgr. Jitka Machacova.

In present days it is not easy to establish a new workplace of forensic medicine in the Czech Republic. This is why the Czech Society for Legal Medicine and Forensic Toxicology of the Czech Medical Association of Jan Evangelista Purkinje issues relatively strict criteria for personnel, material and equipment relating to the forensic medicine workplace.

SAŽETAK

U radu su ukratko navedeni najvažniji podaci o povijesti svih medicinskih odjela za sudsku medicinu u Češkoj Republici od samih početaka pa do današnjice, uključujući perspektivu i mogućnosti za osnivanje novih. Svaki od sveučilišnih instituta i okružnih odjela zastupa minimalno jedan autor. Najstarija povijest sudske medicine je naravno u Pragu i u Brnu. Najmlađi odjel je u Pardubicama.

Ključne riječi: *povijest, forenzička medicina, forenzička znanost, sudska medicina, Češka Republika*

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