

Surgeon, citizen, teacher (to the 100th anniversary of the birth of Professor I.S. Nikolaev)

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Abstract

The article provides information about a prominent Nizhny Novgorod surgeon, the first head of the tuberculosis department of the Gorky Medical Institute named after S.M. Kirov (now Privolzhsky Research Medical University) Ivan Semyonovich Nikolaev. Ivan Semyonovich Nikolaev went through the horrors of the Great Patriotic War, worked with prominent doctors of his time (L.V. Bogush, B.A. Korolev, S.S. Yudin), achieved unprecedented success in the surgical treatment of pulmonary and extrapulmonary tuberculosis, received the degree of Doctor of Medical Sciences after defending the candidate's thesis (for the first time in the history of the Gorky Medical Institute named after S.M. Kirov) due to the uniqueness and fundamental nature of the scientific materials presented. Professor Ivan Semyonovich Nikolaev successfully combined pedagogical, scientific and medical work with great organizational and social work. For many years, I.S. Nikolaev was a member of the board of the All-Union and All-Russian Society of Phthisiologists, for more than 20 years he was the Chairman of the Board of the Gorky Scientific Medical Society of Phthisiologists, a member of the editorial board of the journal "Problems of Tuberculosis". Many times Ivan Semyonovich Nikolaev represented the Nizhny Novgorod phthisiology and medical institute at the All-Union and All-Russian congresses and conferences of phthisiologists was a member of their presidiums. In 1988, Ivan Semyonovich Nikolaev, due to his age, left the position of head of the tuberculosis department and worked as a consultant professor for several years, and then retired. In recent years, he lived in his native village Paustovo (Vyaznikovsky district, Vladimir region). In 1999, Ivan Semyonovich died.

Keywords: history of medicine, history of PRMU, Nizhny Novgorod phthisiology school, Professor I.S. Nikolaev.

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April 2019 marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Semyonovich Nikolaev, who was an outstanding innovator surgeon, professor, doctor of medical sciences, and the first head of the Tuberculosis Department at the S.M. Kirov Gorky Medical Institute (now Privolzhsky Research Medical University) (Fig. 1).

I.S. Nikolaev was born in the village of Paustovo, Vyaznikovsky District, Vladimir Region, on April 27, 1919. He attended primary school there from 1926 to 1930, where he continued his studies in Grades 5–6 in the city of Vyazniki. From 1932 to 1936, he studied at secondary school No. 2 in Dzerzhinsk. Afterward, he graduated from Grade 10 and entered the Department of General Medicine at S.M. Kirov Gorky Medical Institute. In 1939, after 4 years of study, he enrolled as a student at the Kuibyshev Military Medical Academy.

Moreover, he finished his apprenticeship in 1941 and was immediately sent to the front [1] (Fig. 2).

During the Great Patriotic War, he rose through the ranks from being a regimental doctor to the head of the Surgical Department of the 5th Guards Army evacuation hospital. Further, he took part in battles on the First and Second Ukrainian and Southwestern Fronts. On September 21, 1941, he was wounded and captured by fascists near Darnitsa. In June 1943, after escape from captivity, he was enlisted in a partisan detachment and returned to the Soviet Army in the autumn of the same year.

Since October 1943, I.S. Nikolaev worked first as a resident doctor and then as head of the Surgical Department of the sorting evacuation hospital No. 4948 of the 5th Guards Army of the Ukrainian Front. In the spring of the 1945 victory, he was in Prague.

On March 10, 1945, Ivan Semyonovich Nikolaev, the captain of the medical service, was awarded the Order of the Red Star. According to the award sheet signed by Medical Service Major Breger, he was “a civilized doctor, a highly qualified surgeon, treated the wounded cherishingly. On the days of the battles for the Oder, Comrade Nikolaev, as always, regardless of personal fatigue, did not leave the operating table for several days, performing complex and important surgeries. In any conditions, Comrade Nikolaev saved the lives of many hundreds of soldiers and officers, applying the latest achievements of medical science. Comrade Nikolayev has been successfully treating a serious disease, gas gangrene. Together with the captain of the medical service Vorzhev, he designed an orthopedic apparatus that enabled to solve the most important problem, the surgical treatment of the most severe injuries of the shoulder. Comrade Nikolayev deserves a government award with the Order of the Red Star for his unwavering commitment to his work, in fulfilling his duty to the Motherland” [2].

