

Gdynia Oncology Centre of the Polish Red Cross Maritime Hospital in Gdynia Nuclear Medicine Department

A new Nuclear Medicine Department has been opened in Gdynia. In October 2011, the construction and procuring equipment for the Nuclear Medicine Department (NMD) of the Polish Red Cross Maritime Hospital in Gdynia-Redłowo was completed after several years of efforts (Figure 1).

The inauguration of the NMD took place on 14 February 2012. The event was attended by Wojciech Szczurek, President of the City of Gdynia, Ewa Łowkiel and Marek Stępa, Vice-Presidents of the City of Gdynia, Senator Leszek Czarnobaj, Jolanta Sobierańska Grenda, Director of the Pomorskie Health Department of the Marshall Office, Andrzej Bartnicki, Chairman of the Health Committee of the Pomorskie Regional Council, Prof. Piotr Lass and Stanisław Pilecki, PhD, nuclear medicine regional consultants for the Pomorskie and Kujawsko-Pomorskie Regions, directors of hospitals in the Pomorskie Region, numerous representatives of the medical community. The guests listened to the presentation of Krzysztof Łuka, PhD, Head of the NMD, titled "Application of nuclear medicine procedures in modern medicine", and then took a tour of the NMD facilities. The inauguration of the NMD coincided with the granting of the 2011 Best Investment in Gdynia Distinction Award by the Chairman of the Gdynia City Council (Figure 2).

The new facilities belong to the organisational structure of the Gdynia Oncology Centre. They were created as a result of transferring the Nuclear Medicine Department of the City Hospital in Gdynia, operating since 1984, to the new building. The Centre was established as part of a project co-financed by the European Union from the European Regional Development Fund. The costs of the project, including medical equipment, totalled PLN 7.6 m, where the Maritime Hospital financed PLN 4.5m and the ERDF contributed PLN 3.5 m. The Nuclear Medicine Department of the Gdynia Oncology Centre is located in a detached two-storey building with an area of 750 m².

On the ground floor there are gamma camera rooms, a control room, hot laboratory, isotope storeroom, radioactive isotope application room, cardiac stress test room, reception desk and waiting room. On the first floor there is a description room, patient examination room, doctors' offices, secretary's office, conference hall, common room, and a changing room. The NMD is equipped



Figure 1. Nuclear Medicine Department in Gdynia



Figure 2. Krzysztof Łuka, PhD, demonstrates equipment to Wojciech Szczurek, President of the City of Gdynia



Figure 3. Personnel of the NMD

with three gamma cameras: a SPECT-CT-Symbia-T (Siemens) scanner, Nucline Th33 (Mediso) camera for thyroid scanning purchased for the new facilities and a E-cam Singlehead (Siemens) camera transferred from the previous location in the City Hospital. The hot laboratory is provided with a laminar camera (Van Gahlem), Atomlab 400 and Atomlab 500 dose calibrators, and instruments for measuring surface contamination level. The

NMD has also a treadmill (Oxford) for cardiac stress test and Venti-Scan units for aerosol ventilation scintigraphy.

The personnel of the NMD is composed of 12 people: three physicians (one of them employed on a part-time basis), physicists, technicians, nurses, a secretary and a receptionist (Figure 3).

Krzysztof Łuka