

The Ukrainian Scientific Society of Medical Historians

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The article discusses the activities of the Ukrainian Scientific Society of Medical Historians in the Soviet (1959–1991) and post-Soviet (from 1991) periods. The authors emphasize its connection with the All-Union Scientific Medical History Society, the creation of which in 1946 provided for the formation of republic-wide and city-based (regional) societies. The article contains biographical information regarding the chairmen of the Ukrainian Scientific Medical History Society (from 1971 – the Ukrainian Republican Scientific Society of Medical Historians): K.F. Duplenko, K.G. Vasylyev, A.A. Grando, B.P. Kryshchak and other Ukrainian historians of medicine. The article covers their research. The work of the society's Ukrainian medical history conferences, as well as the all-union and international congresses and conferences, which were attended by Ukrainian historians of medicine, are also covered. The authors pay particular attention to local medical history societies established in different cities of the Ukrainian SSR (in Lviv, Kiev, Kharkiv, and others) and the interregional, regional and city conferences held by these societies. Also reviewed is the work of the Ukrainian Scientific Society of Medical Historians after the collapse of the Soviet Union under new socio-economic and political conditions. Deprived of planned state support, the regional medical history societies' disorganization is mentioned. As an example of the achievements of the Ukrainian society of medical historians in the 1990s and 2000s, the authors chronicle the medical history conferences held on the initiative of individual researchers in Nikolaev, Kiev, Ternopil, and Sumy, as well as the participation of Ukrainian medical historians in a number of international scientific congresses and conferences.

Keywords: *history of medicine, medical history societies, Ukrainian Society of Medical Historians*

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The following article examines the activities of the Ukrainian Scientific Society of Medical Historians as an essential part of The All-Union Society of Medical Historians in the Soviet period, as well as the main stages of its work in the post-Soviet period. This overview is particularly significant given this year's 70th anniversary of the creation of the national societies of medical historians in the former Soviet republics, which evolved from the All-Union Scientific Historical-Medical Society.

The overview is based on material published in the medical press containing information about the activities of the Ukrainian Scientific Society of Medical Historians, work conducted at medical historian forums and personal archives provided by Professors K.F. Duplenko (1899–1990) and K.G. Vasylyev (1919–2015), who were the society's chairmen. When searching for historical sources we used the *History of Medicine and Health in The Ukrainian SSR* bibliographical record [1]. We discovered important material related to our subject matter in the *Soviet Health* magazine (1945–1991); primarily in the "Chronicle" section). We wish to express our gratitude to medical historians Professor Yu.F. Mironenko

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(Lviv) and Professor Z.P. Petrova (Kharkiv), who answered our questions and shared their memories of working with the historical-medical society.

The history of the Ukrainian Scientific Society of Medical Historians can be divided into two periods: Soviet (1951–1991) and post-Soviet (after 1991).

In 1946, the executive committee of the Scientific Medical Council of the Soviet Health Ministry realised that it was appropriate to grant a petition prepared by an initiative group headed by the academician I.D. Strashun (1892–1967) from the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences (AMS) on the establishment of the All-Union Scientific Historical-Medical Society. The executive committee also recommended all the specialized scientific societies existing at the time to organize sections for studying the histories of their specialities. Thus, the All-Union Scientific Historical-Medical Society was founded in Moscow with the session of the founding members taking place on November 1, 1946. I.D. Strashun became the chairman of the society's temporary administration. In June 1970 (during the 4th All-Union Scientific Historical-Medical Conference), the All-Union Scientific Historical-Medical Society became known as the All-Union Scientific Society of Medical Historians. Consequently, the Ukrainian Republic's Scientific Historical-Medical Society was renamed The Ukrainian Republic's Scientific Society of Medical Historians. After 1970 most of the city and regional societies also changed their names.

The All-Union's charter was approved by the Soviet Health Ministry on April 18, 1947. On March 13, 1947, during the first public session in Moscow, Professor I.D. Strashun outlined the aim and objectives of the society. He noted that the society was assuming significant responsibility for Soviet science, the Soviet health system and the Soviet people and intended to work for the benefit of Soviet medicine. In his words, only the Soviet system made it possible to authentically learn the rich historical legacy of Russia's medicine.