At the front, Ivan Semyonovich Nikolaev met Professor Sergei Sergeevich Yudin, who worked at the N.V. Sklifosovsky Research Institute for Emergency Medicine. On October 10, 1947, Professor S.S. Yudin wrote: “Dear Ivan Nikolaevich! Try to have a business trip through the Central Institute for Advanced Training of Physicians ... I will gladly employ you in my clinic, not earlier than December, ... from October 10 to December 15 I will be on vacation.” However, I.S. Nikolaev was unable to respond to this letter, thus preserving his professional career and life, as Sergei Sergeevich was arrested as a spy and then imprisoned 2 months later.

Furthermore, I.S. Nikolaev was demobilized in 1946 and returned to his native land where he continued surgery at the Voroshilov Hospital in Dzerzhinsk until February 1955.

In 1951, Ivan Semyonovich was trained at the Central Institute for Advanced Training of Doctors in thoracic surgery and surgical aids for tuberculosis, where he began to combine his work as a phthisiologist at a tuberculosis hospital in Dzerzhinsk.

In 1955, I.S. Nikolaev was fully engaged in phthisiology and headed the Surgical Department of the Gorky Regional Antituberculosis Dispensary (now the Nizhny Novgorod Regional Clinical Tuberculosis Dispensary), founded in the 1930s by Lev Konstantinovich Bogush.

Moreover, I.S. Nikolaev performed the first surgeries of lung resection for tuberculosis at the clinic of academician B.A. Korolyov. The patients were prepared for surgery at the Antituberculosis Dispensary, and on the day before surgery, the patients



Fig. 1. Professor I.S. Nikolaev



Fig. 2. I.S. Nikolaev during the war

were hospitalized in a special ward of hospital No. 5 in Gorky (now Nizhny Novgorod).

In November 21, 1957, I.S. Nikolaev began surgery on pulmonary tuberculosis in the Regional Antituberculosis Dispensary. On this day, a memorable photo was taken (Fig. 3) with the staff of the Surgical Department. At the back of this photo, there are cordial words of gratitude to academician B.A. Korolyov.

Thanks to the brilliant training of Ivan Semyonovich, who has benefited from the vast experience of his teachers, the great surgeons Boris Alekseevich Korolyov, Lev Konstantinovich Bogush, and Sergei Sergeevich Yudin, since 1957, in the Gorky Regional Antituberculosis Dispensary, all state-of-the-art surgical interventions for tuberculosis in various localizations, including tuberculosis of the spine and joints, were introduced into daily practice (Fig. 4).

In 1959, because of his perseverance and determination, I.S. Nikolaev introduced the technique of one-stage cavernoplasty to surgery by a closed method, clearly formulating the indications for the selection of patients for phthisiosurgical interventions.

Skilled surgeon and innovator I.S. Nikolaev was one of the first surgeons in the Soviet Union to per-



Fig. 3. Photograph with academician B.A. Korolyov after the first lung surgery at the Antituberculosis Dispensary

form radical surgeries for tuberculosis of the spine using transpleural and transperitoneal approaches. He successfully developed and tested his original surgical interventions to replace intervertebral destruction with a bone implant and performed combined surgeries on the lungs, pleura, and spine with paravertebral abscesses.

Further, Ivan Semyonovich analyzed the scientific data accumulated by the vast work of new-type surgical interventions performed in more than 270 patients and summarized it in the form of a thesis titled “Surgeries of a radical type in the comprehensive treatment of patients with tuberculosis of the thoracic and thoracolumbar spine,” which he successfully presented for defense in 1965 for his Ph.D. degree in Medicine [3].

