

Featured Fellowship

Josip Matovinovic MD Endowed Fellow in Medicine

Dr. Josip Matovinovic was an internationally recognized endocrinologist who served the University of Michigan as Professor of Medicine in the Division of Nuclear Medicine from 1959-1984, and as Professor Emeritus from 1984 until his death in 1998. His work on diseases of the thyroid advanced the science of his field, but he was also cherished by his students and respected by his peers for his patient-focused teaching and his humanistic approach to his patients.

Born in the small village of Licko Cerjec, Croatia, Matovinovic obtained his medical degree from the University of Zagreb Medical School in 1939. During the next six years, he completed his residency and military service and married Natalie Gottlieb — a young pianist and daughter of a surgeon and an opera singer. In 1947, Matovinovic was awarded a Rockefeller Fellowship to study at Harvard University. Following the fellowship, he returned to his alma mater to become the chief endocrinologist, but went back to Boston almost a decade later to perform research in the thyroid and diabetes labs at Massachusetts General Hospital. He moved to Ann Arbor in 1959 when he was invited to become a faculty member at the Medical School.

At the time of his retirement, Matovinovic was the Medical School's Officer for International Education. In a folder housing historical information about his University appointment, is a letter to his successor. The letter notes that "every year 50-60 of our mostly senior students apply for electives abroad." "...about 15-30 students spend 1-3 months abroad, usually at university hospitals." In the same folder are postcards addressed to "Dear Dr. Mat" from students thanking him for his help in finding them international placements for their medical electives; grateful for his foresight that a medical experience abroad benefits the practice of medicine at home.

Shortly after his death in 1998, Mrs. Natalie Matovinovic ensured that her husband's belief in the value of educational training opportunities would continue to be realized. Recognizing the role the Rockefeller Fellowship played on Josip's life and professional career, she made a lifetime gift to the University of Michigan and established the Josip Matovinovic MD Endowed Fellow in Medicine, a post-graduate fellowship open to Croatian physicians seeking additional training in any medical specialty or sub-specialty.

Although preference is given to students who received their medical degree from the University of Zagreb, it is open to all Croatian doctors hoping to expand their training. An individualized curriculum and learning program are jointly developed by the University of Zagreb and UMMS to meet the needs of the specific fellow.



Potential learning opportunities range from clinical to educational to research and can include more than one focus. Nominations are put forth by the Chair of the Medical School at Zagreb, and final selections are made by UMMS. Fellowships are administered through the Global REACH office.

The first Matovinovic Fellow was named in 2005.

It is fitting to note that some of the current mentors for the fellowship recipients were once students under Dr. Matovinovic.



2011-2012 Josip Matovinovic MD Endowed Fellow in Medicine

Jure Murgić, MD, Department of Oncology and Nuclear Medicine, University Hospital Center Sisters of Charity, Zagreb, Croatia

Dr. Jure Murgić was the third physician to be named the *Josip Matovinovic MD Endowed Fellow in Medicine*. A clinical oncologist specializing in chemotherapy and radiotherapy of urogenital malignancies and hormonotherapy of prostate cancer, his particular interests include multimodal treatment, clinical trials, and quality of life issues in oncology. His fellowship included a three-month award for training (September-December, 2011) followed by an additional three months of support (May-August, 2012). Dr. Murgić was involved with several projects during his time in Ann Arbor. His primary academic home was in the Department of Radiation Oncology where he was mentored by **Dr. Ted Lawrence** (Chair) and **Dr. Daniel Hamstra**. He worked with faculty from other units as well, including **Dr. Anka Avram** and **Dr. Ka Kit Wong** (Clinical Nuclear Medicine), **Dr. Yuni Dewaraja** (Physics and Dosimetry), and **Dr. Mark Kaminski** (Hematology, U-M Cancer Center). Murgić also worked with **Dr. Patrick William McLaughlin** from the Department of Radiation Oncology in the Assarian Cancer Center at St. John Providence Hospital in Novi, Michigan – an affiliate unit of the U-M Department of Radiation Oncology.



Dr. Murgić is shown here with his family who visited him before he returned to Croatia in August 2012

Collaborative projects with UMMS training faculty:

- Testing the predictive capability of metrics derived from prostate biopsies (maximum involvement of biopsy core) in a retrospective study of patients with prostate cancer who have undergone dose-escalated external beam radiotherapy
- Imaging research on positron emission tomography/computerized tomography (PET/CT) related assessment of treatment response in patients with recurrent Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma treated with 131-I-tositumumab radio immunotherapy. Additional analysis was performed to assess patient response to therapy using novel response assessment - PET Response Criteria in Solid Tumors (PERCIST), developed at U-M by **Dr. Richard Wahl**, and to compare it with the more traditional one, Response Criteria in Solid Tumors version 1.1 (RECIST)

Collaborative project with St. John Providence Hospital:

- Scoring the presence of main neurovascular structures (neurovascular bundle) and correlation with the erectile function in men who underwent low dose radiation monobrachytherapy or combination therapy (brachytherapy plus external beam radiotherapy)

Scientific outcomes of these collaborations, thus far, include two publications and one presentation:

J Murgić, MH Matthew, S Halverson, K Blas, FY Feng, DA Hamstra. The role of the maximum involvement of biopsy core in predicting outcome for patients treated with dose-escalated radiation therapy for prostate cancer. *Rad Oncol.* 2012; 7:127.

***J Murgić**, Y Dewaraja, K Wong, M Kaminski, A Avram. Therapeutic response assessment in radio-immunotherapy: Comparison of metabolic (PERCIST) and anatomic (RECIST) tumor response criteria. *J Nucl Med.* 2012; 53 (Supplement 1) :1197.

*This paper was presented by Dr. Murgić at the 2012 meetings of the Society for Nuclear Medicine, June 9-13, 2012, Miami Beach, FL.