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THE OUTSTANDING SOVIET AND RUSSIAN CARDIAC SURGEON

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Akchurin

Suleimanovich (1946–2024) was a surgeon, Doctor of Medical Sciences (1985), Professor (1992), Academician of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences (RAMS), Russian Academy of

Renat

Акчурин Ренат Сөләйман улы (1946–2024) – хирург, медицина фәннәре докторы (1985), профессор (1992), Россия Медицина фәннәре академиясе академигы (1997), Россия Фәннәр академиясе академигы

Акчурин

Сулейманович (1946–2024) – хирург, доктор медицинских наук (1985), профессор (1992), академик Российской академии медицинских наук (РАМН), Российской академии наук (2011),

Ренат

Sciences (2011), Honorary Member of the Bashkir Academy of Sciences (1998) and Tatar Academy of Sciences (1999). R. Akchurin was the author and co-author of more than 900 scientific papers, including 8 monographs and 31 certificates of authorship. The scientist made a huge contribution to the preparation of highly qualified personnel: Under his supervision, 9 doctoral and 36 candidate dissertations were defended. R. Akchurin was awarded the Order of Honor (1996), of Friendship (2016), "For Services to the Fatherland" of IV degree (2021), the RKO medal for outstanding achievements in the development of Russian cardiology (2018), the Gold Medal named after N. Blokhin (2021) and the E. Chazov Gold Medal (2024). He was a Laureate of the USSR State Prize (1982) and the State Prize of the Government of the Russian Federation (2004).

(2011), Башкортстан Республикасы Фәннәр академиясе академигы (1997), Татарстан Фәннәр академиясенең шәрәфле әгъзасы (1999).

Р.С. Акчурин – 900 дән артык фәнни хезмәт авторы һәм автордашы, алар арасында 8 монография һәм 31 авторлык таныклыгы бар. Галим югары квалификацияле кадрлар әзерләүгә зур өлеш кертте. Аның житәкчелегендә 9 докторлык һәм 36 кандидатлык диссертациясе якланды. Р.С. Акчурин Почёт, (1996), Дуслык (2016), IV дәрәжә «Ватан алдындагы казанышлары өчен» (2021) орденнары, РКОның Ватан кардиологиясен үстерүдә зур казанышлары өчен, Н.Н. Блохин, Е.И. Чазов исемендәге алтын медальләр белән бүләкләнгән. СССР Дәүләт премиясе (1982), РФ Хөкүмәте (2004) премияләре лауреаты.

Почетный член Башкирской Академии наук (1998), Татарской Академии наук (1999).

Р. А. Акчурин – автор и соавтор более 900 научных работ, в том числе 8 монографий и 31 авторских свидетельств. Ученый внес огромный вклад в подготовку кадров высшей квалификации: под его руководством защищено 9 докторских и 36 кандидатских диссертаций.

Р. А. Акчурин был награжден орденами Почета (1996), Дружбы (2016), «За заслуги перед Отечеством» IV степени (2021), медалью РКО за выдающиеся достижения в развитии отечественной кардиологии (2018), золотой медалью им. Н. Н. Блохина (2021), Золотой медалью Е. И. Чазова (2024).

Является лауреатом Государственной премии СССР (1982), Государственной премии Правительства РФ (2004)

Renat Akchurin was born on April 2, 1946, to a family of teachers in the city of Andijan, the Uzbek SSR (now the Republic of Uzbekistan). After leaving high school in Andijan in 1964, he entered the Andijan Medical Institute; four years later he moved to the 1st Moscow Medical Institute named after I. Sechenov, from which he graduated in 1971.

The next year he spent working as a GP in the Reutov City Hospital, the Moscow Region, in 1972–1973 he held the position of trauma surgeon there. Concurrently, he worked as a part time surgeon at the 79th Hospital in Moscow and a trauma surgeon at the Balashikha District Hospital. In 1973, he was enrolled in the clinical internship in surgery at the All-Union Scientific Center of Surgery of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences (VNCS USSR AMS). After completing his course in 1975, he was accepted as a junior research fellow in the Department of Microvascular Surgery at VNCS USSR AMS. In 1978, R. Akchurin defended his Ph.D. thesis "Organization and indications for microsurgical replantation of fingers and hands". In the same year, he became a senior research fellow in the Department of Vascular Microsurgery at VNCS USSR AMS. From 1984, he began to specialize in cardiac surgery. He completed an internship at the Michael DeBakey Clinic (Houston, USA). In the same year, he was elected to the position of head of the Department of Cardiovascular Surgery at the A. L. Myasnikov Institute

of Clinical Cardiology of the Cardiology Research and Production Center, the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences.

