



UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Andrija Štampar School of Public Health



Department of Family Medicine

Dear colleagues and friends,

today, on March 27, 2020, Department of Family Medicine, School of Medicine, University of Zagreb intended to celebrate 40 years of foundation of Department of Family Medicine and 60 years of postgraduate and specialty training program in family medicine in Croatia. For this occasion publication of monography dedicated to the development and achievements of Department of Family Medicine in Zagreb, the oldest university department of family medicine in this part of Europe, has been planned as well. Since the whole world is now facing challenges related to COVID-19 pandemics, we have decided to postpone these events for autumn 2020.

As if that had not been enough, Sunday, March 22, 2020. brought additional challenges to our home town Zagreb: a tremendous earthquake that damaged the very heart of Zagreb's old town, including all buildings of School of Medicine and "Andrija Stampar" School of Public Health, the temple of public health.

Although "Andrija Stampar" School of Public Health is closed at the moment, the visionary ideas of Professors Andrija Stampar, Ante Vuletic, Zelimir Jaksic, Antun Budak and their associates regarding the importance of well-organized public health service, especially at the primary care level, have ensured that family physicians today represent important element in functioning of Croatia's healthcare system in these demanding circumstances of facing pandemics as well as consequences of an earthquake.

We would like to express gratitude to all of you, our colleagues and friends, family physicians across Europe who have been a source of support and comfort to us in these difficult times: a big **thank you** on behalf of all members of Department of Family Medicine and all family physicians in Croatia.

Assist Prof Venija Cerovecki, MD, PhD
Head of the Department of Family Medicine