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Mykola Ivanovych Khvysuk



19 January 2024 marked the 90th anniversary of the birth of the famous scientist, organizer of health care and higher education, Doctor of Medical Sciences, professor, honored worker of science and technology of Ukraine, honorary rector of Kharkiv Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education, brilliant specialist orthopedic traumatologist and vertebrologist Mykola Ivanovych Khvysuk.

The years of Mykola Khvysuk's childhood fell on the times of war in Polissia, Belarus. Therefore, he is familiar with the hunger and despair of the fascist occupation, numerous human sufferings, and partisan life in the Polish forests. It was then that he felt a calling to help people. Mykola Ivanovych devoted his life to medicine, going from a student of Pinsk paramedic-midwifery school to the honorary rector of Kharkiv Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education.

Mykola Ivanovych always strived to be the best. At Vitebsk State Medical Institute, he not only excelled in studying and playing sports, but also took an active part in public life and showed interest in scientific research. The first years of independent professional activity were devoted to the treatment of bone tuberculosis, a rather urgent problem in the post-war years. In those difficult times (1941–1945) of a devastating war, the following years of severe famine led

to a mass disease of the population with tuberculosis. Many patients, especially those with bone and joint tuberculosis, needed surgical treatment. Mykola Ivanovych actively began his surgical activity as the chief physician of the Brest regional bone and tuberculosis sanatorium Domachevo, which he continued to improve throughout his life.

It was the thought of the need for further professional growth that led Mykola Ivanovych to Kharkiv, the city of science and culture, industry and students, which forever remains in Mykola Ivanovych's heart and to which he devoted all the subsequent years of his creative life.

In 1962, Mykola Khvysuk began postgraduate studies at the Department of Orthopedics and Traumatology of the Ukrainian Institute for the Advancement of Physicians, which at that time was headed by a corresponding member of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR, Professor M. P. Novachenko. It was he, as well as O. O. Korzh (Academician of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR and Ukraine) who became his real teachers, shaped the outlook and scientific directions of activity as a young scientist and clinician.

M. I. Khvysuk continued his further scientific and clinical activities at the oldest specialized Professor M. I. Sytenko Research Institute of Orthopedics and Traumatology, which he devoted to the study of spine disorders. In 1966, he successfully defended his candidate's thesis on the topic "Anatomical and topographic justification of operative approaches to different departments of the spine". In the following years, Mykola Ivanovych continued to develop an innovative direction at that time — surgical treatment of patients with spine disorders from the standpoint of orthopedics and traumatology. In 1977, he brilliantly defended his thesis for obtaining the scientific degree of Doctor of Medical Sciences, devoted to the problem of instability of spinal segments during osteochondrosis, spondylolisthesis, as well as the consequences of injuries. He became one of the leading domestic vertebrologists.

Mykola Ivanovych is one of the founders of Soviet and Ukrainian vertebrology, as well as the creator of Kharkiv School of Vertebrologists, which still

occupies a leading place in the scientific world today. His first students were: M. O. Korzh, G. Kh. Gruntovskiy, V. V. Fendrikov, G. I. Fadeev, O. I. Prodan, S. S. Pukhachova, E. M. Makovoz, E. B. Volkov, M. I. Zavelya and many others.

Professor M. I. Khvysyuk was the first to substantiate various types of operative interventions on the front and back parts of the spine using original metal structures and tools developed by him and his students. A number of original surgical interventions on the spinal cord in case of complicated spinal injuries were proposed, as well as well-founded methods of treatment of spinal tumors, original surgical approaches to the vertebral bodies were developed. As a result, the monograph "Operative approaches to the bodies of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae" was published.

It should be noted that for the first time in world orthopedic practice under the leadership of Professor M. I. Khvysyuk at Professor M. I. Sytenko Institute an operation on the cervical spine, namely atlanto-occipital arthrodesis was performed with a positive result of the treatment.

