

## IN MEMORIAM

### MATEVŽ GORENŠEK (1972–2020)



Dr. Matevž Gorenšek, specialist in orthopaedic surgery with a sub-speciality in diseases of the spine and feet, dedicated his career to the surgical treatment of degenerative diseases of the spine.

Matevž Gorenšek was born on 16<sup>th</sup> of May 1972 in Ljubljana. He successfully completed his veterinary studies at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Ljubljana in 1999 and studies of medicine at the Faculty of Medicine in Ljubljana in 2004. He obtained his specialisation in orthopaedic surgery with honours in 2010 and worked as a spinal surgeon at the Department for Orthopaedics Surgery in the University Medical Centre, Ljubljana.

In parallel with his professional activities, he carried out scientific research based on the detection and treatment of degenerative diseases of the spine. For his work on the cultivation of stem cells for the implementation in intervertebral discs he received a PhD in Experimental Methods for the Prevention of Intervertebral disc Degeneration in 2008.

In 2016 Dr. Matevž Gorenšek MD, with his father Miro Gorenšek MD, and partners founded a new clinic,

Sanatorium MD Medicina, to create a working environment where the relationship between the patient and the doctor comes first and the doctor is directly accountable to his patients. In his position as Executive Director of MD Medicina his main focus was to establish a better system in which patients can take an informed decision and make choices between different institutions and different doctors. Dr. Matevž Gorenšek dedicated his life to better health care so that it would be accessible to all patients and at the highest possible level.

Together with his daily work, he was extremely interested in and aware of the importance of academic medicine, such as participation in congresses, presentation of research achievements, personal contacts with internationally renowned experts, and the transfer of knowledge to Slovenia. He was very keen to foster the importance of transferring knowledge to young doctors and residents both at home and abroad.

Dr. Matevž Gorenšek was one of the founders of the MD-RI Institute for Materials Research in Medicine, a public institute which was established in 2018 and acquired its first research projects in 2019 and 2020, thus enabling further research work. In particular, it was important for him to meet a matrix of young doctors, clinicians, older colleagues and to have their work presented at the International Symposium on Biomaterials and to publish their results in the scientific journal MIT, with its IF.

Dr. Matevž Gorenšek's joy in research work remained undiminished, despite all his other professional obligations in managing MD Medicina and his daily work as a spine surgeon. Future plans included new breakthrough stem-cell research, which following eventual clinical and regulatory approval was designed to be both patient- and clinician-friendly.

Matevž was extremely active in the organization of all three International Symposia on Biomaterials. The Scientific and Organizing Committees decided that 4ISB will be dedicated to Matevž.

We have lost an excellent orthopaedic surgeon, a researcher, a teacher and a good friend. We all miss him.

Drago Dolinar  
ISB Organizing Committee