"Starting from the first days of his work at the Cardiology Center, Academician Akchurin, for the first time in our country and Europe, introduced into clinical practice a highly effective microsurgical technology in operations on coronary arteries. This important and significant achievement made it possible to provide medical aid to patients previously considered inoperable, significantly reduce mortality and the number of complications during myocardial revascularization.

In addition to the introduction of microsurgical techniques in heart operations, Academician Akchurin introduced methods of using internal thoracic arteries for coronary bypass grafting, developed and improved specialized microsurgical instruments and suture material of domestic production for reconstructive microsurgery of the coronary arteries; he also developed methods of direct myocardial revascularization operations without artificial circulation, created an original myocardial stabilizer "Kosmeya" for this purpose, developed and improved complex surgical interventions in combined operations on the heart and blood vessels in patients with severe concomitant diseases (including cancer); introduced into practice and improved advanced surgical methods of treating cardiac rhythm and conduction disorders in various cardiovascular

diseases; due to his efforts new directions of cardiovascular surgery were developed and implemented in our country – endovascular and hybrid interventions for valvular heart disease and atherosclerotic lesions of the main vessels in the treatment of aneurysms of the aorta and its branches [1, c. 167].

Under the guidance of the prominent cardiac surgeon, the Department of Cardiovascular Surgery, developed and implemented his original concept of continuity of diagnostic, surgical and rehabilitation stages of treatment as an integral part of the high-tech surgery success.

R. Akchurin made a huge contribution to the organization and management of the federal target research and education program “High-tech Medicine”. The famous cardiac surgeon was the deputy general director for surgery of the Federal State Budgetary Institution “Russian Cardiology Research and Production Complex” of the Ministry of Health of Russia.

For his achievements, the talented cardiac surgeon was thrice awarded the main prize at World Exhibitions in Belgium and Sweden. R. Akchurin’s high medical expertise was confirmed by his membership of many academies and societies of the world. In 1994, the famous doctor became a member of the Scientific Council of the World Society of Angiologists, a member of the presidium of the Russian Society for Cardiovascular Surgery. R. Akchurin was a member of the board of directors of the DeBakey International Cardiovascular Surgical Society and a member of the European Society for CardioVascular Surgery [1].

We met more than twenty years ago. Our meetings became even more frequent when, under his leadership, the Doctors’ Club was created at the Office of the Plenipotentiary Representative of Tatarstan in the Russian Federation in December 2011. This club has become a serious professional platform, enhancing close communication between doctors – the natives of Tatarstan and ethnic Tatars working in Moscow, its aim being to help our fellow countrymen. Among them are candidates and doctors of medicine, five academicians and physicians of the highest rank. Renat Akchurin himself was the chairman of the Council for the Defense of doctoral and candidate dissertations, so he could assess the value of scientific research - in 1985 he defended his doctoral dissertation “Reconstructive operations of the fingerless hand”, and six years later he was awarded the academic title of professor in the specialty “cardiovascular surgery”.

He was the creator of the world-renowned cardiac surgery school - 9 doctoral and 36 candidate

dissertations were prepared and defended under his supervision. Renat Akchurin was the author of more than 900 scientific papers, including 29 monographs and chapters in monographs and had 31 certificates of authorship. He was also the editor-in-chief of the journal “Angiology and Vascular Surgery”, a member of the editorial board of the “I. Grekov Surgery Bulletin”, “Emergency Medical Care”, “Circulation Pathology”, “Cardiology Bulletin”, “Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery”, “Eurasian Cardiology Journal” and “Russian Electronic Journal of Radiology (REJR)” [2].

For many years, R. Akchurin headed the Department of Cardiovascular Surgery and Angiology, conducting a course in anesthesiology and resuscitation at the E. Chazov Institute for Training Highly Qualified Personnel of the Federal State Budgetary Institution the National Medical Research Center of Cardiology, the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation. Today, outstanding and respected doctors work across Russia and in Tatarstan, they are his students and followers. He was very sensitive to their fate, taking care of each of them for many years.

Renat Akchurin maintained a close working relationship with Tatarstan for decades. At the medical instrument plant in the Republic of Tatarstan, they once developed and made a kit for coronary surgery, called the “Akchurin Kit”. His cooperation with the enterprise and creation of these instruments became the reason for Renat Akchurin to pay his first visit to Kazan.

