

**Dr Mario FRANOLIC** was born in 1960.



Born in Sarajevo, Dr Franolic graduated at the Medical Faculty in Belgrade in 1986, and acquired the title of Emergency Medicine Specialist at Medical Faculty Belgrade in 1995.

He is employed at the Clinical Hospital Center Rijeka, Croatia, Department of Underwater and Hyperbaric Medicine as a Mentor and Specialist, Lecturer at the Center for Research and Education in Underwater, Hyperbaric and Maritime Medicine, Faculty of Medicine Rijeka.

His career in underwater and hyperbaric medicine began at the Naval Institute of Maritime Medicine in Split, Croatia under the guidance of the famous prof. Stracimir Gošović, in 1986, and gained additional expertise by studying with prof. Dekleva in Zemun, prof. Eric Kindwall in Milwaukee, USA, and Dr Paul Sheffield in Texas, USA.

After the war in the former Yugoslavia, he took a very active part in the revitalization and positioning, of diving and hyperbaric medicine, first through working in a private polyclinic (as a director for 14 years); in 2008 he created a list of indications for treatment with hyperbaric oxygen therapy, which was accepted by the Croatian state health insurance. In 2019, he was instrumental at renewing the list based on the EUBS Consensus list.

In 2016, the Department of Underwater and Hyperbaric Medicine was opened at the Clinical Hospital Center Rijeka, Croatia. He was given the honorary role of mentor, with the task of educating the team and creating a concept of work. He now continues to work in this role of mentor, while at the same time working as a specialist in emergency medicine and an expert in underwater and hyperbaric medicine. He leads part of the clinic for the treatment of chronic wounds.

Since last year, the Department has become the Center for Education and Research in Underwater, Hyperbaric and Maritime Medicine at the Medical Faculty in Rijeka, where he is a lecturer of basic and professional teaching units. He has participated and organized numerous congresses and symposia in the field of underwater and hyperbaric medicine, emergency medicine and treatment of chronic wounds. He is especially involved in microcirculation, doing transcutaneous oximetry, Laser Doppler Flowmetry and hyperspectral imaging, which he has put into practice in the Republic of Croatia and in which he holds education and research.