

# Summary

---

In the publication we have gathered interviews with most eminent doctors (one nurse and one diagnostic professional), the former heads of departments of the University Hospital of Lord's Transfiguration in Poznan. The book's aim is to commemorate 195th anniversary of the hospital, the oldest one, still operating in the city.

We believe that the interviews – conducted mainly by medical students – are important source of information for the last 50 years of the hospital's history. It was a period that started in the 1970s. In those years both the development of medicine and political changes in Poland have contributed to hospital's history.

The departments of the hospital changed its medical profile with new specialities emerging such as cardiology, cardiac surgery, vascular surgery, anaesthesiology and palliative medicine. The latter was organized in Poznan, in the 1980s and in our hospital the first palliative care ward in this part of Europe was organised, followed by a university department and chair in palliative medicine in Palium Hospice that was recognized as palliative care beacon.

In the last half of the century the hospital has undergone several organisational changes caused by health care system reform in 1990s which followed political change of 1989. The propriety of the hospital buildings was given back to convents – St Vincent de Paul and St Elizabeth. In 1998 Karol Marcinkowski Medical University became the owner of the university hospital as an institution.

Thanks to those changes and more possibilities for financing the buildings and equipment many new wards, operating theatres and diagnostic centres were built and old ones restored. This again helped in performing new medical procedures like bone marrow transplantation, heart transplantation, cardiac surgery procedures as well as implementation of new cardiology interventions, that resulted in heart infarct mortality drop.

The ophthalmic surgery, especially retinal surgery was significantly developed and Poznan became one of the main Polish centres of retinal surgery as early as in the 1980s.

The significant development took place in oncology. Starting from 1976 when the first department in the Medical Academy was organised in our hospital until nowadays when a modern Cancer Centre in Szamarzewski street has been recently opened with three wards (chemotherapy, cancer surgery and gynaecological oncology and histopathology laboratory as well as intensive therapy department and palliative care) which is making the complexity of services for cancer patients.

This significant organisational and medical success noticed, remembered and described by those who created it, old masters in medicine, become more multidimensional in the eyes of the reader thanks to the masters' thoughtful distance that enables to view their work in broader humanistic perspective.