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To the 100th anniversary of Professor Yuri Yuliyovych Kollontai — memory of the teacher (1925-2025)



8 May 2025 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Yuriy Yuliyovych Kolontai, an orthopedic traumatologist, an outstanding scientist, the founder of the Ukrainian school of hand surgery and tendon alloplasty, a laureate of the State Prize of Ukraine, an Honored Inventor of Ukraine, Honorary Chairman of the Dnipropetrovsk Regional Association of Traumatologists and Orthopedists, Head of the Department of Orthopedics and Traumatology of the Dnipropetrovsk Medical Academy (1970–1990), a veteran of World War II, awarded 7 government awards.

Yuriy Yuliyovych was born on 8 May 1925 in the village of Solone, Dnipropetrovsk region, in the family of a doctor and began his career in August 1941, working as a medical orderly in an evacuation hospital. In February 1943 he was drafted into the army and, after graduating from the artillery school, he participated in numerous combat operations. At the age of 19, he became a holder of the Order of the Red Star. In 1951, after graduating from the Dnipropetrovsk Medical Institute (DMI), he was sent to Professor M. I. Sytenko Kharkiv Research Institute of Orthopedics and Traumatology, where, under the leadership of Professor M. P. Novachenko, he went from clinical resident to senior research fellow, chief physician. In 1957, he successfully defended his

Candidate thesis “Congenital injuries of the brachial plexus in newborns”.

In August 1962, Yu. Yu. Kolontai was elected to the position of Associate Professor of the Department of Traumatology, Orthopedics and Military Field Surgery of the Military Medical Institute, its head, and later he was re-elected for 20 years.

Significant surgical activity, perseverance and determination allowed him to solve a number of problems of orthopedic and traumatological practice and summarize his experience in the doctoral dissertation “Tendon Homoplasty” (1968).

The professor was a scientist with a wide scientific range, published more than 240 scientific papers of great theoretical and practical significance, 40 patents for inventions and 47 rationalization proposals.

In 1983, the monograph “Open Hand Injuries” was published under the editorship of Kolontai, and in 1997 “Surgery of Hand Injuries”. These are the first and most detailed manuals on this problem in Ukraine.

On the initiative and with the personal participation of Yuriy Yuliyovych, in 1982 an interregional center, the first specialized department of hand surgery in Ukraine was opened in Dnipropetrovsk. Thanks to his perseverance, an interregional center for tissue preparation and conservation was opened. The professor paid constant and significant attention to the preparation of scientific change, under his leadership 3 doctoral and 10 candidate theses were defended at the department.

Time passes inexorably, but the work, creative ideas and scientific achievements of Yuriy Yuliyovych continue to live, because he managed to form a powerful scientific school, develop traditions, unite his like-minded students into a friendly team that honorably carries and creatively develops the ideas of the teacher.

Every year on May days, according to a long-standing tradition, numerous students, colleagues, and patients of Yuriy Yuliyevich Kolontai gather at the cemetery to honor the bright memory of a man who left a piece of his soul, love, and devotion to the profession in everyone.