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## Denys Dmytrovych Bitchuk



On 24 May 2021, Professor Denis Dmytrovych Bitchuk, an outstanding scientist, talented clinician, excellent pedagogue, Head of the Department of Orthopedics, Traumatology and Military Field Surgery of Kharkiv National Medical University (1989–2008), passed away.

Denis Dmytrovych was born on 23 October 1935 in the village of Rozhniv, Kosiv district, Stanislavsk (now Ivano-Frankivsk) region in a peasant family. After graduating from high school in 1953, he became a student at Chernivtsi Medical Institute, where he became interested in injury surgery and traumatology.

D. D. Bitchuk began his career as a surgeon in Kyrgyzstan, where he was immediately faced with the need to provide medical care alone to patients with a variety of diseases and injuries. It was a strict school, but it was there that the surgical universality of Denis Dmytrovych was first determined. After returning from Kyrgyzstan to his native land, he worked as an intern in the surgical department of the 1<sup>st</sup> City Clinical Hospital in Chernivtsi.

Denis Dmytrovych sought to continue his studies and in 1964 entered graduate school at Ukrainian Research Institute of Orthopedics and Traumatology (Kharkiv), where he proved to be a promising scientist, persistent experimenter and excellent clinician.

In 1967, under the guidance of a prominent orthopedist-traumatologist V. P. Trubnikov, he completed a dissertation for the degree of Candidate of Medical sciences on improving the treatment of gunshot fractures.

In 1967 a new period of D. D. Bitchuk's life began: he was invited to the Department of Orthopedics and Traumatology of Kharkiv Medical Institute, where his talent as a scientist, doctor and teacher was fully manifested. In 1984, Denis Dmytrovych as an experienced teacher was elected associate professor. D. D. Bitchuk's scientific developments of the first half of the 80s of the last century allowed domestic specialists to reach a qualitatively new level of treatment of gunshot and complex fractures of long bones. His proposed technology, method and device for stable, dynamic and combined intraosseous metalloosteosynthesis have opened a promising direction in traumatology. The method and device presented at the USSR Exhibition of Economic Achievements in 1986 and 1987 received a silver medal and were recommended by the State Committee for Science and Technology of the USSR Ministry of Health for serial production and implementation, and D. D. Bitchuk was awarded the title of Honored Inventor of the USSR.

In 1988, Denis Dmytrovych defended his doctoral dissertation «Surgical treatment of multiple, double diaphyseal fractures of long tubular bones and their defects» and the following year headed the Department of Traumatology, Orthopedics and Military Field Surgery. Thanks to his high professionalism, incredible efficiency and energy, for many years he wisely managed the department, recognized by the Ministry of Health of Ukraine as a reference and basic specialty «Traumatology and Orthopedics» for the country's universities. Denis Dmytrovych was the author of 8 copyright certificates, 6 patents, more than 250 publications, including 3 monographies and 2 textbooks, he supervised 5 candidates and 1 doctor of medical sciences.

His innovative developments in bone preservation and transplantation, highly effective tendon plastic surgery in the treatment of habitual shoulder dislocations, the method of achilloplasty in the case of obsolete injuries, original methods and devices

for the treatment of bone fractures, etc. are widely known. It should be noted the significant contribution of Denis Dmytrovych in the treatment of pelvic injuries, in particular, patients with polytraumas. Acquired during his work in Kyrgyzstan, the surgical universality of D. D. Bitchuk made it possible to perform extremely complex surgical interventions in patients with polystructural injuries of the pelvis and pelvic organs. Under his leadership, studies of pelvic restabilization through combined osteosynthesis have been widely used in specialized health care facilities.

For many years, Denis Dmytrovych provided counseling to patients in many medical institutions in Kharkiv and the region, where he successfully used his own original methods of surgical treatment of injuries and orthopedic diseases. He was an excellent teacher, his lectures, clinical examinations,

ward rounds showed a wide erudition and awareness of innovative methods of diagnosis and treatment. For many years of conscientious service to the education of young professionals, Denis Dmytrovych has trained hundreds of doctors and scientists, each of whom sincerely shared his knowledge and experience.

Denis Dmytrovych was a caring husband, father and grandfather, the founder of the medical dynasty, which, together with his many students, continues the noble mission of restoring human health. Together with Denis Dmytrovych's family, friends and colleagues, he is missed by hundreds of former patients whom he brought back to life. The bright memory of a wise mentor, a recognized scientist, a talented doctor, a sincere and sensitive person will forever remain in the hearts of everyone who knew him.

*NGO «Ukrainian Association of Orthopedists-Traumatologists»*

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Teams of the departments of traumatology and orthopedics and physical rehabilitation and sports medicine of KhNMU*