In view of the great clinical significance of the work, the fundamental nature of the subject development, as well as the novelty and excellent results of surgeries, the Academic Council of the Gorky Medical Institute found it possible to award Ivan Semyonovich Nikolaev an academic degree, not a candidate but a doctor of medical sciences. This was the first decision of this kind in the history of the institute [4].

In September 1967, I.S. Nikolaev headed the newly established Department of Tuberculosis at the S.M. Kirov Gorky Medical Institute [5].

The highly qualified surgeon-inventor Ivan Semyonovich Nikolaev has devoted a great deal of effort to the organization and establishment of the department. Students liked to communicate with the young professor and appreciated his level of professionalism and erudition and excellent knowledge on poetry, history, religion, and folk customs.

Simultaneously with lectures and training sessions with students, extensive scientific, organizational, and methodological work was carried out under the supervision of Professor I.S. Nikolaev.

He has published 107 scientific papers and two research papers on the problems of chemotherapeutic and surgical treatment of patients with pulmonary and extrapulmonary tuberculosis and the



Fig. 4. Professor I.S. Nikolaev during surgery

organization of antituberculosis care for the population. Under his guidance, nine candidates and one doctoral dissertation were defended on phthisiology, phthisiosurgery, extrapulmonary tuberculosis, anesthesiology, bronchology, etc.

The merits of I.S. Nikolaev were also noted by international colleagues. Thus, the results of his research were published in international medical journals and newspapers.

Professor Ivan Semyonovich Nikolaev has successfully combined pedagogical, scientific and medical work with extensive organizational and social activities. For many years, I.S. Nikolaev was a member of the board of the All-Union and All-Russian Societies of Phthisiatricians. In addition, for more than 20 years, he was chairman of the board of the Gorky Scientific Medical Society of Phthisiatricians and a member of the editorial board of the journal *Problems of Tuberculosis*. Moreover, he has represented many times the Nizhny Novgorod Phthisiology and Medical Institute at the all-Union and all-Russian congresses and conferences of phthisiatricians and has been a member of their presidiums. In 1965–1969, he was elected a deputy to the legislative bodies of the city of Gorky.

The military and labor merits of Professor I.S. Nikolaev were awarded numerous awards, including the Order of the Red Star, the Order of the Badge of Honor, the medal “For the Defense of Kiev,” the medal “For the Liberation of Prague,” the medal “For the Victory over Germany,” etc.

In 1988, due to his age, Ivan Semyonovich Nikolaev left the post of head of the Department of Tuberculosis and worked as a consultant professor for several years, and then retired. In recent years, he lived in his home village in Paustovo. In 1999, Ivan Semyonovich died.

In 2015, by the decision of the Academic Council of the Nizhny Novgorod State Medical Academy, the Department of Tuberculosis was renamed into the I.S. Nikolaev Department of Phthisiology.

The staff of the I.S. Nikolaev Department of Phthisiology, teaching future doctors the basics

of phthisiology and participating in scientific and medical work make its contribution to the fight against the longest-standing disease of the human race, tuberculosis, guided by the principle proposed by the outstanding Russian historian V.O. Klyuchevsky: “To be a good teacher, you need to know what you teach and love those you teach.”

In 2012–2014, the department held a museum exposition on the history of Russian and Nizhny Novgorod phthisiology services and the history of the I.S. Nikolaev Department of Phthisiology. A separate stand of the museum is dedicated to Professor Ivan Semyonovich Nikolaev, the founder of radical treatment for patients with spinal tuberculosis and the Tuberculosis Department of S.M. Kirov Gorky Medical Institute. Traditionally, on the first academic day, students are given lectures-excursions around the museum of the department, which is attended by the daughter of Professor I.S. Nikolaev, the former head of the clinical and laboratory diagnostics of the Valentina Ivanovna Voloshina Dispensary.

I.S. Nikolaev will remain forever in the hearts of his many apprentices, former students, grateful patients, and staff of the department and the dispensary. The name of Ivan Semyonovich is forever inscribed in the history of phthisiology.

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