

To the 100th anniversary of Ivan Tanasienko: in memory of a teacher, scientist, and surgeon

The article commemorates the 100th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Denisovich Tanasienko (1925—1998), an outstanding Ukrainian surgeon, teacher, scientist, and medical education organizer. The article highlights the key stages of his life, professional development, and scientific activity. I.D. Tanasienko began his career in the post-war period as a doctor at a peripheral hospital and rose to the rank of professor at the Kyiv Medical Institute, dean of the faculty, and head of the Department of Surgery. His scientific interests encompassed a wide range of issues related to abdominal, vascular, endocrine, and emergency surgery. He was among the first in Ukraine to adopt contemporary methods of diagnosing and treating obstructive jaundice and diseases of the stomach, biliary tract, and pancreas. He authored over 100 scientific papers, spearheaded clinical innovations, and supervised 16 candidate's and 2 doctoral theses. Ivan Denisovich, a remarkable lecturer and mentor, influenced students' knowledge as well as their perspective, instilling strong ethical standards in medicine. His contributions to medicine were recognized with the State Prize of Ukraine. The bright memory of I.D. Tanasienko lives on in the hearts of his students, colleagues, and grateful patients.



Ivan Denisovich Tanasienko was born on June 16, 1925, in the village of Ustye, Bershadsky district, Vinnytsia region, to a poor peasant family. In 1946, he entered the Vinnytsia Medical Institute, from which he graduated in 1951. While still a student, he drew his teachers' attention to his abilities and keen interest in surgery. After graduating from the institute, I.D. Tanasienko worked for 3 years in the medical department of the Chita Railway, and then at the railway hospital in the city of Kozyatyn, Vinnytsia region. Ivan Denisovich developed his surgical and clinical skills while working at remote

hospitals. Those small medical facilities provided the basis for his initial patient interactions, practical skills, and doctor's worldview. The first surgical interventions, communication with more experienced colleagues, and outpatient admission of patients marked the start of the future professor's medical career.

From 1954 to 1965, I.D. Tanasienko worked as a junior researcher in the Department of Clinical Surgery at the Ukrainian Research Institute of Clinical Medicine, named after Academician M. D. Strazhesko. Within the confines of this clinic, he grew into a highly qualified surgeon under the guidance of the outstanding surgeon O. L. Phakadze. At that time, patients with various surgical pathologies were treated in the surgical department of the institute. Commissurotomy was performed for mitral stenosis, lung resection for nonspecific diseases and tumours, and surgical interventions were conducted for gastric and duodenal ulcers, pathologies of the small and large intestines, liver and extrahepatic bile ducts, peripheral vessels, breast and superficial tumours. Surgeons actively operated on urgent pathologies, and the clinic provided emergency care. The clinic was among the first in Ukraine to administer endotracheal anesthesia, which replaced the imperfect mask anesthesia. I. D. Tanasienko played the most active role in this multifaceted clinic activity. For 10 years, Ivan Denisovich collaborated with associate professor O. L. Phakadze to not only comprehensively master thoracic and abdominal surgery, as well as the basics of anesthesiology and resuscitation, but also to shape his clinical thinking. At the same time,

the inefficiency and inaccuracy of medical and diagnostic methods and techniques prompted him to recognize the necessity of conducting scientific research, particularly in the challenging area of gastric and duodenal surgery. In 1963, I. D. Tanasienko defended his PhD thesis titled «The effect of gastric resection on iron metabolism in patients with gastric and duodenal ulcers».

Ivan Denisovich's subsequent activities had a tight relationship with the Kyiv Medical Institute. In December 1964, I. D. Tanasienko began working as an acting and later associate professor at the Department of Hospital Surgery, which was headed by Professor M. M. Kovalev, whom he regarded as his second teacher. At that time, the clinic was one of the leading in Ukraine. Its scope of practice included surgery of the liver and extrahepatic biliary tract, stomach, intestines, peripheral vessels, and breast. Treatment of patients with purulent surgical pathology accounted for a large amount of work. Several days a week, the clinic was on duty in the ambulance, receiving an extensive number of urgent patients (up to 100 ambulance carriages per day) from the right bank of Kyiv. In such circumstances, Ivan Denisovich clearly demonstrated his abilities as an outstanding clinician, teacher, and scientist. In 1971, I. D. Tanasienko defended his doctoral dissertation on «Clinic, diagnostics and surgical treatment of obstructive jaundice of non-neoplastic origin». This fundamental scientific work and subsequent research on this topic put him in the first ranks of surgeons and scientists studying such a complex problem. A system for categorizing obstructive jaundice of non-neoplastic origin was proposed, as well as the tactics and characteristics of surgical interventions in this patient population.

Percutaneous transhepatic cholangiography was one of the earliest methods used in Ukraine to diagnose jaundice, and it was implemented in the clinic of the Department of Surgery at the Faculty of Sanitary and Hygienic Sciences, which was later headed by I. D. Tanasienko.

In 1973, Ivan Denisovich was awarded the academic degree of Doctor of Medical Sciences. In the same year, he was appointed Professor of the Department of Hospital Surgery of the Kyiv Medical Institute. From 1972 to 1976, he served as the dean of the First Medical Faculty of the Kyiv Medical Institute. Many students of that time are still grateful to their strict but fair dean. Ivan Denisovich helped capable and hardworking students in every way, yet he was merciless to future doctors who truanted.

