



### Lubica Oktáčková (18 October 1959 – 30 April 2016)

*On 30 April 2016, we lost Lubica Oktáčková, who scientifically collaborated with the National Museum – Náprstek Museum of Asian, African and American Cultures on the research of ancient Egyptian mummies kept in the public collections of the Czech Republic.*

Lubica Oktáčková was born on 18 October 1959 in Prague. She attended the Wilhelm Pieck High School (*gymnasium*) at Vinohrady, Prague. She graduated from the First Faculty of Medicine at the Charles University in Prague in 1984. In the same year, her son Zbyněk was born. Zbyněk has since followed in his mother's footsteps; he has studied pharmacy at her *alma mater* and has since worked in this field.

Shortly after her graduation, Lubica Oktáčková was accepted for a position at the Radio-Diagnostic Clinic of the Bulovka Faculty Hospital, which was then directed by an exceptional specialist in the field of radio-diagnostics, Prof. Jaromír Kolář (1926–2017). At Bulovka she also became familiar with another specialist in the field, Prof. Jozefa Bohutová (1931–2010), who at the time was an assistant at the Chair of Radio-Diagnostics of the First Medical Faculty of the Charles University in Prague. Bohutová recognized extraordinary qualities and potential in the young colleague. Lubica Oktáčková made use of her rising knowledge in all branches of radiology, and under the guidance of Jozefa Bohutová, she focused her attention on neuroradiology, angiology and interventional procedures with the focus on blood vessels, oesophagus and other organs mainly within oncological focus.

However, serious personal and family reasons, unfortunately, prevented her from full commitment to further academic advance.

In 2001, Lubica Oktáčková left the Clinic and started working in the Diagnostic Centre Mediscan as the Deputy Head of the newly established Department for Computed Tomography. There she was able to fully take advantage of her experience and soon became one of the most respected and sought after specialists in CT-diagnostics, not only in the capital city of Prague but nation-wide. In 2005, she became the Head Doctor at the Diagnostic Centre Mediscan.

In 2009, Lubica Oktáčková stood at the outset of the cooperation between the Náprstek Museum and the Diagnostic Centre Mediscan, member of the Euromedic Group (now Affidea Praha). She mediated the first meeting between the curatorial staff of the Náprstek Museum and the management of the diagnostic centre which resulted in a fruitful cooperation that has now been in effect for almost a decade.

Throughout the whole time, she remained a key personality in the scientific team

consisting of specialists of both institutions. She supervised the CT scanning of mummies from the collections of the National Museum, as well as those from the Municipal Museum in Moravská Třebová, the Hrdlička Museum of Man, the State Castle Buchlov and the State Chateau Kynžvart. She also carried out medical diagnostic work which resulted in a number of published studies.

Lubica Oktábcová participated as one of the authors on the highly successful exhibition *Egyptian Mummies*, held in the Náprstek Museum in 2011. The exhibition was accompanied by a catalogue, in which the first results of the research project were formulated. Within the course of the exhibition's preparation, she also diagnosed a set of isolated heads of ancient Egyptian mummies kept in the collections of the Náprstek Museum.

Shortly before her sudden and unexpected death, she was still working, with the other members of the team, on the first volume of the monograph series titled *Atlas of Egyptian Mummies in the Czech Collections*, dedicated to the complete adult human mummies and their coffins. On a number of occasions, she also lectured for the general public on the topic of this research.

On 30 April 2016, Lubica Oktábcová suddenly passed away in the middle of ongoing work and projects. Her family, friends, numerous colleagues and collaborators, as well as patients, lost an outstanding personality and a respected and reliable professional. She will always be remembered in the hearts of those who had the privilege to know her.

*May she walk on the beautiful paths of the West!*

Romana Fousková – Jakub Pečený – Gabriela Jungová – Pavel Onderka