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## EDITORIAL

# Krešimir Rotim

## DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

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The University of Applied Health Sciences Zagreb is the leading higher education institution for the education of nurses and other health professionals: physiotherapists, radiological technologists, bachelors of environmental health engineering and laboratory medical diagnostics, as well as occupational therapists. This year, the University marked the 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary of its founding and 10 years of nursing specialist graduate professional study programmes. Over 20,000 students graduated from these studies, of which nearly half were nurses by completing undergraduate and graduate studies.

Graduates from the University of Applied Health Sciences are caregivers in the health care system and are recognized for their acquired knowledge and competences for performing high-responsibility tasks. Therefore, the interest for enrolment in the University studies is extremely high and the University has been one of the most popular higher education institutions for years. The students of the University are recognized for their excellence during their studies. As many as 55 students received a state scholarship in STEM areas in the academic year 2017/2018.

In order to ensure quality education, the University places particular emphasis on the study programme teachers and involving eminent experts from the field of health care and other areas in the programmes. The University places special attention on the development and training of its own staff so they are up-to-date and even ahead of the constant challenges of modern health care.

The development of nursing, physiotherapy, radiological technology and other professions whose professionals are educated at the University has been

exceptional in the last 20 years. Along with education, the University also supports the development of professions through the promotion and development of research work. This year, the Centre for Translational and Clinical Research was established, and for years the University has had the *Department for Research, Projects and Development*.

In order to encourage sharing knowledge and enable the continuous education of health professionals, keeping up with current information, trends and research findings in this interdisciplinary area, the University of Applied Health Sciences launched the *Journal of Applied Health Sciences* in 2015, which is entering its fourth year of publication.

In recognition of the development and strength of the nursing profession in the Republic of Croatia, we decided to launch a scientific and professional journal, the *Croatian Nursing Journal*, together with the Croatian Nursing Council. Experts from the nursing sector of Croatia, as well as the wider international community, cooperated on the Journal and this is its first issue.

Nurses are dedicated to their work in everyday clinical practice. They want to acquire knowledge through formal types of education and lifelong learning. They are enthusiastic and love their profession. We believe that the *Croatian Nursing Journal* will become a means for expert and scientific discussion between nurses and other collaborators in an interdisciplinary team. Therefore, we invite you to work with us to further develop the Journal together.