In December 1974, he was awarded the academic title of Professor. From 1974 to 1994, Professor I. D. Tanasienko headed the Department of Surgery

of the Sanitary and Hygienic (later Medical and Preventive) Faculty at the Kyiv Medical Institute (later the National Medical University). From 1994 to 1998, he worked as a professor at this department (later the Department of General Surgery No. 2 of the National Medical University).

Ivan Denisovich's activities as a teacher and lecturer were also well-known. When giving lectures on general surgery or surgical diseases to third and fourth-year students, he necessarily included demonstrations of thematic patients. Moreover, the students prepared in advance by their teachers and postgraduates reported on the patients during the lectures. In particular, several patients were shown to have acute appendicitis, including simple, phlegmonous, gangrenous, and gangrenous-perforative types. The combination of a conversation with the patient, their objective examination, a well-voiced audience, and a demonstration of slides, tables, and drawings made a strong impression on the students and contributed to their better assimilation of the material.

The presentation of films from various sections of surgery was also required as part of the lecture procedure. Professor I. D. Tanasienko's practical classes evolved not only into a command of knowledge and practical skills, but also into discussions about life and philosophy, which formed the worldview of the future doctor, citizen, and patriot.

In 1988, I. D. Tanasienko was awarded the State Prize of Ukraine for the cycle of works «Scientific development and introduction into wide practice of health care methods of diagnostics, surgical treatment, and prevention of diseases of the endocrine glands».

Ivan Denisovich's scientific and surgical interests were extremely diverse. His numerous publications cover the surgical treatment of mitral stenosis, diseases of the stomach, duodenum, small and large intestines, pancreas, liver, gallbladder and extrahepatic bile ducts, pathology of the breast, peripheral vessels, and issues of purulent surgery. His unique research distinguishes him not only as a highly qualified surgeon but also as an inquisitive scientist.

Under the leadership of I. D. Tanasienko, the clinic dealt with the issues of thyroid surgery, gastric and duodenal ulcers and associated complications. He proposed numerous inventions and rationalizations, implemented innovative surgical techniques and interventions. Some of them included methods of valve formation in gastrocystoanastomosis in patients with pancreatic cysts, probes and bougies for treating extrahepatic bile duct diseases. 107 scientific works were published in both national and international journals. Under his supervision, 16 candidate's and 2 doctoral dissertations were defended.

Ivan Denisovich organized and participated in many congresses, conferences, and plenums of the Scientific Society of Surgeons.

I. D. Tanasienko's wife, Natalya Rodionovna Skaletska (died 1996), was the daughter of famous composer and folklorist Rodion Andriyovych Skaletsky. The family always maintained a spirit of goodwill and creativity, engaged in interesting medical and philosophical discussions and singing Ukrainian songs. Ivan Denisovich's house was frequently visited by friends and colleagues, including Prof. M. M. Kovalev, Prof. G. V. Burenko, associate professors P. F. Demydyuk, M. S. Khalabuda, A. V. Vovchenko, V. M. Mellin, Y. O. Suprun, writer V. Yukhymovych, and many others.

Ivan Denisovich Tanasienko passed away on March 27, 1998, and was buried in the Forest Cemetery in Kyiv. He will always be remembered fondly by friends, colleagues, students, and grateful patients.

REFERENCES

1. 160 years of the National Medical University named after O. O. Bogomolets. NМУ named after O. O. Bogomolets; Edited by E. G. Goncharuk. Kyiv: Stolitya; 2001. 368 p.
2. Kryzhanovsky YaY. 80 years of the Department of General Surgery No 2 of the National Medical University named after O. O. Bogomolets. Clinical Surgery. 2015;(8). Ukrainian.
3. From the past to the future through the present. History of the Department of General Surgery No 2. Kyiv: Medprint; 2024. 312 p. Ukrainian.

Y. P. Tsyura, M. S. Kryvopustov

Bogomolets National Medical University, Kyiv

До 100-річчя Івана Танасієнка: пам'яті вчителя, вченого, хірурга

Ю. П. Цюра, М. С. Кривопустов

Національний медичний університет імені О. О. Богомольця, Київ

Стаття присвячена 100-річчю з дня народження Івана Денисовича Танасієнка (1925—1998) — видатного українського хірурга, педагога, вченого та організатора медичної освіти. Висвітлено ключові етапи його життя, професійного становлення та наукової діяльності. Розпочавши трудову діяльність у повоєнний період, І. Д. Танасієнко пройшов шлях від лікаря периферійної лікарні до професора Київського медичного інституту, декана факультету та завідувача кафедри хірургії. Його наукові інтереси охоплювали широкий спектр проблем абдомінальної, судинної, ендокринної та невідкладної хірургії. Він одним із перших в Україні впровадив сучасні методи діагностики та лікування obturaційних жовтяниць, захворювань шлунка, жовчних шляхів та підшлункової залози. Автор понад 100 наукових праць, ініціатор клінічних нововведень, науковий керівник 16 кандидатських і 2 докторських дисертацій. Відомий як блискучий лектор та наставник, Іван Денисович формував не лише знання, а й світогляд студентів, прищеплював високі етичні стандарти професії. Його внесок у медицину відзначено Державною премією України. Світла пам'ять про І. Д. Танасієнка зберігається в серцях його учнів, колег і вдячних пацієнтів.