

ACTIVITY OF EPIDEMIOLOGY DEPARTMENT PMMA

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Department of epidemiology was founded in 1951. The Department of Epidemiology is an important military and civilian center for education and research in various areas of preventive medicine. The department is divided into three primary sections: epidemiological, microbiological, and health service management. All sections participate in teaching students, not only those enrolled at the Military Medical Academy, but also those attending Charles University Faculty of Medicine and

Pharmacy, as well as those seeking a Bachelor of Science.

The Department is a venue for postgraduate studies in epidemiology and microbiology. Its curriculum offers a wide selection of diverse courses and scholastic programs emphasizing general and specialized epidemiology, microbiology and health service management. The Department grants a number of residencies for those enrolled in a variety of postgraduate study (for instance, a residency prior

to a second level postgraduate exam in microbiology, and also prior to the first level postgraduate exam in epidemiology).

The Department of epidemiology closely collaborates with the Department of Military Hygiene and provides consulting and information to the Hygiene Epidemiological Service of the Army of the Czech Republic.

The principal area of work for the Department's epidemiological group is vaccination (with special emphasis on viral hepatitis, Lyme disease, influenza and meningococcal infections). Ongoing studies attempt to verify the amount of active ingredients in different vaccines, determine reactions of an organism to such substances, and provide data on the consistency of various lots and on the effectiveness of applied vaccination programs, including fiscal considerations. Most of the studies are implemented in collaboration with the Biological Division of the pharmaceutical company SmithKline Beecham in Belgium.

All research work is chiefly intended to support armed forces, in particular, troop deployed on UN peacekeeping missions. Findings of these studies have been successfully presented at scientific seminars and conferences, both at home and abroad.

The microbiological group and the group for disinfection and rodent control measures deal with selective decontamination of immunosuppressive patients and with microbiological contamination of the environment. Disinfection and sterilization have been studied for many years. Close attention has been given to iodophore made from polyvinyl pyrrolidone. The disinfection and rodent control laboratory is one of only a few work facilities in the Czech Republic certified in that field. It provides many professional services to military and civilian sectors.

The group for health service management studies

mainly health care systems, with consideration to their applicability in local conditions. It also compares various civilian and military health care systems. The principal project currently under way involves a bachelor degree program in health care management, and is fully subsidized with funds from USAID and AIHA. A part of the group works with visualization and spatial reconstruction techniques in medicine, which - in combination with modern diagnostic methods - are expected to produce new noninvasive surgical procedures. The main concern of this approach is to prevent harm to the human body to the maximum extent possible. In 1998 part of the staff of the Department of Military Epidemiology left this Department and was incorporated into the newly established Department of Management and Military Pharmacy.

The Department of Military Epidemiology maintains very close and broad cooperation contacts with the following foreign institutions: HSMC University of Birmingham and King's Fund College of London (Great Britain); U.S. Army CHPPM at Landstuhl (Germany); Center for International Health at the University of Bergen (Netherlands); SmithKline Beecham Biological in Rixensart (Belgium); 30th (U.S.) Army Health Brigade of Heidelberg, and the (U.S.) Air Force Health Promotions Aeromedical Squadron of Ramstein (both units are stationed in Germany).

The international cooperation has allowed the establishment of a work facility with a broad range of research and education activities, both of national and international importance.

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