



Prof. NIKICA GABRIC

Founder and director of the University Eye Hospital Svjetlost

Professor Nikica Gabric PhD MD is founder and head of the ophthalmological clinic chain Svjetlost, has been working as a specialist ophthalmologist for more than 30 years.

Professor Nikica Gabrić Phd MD was born in Metković in 1961. He obtained his medical degree, Masters and PhD degree at the University of Zagreb.

He began his career at the City Hospital Sveti Duh, where he funded the Eye Bank of the Sveti Duh Hospital in cooperation with the Lions Club Zagreb, which was then the only eye bank between Vienna and New Delhi.

He founded Svjetlost in 1998, and the real growth and development of Svjetlost began in 2002, when professor completely left the civil service and devoted himself to building Svjetlost. Svjetlost then started to grow rapidly and with less than 500 operations per year and 5 employees in 1998, today it has reached more than 15,000 operations per year, with over 200 employees in Zagreb, Split, Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Budva and Skopje. In the meantime, in 2002, the professor was appointed president of the Administrative Council of HZZO and remained on that position until 2003. Today, Svjetlost is the only private health institution with the status of Clinic of the Faculty of Medicine, which means that Svjetlost conducts training for graduate and post-graduate medical students as well as specialist and sub-specialist training for residents and specialists in ophthalmology. Prof. Gabrić has trained three generations of young ophthalmologists who have become leading experts in their subspecialty branches in ophthalmology, not only in Croatia, but are also recognized as experts worldwide.

Currently, Svjetlost is the only transnational chain of ophthalmology clinics in Southeast Europe that controls over 50% of the ophthalmology services market in the region. With the gathering of the best ophthalmologists from this part of Europe, Svjetlost has become a brand that represents trust in any country in the region. Under the leadership of prof. Nikica Gabrić MD Phd Svjetlost today has seven clinics and is one of the most famous croatian brands and a leading brand in croatian medicine that has attracted numerous celebrities from Hollywood to solve their eye problems in Zagreb. Among the most famous patients of the Svjetlost Clinic, along with the presidents of the states and prime ministers from the region, there are Tim Roth, Armand Assante, Franco Nero, Ivana Trump, Joe Cinque, Sheikh Talib Bin Saqr Al-Qassimi and many others.

Prof. Gabrić has published over 420 scientific and professional papers in domestic and foreign journals, of which five are books.

His specialty is the surgery of the anterior ocular segment with more than 60.000 operations of cataracts, glaucoma, phacoemulsification, strabismus, corneal transplantation and excimer laser surgery. He has been operating in 17 countries, over 50 halls, and has been given the opportunity to operate at the leading international ophthalmic institution - the Fodor's Institute in Moscow, as the only operator from this region.

He is a regular professor at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Rijeka and an associate member of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Croatia and a member of International Academy of science and arts in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Winner of the Order of Danica Croatia with wattle (2001), The Recognition of the Ministry of Health for outstanding contributions and achievements in the overall work (2003), the Certificate of Appreciation for Distinguished Services to Ophthalmology and Prevention of Blindness from South East European Ophthalmological Society (SEEOS) (2005), Award of City of Metković (2008), Award of Dubrovnik-Neretva County (2009), The award for best manager in 2011 for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cicero Award for best speaker in the business world (2011), the Recognition „Knowledge Ambassador“ from Life Learning Academy Ljubljana (2015), Golden medal for Lifetime Achievement in Ophthalmology from Foundation Zergollern-Čupak (2015), the "Creators of the Century" award for life's work in entrepreneurship with a gold ribbon of the International Economic Forum (2015), Recognition for twenty-year membership in the American Academy of Ophthalmology (2016), "CROMA" (Croatian managers and entrepreneurs association) Lifetime Achievement Award (2018), City of Zagreb award for contribution to developing medicine and business (2019) and numerous others.

In 2018, Klinika Svjetlost became the first healthcare institution in Croatia and region received the renowned International Star Diamond Award organized by the American Academy of Hospitality Sciences. This award is another confirmation of the excellence of the Eye Clinic Svjetlost for the last 20 years of its recognition in the global environment and in 2020 he was Ernst Young finalist for manager of the year.