

Summary

In the late 18th century the new idea of a hospital as a therapeutic institution devoted solely to the treatment of patients was established in Poland.

In this period the quality of healthcare in Poznan was extremely poor. This led to the establishment of a social committee whose aim was to organize a new hospital – the first civil healthcare institution in the city. The committee – in cooperation with city authorities – managed to gather significant funds, though the plans could not be realized.

Some years later an interested group established a new social committee to build the hospital.

The honorary patroness of the committee was Princess Louisa – a cousin of King Frederic William III and the wife of Anthony Radziwiłł, Lieutenant of the Grand Duchy of Poznan. It is probably thanks to Princess Louisa that the Prussian king became interested in building the Poznan hospital. During his visit to the Hotel Dieu hospital in Paris, the king saw the devoted work of nurses of the Sisters of Charity Convent. After this visit the king decided that the Sisters should also care for the sick in the future Poznan hospital.

In the period between 1812 and 1822 a great collection was organized. Many Polish people donated their money and Count Edward Raczyński offered a large, by standards of that time, sum of 20 000 thalers.

Thus, the collected fund was sufficient to open the hospital.

On 1st January 1823 the Sisters of Charity Hospital was opened. It was the first and, for some time, the only civil therapeutic institution in Poznan.

A custodial department within the office of the President of the Grand Duchy of Poznan supervised the hospital. According to the second charter, from April 16th 1877, the hospital was a state institution and was controlled directly by the department of the Provincial Chairman. The funds to maintain the hospital were from various sources. State subsidy and bonuses paid for some of the beds from the provincial treasury, while others were supported by private donations. The hospital was run by the Sisters of Charity – from St. Vincent a'Paulo Convent. The hospital was located in an old monastery building near Bernardynski Square.

The status of the hospital and its ownership changed several times during the following decades along with political changes in the country. Its present name, “The University Hospital of The Lord’s Transfiguration”, was reinstated only in the late 1990s. Since 2001 the University of Medical Sciences has been the main supporter of the Hospital.

The size of the hospital has also changed significantly throughout years. Initially there were just two large rooms for patients with 60 beds. The hospital was enlarged with time and the number of beds increased. In 1854 there were 160 beds and in 1918, 200 beds. The most significant extension of the hospital

took place in the 1920s. In 1939 there were between 300 and 350 beds. During the war the hospital was seriously damaged but was soon repaired and in 1946, as one of the first hospitals, it was reopened.

In 1950, when the University of Medical Sciences was founded in Poznan, the hospital along with its departments of General Surgery, Medicine and Ophthalmology became a part of the University. For 180 years there have been many people involved in the hospital including doctors, nuns, nurses and other members of staff. A lot of outstanding personages have devoted themselves to the care of the patients. One of these people was Doctor Karol Marcinkowski, a great proponent of medicine in Poznan, who performed the first surgical procedures in the hospital. Another important person was Sister Filipina Studzinska of the Sisters of Charity, who was the first woman in Poland to obtain a degree in pharmaceutical sciences at Jagiellonski University in 1824. When she arrived in Poznan, Sister Filipina became responsible for a dispensary in the “Institute of the Ill” near Bernardynski Square.

In the 1920s the Department of Surgery was created and led by a famous surgeon, Professor Antoni Jurasz. After the Second World War many well-known representatives of Polish medicine

worked in the hospital including Professor Stefan Kwaśniewski, founder of the Polish rheumatology school, and Professor Stanisław Nowicki who founded the first school of vascular surgery in Poland. Due to dynamic development the present hospital has over 500 beds and over 20 000 patients are treated each year. The hospital incorporates 10 Departments of the University of Medical Sciences. In the building in Długa Street the following wards may be found: Anaesthesiology and the Intensive Therapy Unit, General and Vascular Surgery, Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery, Arterial Hypertension and Ophthalmology. Oncology care is provided in the building in Łąkowa Street, in the following wards: Chemotherapy, Cancer Surgery and Oncological Gynaecology. Clinical Hospital No. 1 also includes wards in Szamarzewskiego Street including: Hematology and Proliferative Diseases of the Hematopoietic System, Arterial Hypertension and Metabolic Disorders, Pulmonology (Thoracic Medicine) and Pediatric Pulmonology. The newest part of the hospital is “Pallium Hospice”, a place of daily and residential palliative care.

As an academic unit, the hospital employs experts in certain medical fields. Highly qualified and experienced medical staff help ensure good quality results in diagnostic and therapeutic processes. Among the medical staff are many senior regional consultants. The University Hospital of The Lord's Transfiguration provides the greater part of specialized services available in Wielkopolska. Our aim is to provide high-quality medical treatment for the patients as well as to create a warm and friendly atmosphere in the hospital. The knowledge, experience and involvement of the whole staff contribute to the overall image of the Hospital.