Renat Akchurin was a world-class cardiac surgeon. He took part in the creation of the Interregional Clinical Diagnostic Center (ICDC), which made it possible to open the hospital of the highest level in Kazan, where patients come from all over the country. At the ICDC, he himself took part in the installation of the “applicator” for aortocoronary bypass surgery and valve transplantation.

He rendered assistance to the Children’s Republican Clinical Hospital (DRKB). With his participation, doctors began to perform cardiac surgery in the Tatneft Medical Center in Almetyevsk. He conducted numerous consultations and workshops; in 2019, he personally opened the first innovative hybrid operating room in the Republic. For his merits, the medical expert was awarded the title of the Honored Doctor of Tatarstan, and was repeatedly invited as a guest of honor to the annual “Ak chächäklär” Award”.

R. Akchurin was a member of the Scientific Council of the Federal State Budgetary Institution “National Medical Research Center of Cardiology”

of the Ministry of Health of Russia and of the Council on Cardiovascular Surgery of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Ministry of Health of Russia, he was the chairman of the Council for the Defense of Doctoral and Candidate Dissertations D 208.073.03, a member of the Research and Technical Council for the Implementation of Activities in the field of chemical, medical and pharmaceutical industries, as well as of the biotechnological complex of Russia, but despite his very busy schedule, he always found time for our meetings. It has been several times that the Doctor's Club came to the Republic, to the regions of Tatarstan. Renat Akchurin personally saw the patients, examined them and helped transport seriously ill people to Moscow clinics. He always remained simple and accessible. He was distinguished by modesty, intelligence and the highest integrity.

His merits and achievements were highly appreciated by the government authorities. R. Akchurin was a laureate of the State Prize of the USSR and the Russian Federation, and the Prize of the Government of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan; he was awarded the Order of the Badge of Honor (1996), the Order of Friendship (2016), the IV Degree Order of Merit for the Fatherland (2021), the N. Pirogov Grand Gold Medal of the Russian Academy of Sciences (2018), the RKO Medal for Outstanding Achievements in the Development of Domestic Cardiology (2018), the N. Blokhin Gold Medal (2021), the E. Chazov Gold Medal (2024) and many foreign orders [2]. However, the most important reward for every doctor is the recognition and love of his patients who included top government officials, such as the Russian President Boris Yeltsin, and quite ordinary people.

To mark the 70th anniversary of the healthcare legend Renat Akchurin, a documentary film with a self-explanatory title, "Close to the Heart," was made. The talented cardiologist saved thousands of lives all over the world. Many of his patients – residents of Russia, Peru, Mauritius and other countries – took part in the filming and told why they decided to entrust their lives to the famous Tatar cardiac surgeon. Renat Akchurin took the fate of each of his patients close to his heart, later he himself became a close and dear person to the people he had saved. Outside the hospital, he ceased to be a doctor and became a senior comrade with whom you could communicate in an informal way, laughing at his jokes. None of us will be able to forget what a fantastic conversationalist he was and how often he talked about his native Uzbekistan.

When the Crimean events broke out in 2014, there was strong destabilization of the situation including the Crimean Tatars. With the participation of Renat Akchurin, a representative group of Moscow doctors, members of the Club at the Plenipotentiary Representative's Office, "landed" for several days in the Bakhchisarai District of Crimea, which was supervised by Tatarstan. Highly qualified specialists, headed by Renat Akchurin himself, examined several hundred patients, holding consultations, and later transporting seriously ill patients to Moscow. Surgeons know how difficult it is to perform surgery in unfamiliar places and how important it is for the first operation to be successful. In all these centers, the first complicated and technologically challenging surgeries were performed personally by Renat Akchurin!

This was the act of real humanity and professionalism. He acted not only as a doctor, but also as a peacemaker. Every year, on his birthday, we would come to his working place with Tatar delicious baked treats. He would say: 'This is the best gift I could have'.

Despite the fact that he was seriously ill in the last years of his life, he never stopped performing the most difficult surgeries saving people, giving them a chance to live. This was the act of a Man with a big heart and soul!

Renat Akchurin is no longer with us, but he left a huge and kind memory behind. Rustam Minnikhanov, the Rais of Tatarstan who was personally acquainted with the doctor, wrote in a telegram to his family: "The life path of Renat Suleimanovich became a vivid example of high and devoted service to people, his native Fatherland and his chosen cause. His brilliant scientific discoveries, breakthrough developments and unique technologies allowed saving thousands of lives, serving the qualitative development of transplantology and cardiac surgery in Russia. In grateful memory of this amazing person, we are grieving together".

References

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