

IN MEMORIAM

Vasilii Chekurin – 125 years since the date of the birth

The XXth century was so dynamic that it could not but influence the biographies of those who lived and worked during those changeable times. 72 years of Professor Chekurin were full of intensity and anxiety: he was born during the rule of Tsar Alexander the IIIrd, experienced revolutions and wars, famine, technological base change and development and left this world in the era of space flights.

Vasilii Chekurin was born on April, 20th 1891 in Petrovsk city, Saratov province in a family of peasants. He was the first in his family who graduated from a University, received Diplomas of doctor of medical sciences and professor.

The future professor studied medicine in Universities of Saratov and Permi. He received his diploma of a doctor in 1923. His practical and scientific experience is valuable and useful until our days.

When a student he was interested in scientific works of Professor Leonid Komendantov, he worked in Otorhinolaryngology (ORL) Department as a clinical intern and assistant. After graduation in 1923 he was a scientific researcher of ORL Department, under the supervision of Professor Komendantov. He continued research in the University of Rostov-on-Don, organized and headed the ORL office and otorhinolaryngology department at the Petrovsk county hospital and the ORL department in Novocherkassk city.

Practical and administrative work Professor Chekurin combined with outstanding scientific activity. In 1926 there was published his first scientific article: "About nasal septum tuberculosis", in the journal Messenger of Otorhinolaryngology, No 6.

A new stage of his scientific activity was dedicated to theoretical basic elements and experimental work regarding the rehabilitation of balance disturbances. He succeeded in elaborating a serious experimental work in a short period.

In 1931, V. Chekurin becomes assistant in Leningrad Institute of Children and Teenagers' Health Protection and assistant of ORL department of the first Medical Institute of Leningrad. Due to the great number of scientific works, Doctor Vasilii Chekurin was awarded PhD degree in medical sciences (candidate of medical sciences) in 1938.

One year later, in 1939, the original experimental research of Dr. Chekurin resulted in his second PhD degree in medical



sciences thesis (doctor of medical sciences) for his scientific thesis "Compensation function of statokinetic receptors at the disturbance of vestibular apparatus".

During his activity in Leningrad Medical Institute he was concerned about ear physiology and pathology problems, as well as rehabilitation of hearing and speech in deaf-mute schools. Dr. Chekurin was the first who organized special classes for children with hearing problems, where didactical teaching was carried out parallel with hearing rehabilitation. In Leningrad, Dr. Chekurin published 14 scientific articles and booklets about treatment of deaf children.

Doctor's work and further activities of Professor Chekurin proved his organizational capacities. Professor Chekurin participated in founding of ORL clinics in Rostov-on-Don and Leningrad. He led the ORL department in Tashkent Institute of Medicine, at the same time he was the deputy commissioner on health problems in the Soviet Socialist Republic of Uzbekistan, deputy head of education department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan. Professor Chekurin was engaged in curative, teaching and administrative activities.

During his activity at the ORL department of the Institute of Medicine in Tashkent, Professor Vasilii Chekurin paid a special attention to the problem of nervous supply disorders in ORL diseases and developed nontraumatic methods and conservative techniques in treatment of patients with severe ORL pathologies. For example, he elaborated and introduced the techniques so as to remove foreign bodies from children's respiratory organs, using exclusively the functional endoscopic approach, thus excluding the need for traumatic tracheotomy.

In 1945 he was appointed the head of ORL department of Leningrad Medical Institute that was at that time evacuated to Kislovodsk and later transferred to Chisinau. Thus, in 1945 Professor Chekurin founded the Department of Otorhinolaryngology in the Institute of Medicine of Chisinau and laid the basis of scientific researches of ORL related issues in Moldova.

In Chisinau Institute of Medicine Professor Chekurin succeeded in accomplishing a great part of his ideas. He published a monograph and organized the work for preven-

ting ORL pathologies in vulnerable regions of the Republic of Moldova. Professor Chekurin founded the Association of Otorhinolaryngologists in Moldova. Practitioners were meeting at seminars organized by Professor Chekurin, where the most interesting clinical cases were presented and analysed.

In 1947 the Moldovan State Publishing House issued the book of Professor Chekurin "Balance restoration after vestibular apparatus disturbance". This was one of the first books published by the order of Chisinau Medical Institute, having 10 printed sheets and a circulation of 2 thousand copies. After half a year, the book was submitted to the Stalin Prize, the highest distinction at that time.

In 1951, Professor Vasiliu Chekurin was transferred to the Institute of Medicine in Ryazani, Russia, but he contributed a lot for his students of Chisinau Institute of Medicine M. Zagarskih and M. Sandul to receive their PhD degrees in medical sciences. The doctors of the first two graduations of Chisinau Medical Institute continued the work of Professor Chekurin in medical systems of both Moldova and other countries.

In the assembly hall of Scientific Council of Nicolae Testemitsanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy is hanging up to now the portrait of Professor Vasiliu Chekurin, who jointly with other scientists and doctors have created under difficult conditions the Medical Institute in Chisinau.

Professor Chekurin's spectrum of scientific research was very varied and vast. His research themes, which were elucidated in leading scientific journals and presented as reports in frame of various congresses and conferences contained the most current issues in otorhinolaryngology field.

Professor Vasiliu Chekurin studied deeply and consistently

the otology and audiology problems, namely, deafness and hearing loss, the impact of industrial noise on auditory organs of working teenagers, etc.

Children's ORL pathology of organs and especially of those with impaired hearing occupied a special place among the works of Professor Chekurin. Scientific researches served as basis for publications, reports, papers, both for organizational work with children with hearing problems and scientific investigations of the causes of hearing loss and methods of rehabilitation of the little patients.

Vasiliu Chekurin was awarded numerous distinctions including for founding the State Medical Institute in Chisinau, for outstanding achievements in scientific and teaching process organization and active participation in the scientific work.

In 1949, by the decision of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the USSR, Vasiliu Chekurin was awarded the Order "Insignia of Honour" for longevity in activity and irreproachable work within higher educational institutions.

Ababii Ion, MD, PhD1, PhD2, Professor, Academician
Chairman of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology
Rector of Nicolae Testemitsanu State University
of Medicine and Pharmacy.

Cabac Vasile, MD, PhD1, Associate Professor
Department of Otorhinolaryngology.

Maniuc Mihai, MD, PhD1, PhD2, Professor
Department of Otorhinolaryngology.

Sandu Alexandru, MD, PhD1, PhD2, Professor
Department of Otorhinolaryngology.

