



VALSTS SABIEDRĪBA AR IEROBEŽOTU ATBILDĪBU  
**RĪGAS PSIHIATRIJAS UN NARKOLOĢIJAS CENTRS**

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11.07.2024.

Ministry of Social Affairs  
Ms Anniki Lai  
Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs  
[Anniki.Lai@sm.ee](mailto:Anniki.Lai@sm.ee)

*Dear Ms Lai,*

On behalf of the Riga Centre of Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine, it is with great honour and enthusiasm that I extend to you a formal invitation to join us in celebrating a significant milestone - the 200th anniversary of our esteemed institution. The commemorative event will take place on the **20th of September 2024, at 18:00** (early entry at 17.00), in the distinguished National Theatre of Latvia, Kronvalda blv.2, Riga.

Our institution has a profound and rich history. Founded on September 21, 1824, on the right bank of the Sarkandaugava canal, the psychiatric hospital, initially named "Alexander Heights". For 120 years, it bore this name, evolving into the Riga Centre of Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine we know today. This transformation marked an important epoch, transitioning from imprisonment and isolation of the mentally ill to a focus on treatment and rehabilitation, aligning with the Enlightenment principles of 19th century Europe.

Today, our Centre proudly employs approximately 1,000 dedicated professionals. Remarkably, while our entire hospital treated 6,500 psychiatric patients during its first century, we now provide inpatient care to this number annually, alongside treating around 80,000 outpatients each year. Our growth is reflected in our expanded infrastructure, including three outpatient centres in Riga, a specialized security centre, the comprehensive care centre "Vecpiebalga," and our role as a clinical base for Riga Stradiņš University, the University of Latvia, and the medical college.

Our 7.5 hectare territory has been transformed into the modern and therapeutic Solstice Garden, adding significant value to our treatment processes. As we progress, we continue to uphold the importance of mental health, striving to treat and support those burdened psychologically by today's realities. Moreover, we are committed to fostering an educational and social dialogue to combat stigma and prejudice associated with psychiatric conditions.

It would be our great privilege to have the Ministry of Social Affairs represented at this historic event. Your participation would not only honour our long-standing relationship but also reinforce the international commitment to advancing mental health care and education.

We kindly request that you confirm your participation by August 20, 2024. Please RSVP to [rakstiuz@rpnc.lv](mailto:rakstiuz@rpnc.lv) at your earliest convenience.

We look forward to the possibility of welcoming you to Riga and sharing this momentous occasion with you.

If you require any further information, feel free to contact us at email [rakstiuz@rpnc.lv](mailto:rakstiuz@rpnc.lv)

Yours sincerely,

Head of the Board

Ms Sandra Pūce