For the first time, the possibility of an operation for the manipulation of vertebral bodies with different types and degrees of their displacement (for spondylolisthesis and fracture dislocations) was substantiated and a whole complex of methods of anterior, posterior and combined spondylosis with the use of auto-, allosteoplasty and ceramoplasty was developed and introduced into clinical practice. Mykola Ivanovych also for the first time in Ukraine initiated the need to study the peculiarities of osteochondrosis in children and adolescents, in the elderly, developed the classification of osteochondrosis of the spine, substantiated a number of original treatment methods using methods of distraction, manual therapy, cryodestruction, chemonucleolysis of intervertebral discs, etc.

More than 40 theses were defended under his direct supervision. He is the author of more than 400 scientific papers, 12 monographs, and more than 60 inventions.

Thanks to the unique organizational abilities, under the leadership and with the direct participation of M. I. Khvysyuk, 32 new departments were opened at Kharkiv Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education, the so-called "Saltiv medical complex" was developed and created, one of the largest educational, scientific and clinical centers in Ukraine. There, for the first time in Ukraine, under the leadership of M. I. Khvysyuk, new directions in medicine were organized with the development of curricula and pro-

grams in psychotherapy, narcology, sexology, neonatology, vertebrology, emergency and emergency care, clinical computer technologies, as well as new directions in family medicine, etc.

Today, in accordance with current requirements, the entire educational and scientific potential of Kharkiv Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education is attached to Kharkiv National Medical University in order to create the most attractive conditions for improving the qualifications of doctors in accordance with modern world trends.

For all his principles and administrative talent, Mykola Ivanovych was always distinguished by his humanity, sincere respect for colleagues and patients, benevolence and interest in people, humor and kindness.

Despite being busy with medical, scientific and administrative work, Mykola Ivanovych always took an active part in public life, was a deputy of the city and regional councils, a member of the editorial board of many scientific publications, he founded and was the editor-in-chief of the journal "Problems of Medical Science and Education".

Professor M. I. Khvysyuk is an active member of Kharkiv Medical Society, a member of the Health Care Coordination Council of the Kharkiv Regional State Administration.

The merits of Professor Mykola Ivanovych Khvysyuk are well appreciated by the scientific community in Ukraine, he has been awarded the honorary titles of full member of the Engineering Academy of Ukraine, honored worker of science and technology of Ukraine, along with this, he is an honorary member of the International Engineering Academy and the International Personnel Academy. In 1997, he has been recognized as a person of the year in the field of medical science by the International Biographical Center and the American Biographical Institute (1998).

It should be noted separately that M. I. Khvysyuk has been awarded a number of government awards: "Order of the Red Banner of Labor", "Order of Friendship of Peoples", "Honorary Medal of the President of Ukraine", "4th Degree Order for Labor Achievements", 2nd degree Order for merits", a gold medal "For merits in education", a diploma and a commemorative medal of a nominee of the "Golden Book of the Ukrainian Elite" almanac, and Acknowledgement of the President of Ukraine. In 2013, Mykola Ivanovych has been elected an Honorary Citizen of Kharkiv Region.

The full-scale aggression of the Russian Federation brought devastating changes to the plans of our

entire country, but Kharkiv and its residents are worthy patriots, steadfast and brave, strong-minded citizens of independent Ukraine. Together with his family, his students and the medical community, Mykola Ivanovych remains in Kharkiv, actively supports scientists and colleagues in their difficult daily work of providing aid to the injured.

Mykola Ivanovych meets his anniversary full of strength and energy with faith in the fastest Vic-

tory of the Armed Forces, restoration of the beloved city of Kharkiv for the further development of science, medicine and society.

We wish dear Professor Mykola Ivanovych Khvy-syuk good health, cheerfulness, inexhaustible energy and optimism!

With great respect to you, your students, colleagues and admirers of your personality. Be happy!

*Ukrainian Association of Orthopedists-Traumatologists
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Editorial board of the journal "Orthopaedics, Traumatology and Prosthetics"*