Professor I.D. Strashun said that among the new society's primary objectives was the ideological education of young medical students, the young doctors – the actors of

Soviet medicine. The commitment of medical historians and their patriotic duty was to demonstrate the decisive role of the Bolshevik party and its leaders V.I. Lenin and J.V. Stalin in the ideological justification of the foundations of Soviet medicine. The second objective of the historical-medical society that I.D. Strashun's report mentions was to help scientific research in the field of medical history that was conducted in the Union's republics, territories and regions (among those who successfully conducted research in the field of medical history was Ukrainian scientist S.A. Verkhratsky). The society's third objective was to work more with primary sources, to search persistently for new material in the archives and make documents that shed light on our medical science's past more accessible. Also, the epochs of the October Revolution, the Civil War and the Great Patriotic War (WWII) were always to be at the centre of the Soviet medical historians' attention. The fourth objective was not to forget about related disciplines – the natural sciences and biology, whose history is closely intertwined with the formation of common medical ideas [2].

The All-Union Society's temporary administration worked extensively to draw up a model programme, which was later approved by the Soviet Health and Higher Education Ministries, for teaching the history of medicine. Moreover, it actively participated in the organization of the first courses for preparing medical history teachers out of the professors and docents at the Central Institute for Advancing Doctors. The courses opened in August 1948 and were attended by a total of 55 future teachers, among whom were 10 professors.

In 1947 the All-Union Society's first department in the USSR was opened in Stanislav (currently Ivano-Frankivsk). Sergei Avraamovich Verkhratsky (1894–1988), who was the dean of the Department of Hospital Surgery at a local medical institute, actively participated in its establishment [3]. From 1951 to 1968 the medical historians in the Ivano-Frankivsk Region were part of the medical historian section of the Regional Society of Hygienists and Health Organizers headed by Dean of the Department of Social Hygiene and Health Organization Professor Ara Armenakovich Garagashyan (1902–1969). Subsequently, the section of medical historians became the

autonomous Ivano-Frankivsk Regional Scientific Historical-Medical Society, whose chairman was Professor S.A. Verkhratsky [4].

In October 1958, upon the recommendation of The Ukrainian Scientific Historical-Medical Society's organizational bureau, a branch of the society was opened in Lviv [5, 6]. The decision had been promoted by Professor Israil Yakovlevich Shapiro (1909–2001), who from 1946 to 1949 was dean of the Department of History of Medicine, later to become docent and from 1969 to 1986 – dean of the Department of Social Hygiene and Health Organization at the Lviv Medical Institute (currently the Daniila Galitsky Lviv National Medical University). Among Lviv's outstanding medical historians at the time was Candidate of Medical Sciences, Docent of the Military Department of the Lviv Medical Institute and Colonel of Medical Service Nikolai Alexandrovich Oborin (1921–2005), whose field of expertise was the history of surgery and traumatology. One of N.A. Oborin's great merits was the editing of Nikolai Bidloo's¹ manuscript, "Instructions for Those Studying Surgery in the Anatomical Theatre" (1979), which contained Oborin's comments and introduction, "N.L. Bidloo and his Instructions for Those Studying Surgery in the Anatomical Theatre". The secretary of the Lviv Scientific Historical-Medical Society was Docent at the Department of Social Hygiene and Health Organization Yu.F. Mironenko, whose dissertation was dedicated to the history of sanitary-epidemiological service in the western regions of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialistic Republic.

The 1st All-Union Scientific Historical-Medical Conference, which finalized the organizational format of the All-Union Society, took place in February 1959 in Leningrad. Ukraine's K.F. Duplenko (Kiev) was part of its organizational committee. During the conference, the members approved the All-Union's charter and elected the administration. The conference then published a collection of material containing theses prepared by six Ukrainian medical historians. On February 9, at the first plenum, M.I. Barsukov (1890–1974) was elected as the Society's first chairman and K.F. Duplenko – one of his three deputies.

The 1st All-Union Conference inspired the establishment of republic-wide and local (city and regional) historical-medical societies that were managed by The All-Union Scientific Historical-Medical Society. In 1959, the Ukrainian Scientific Historical-Medical Society was established [7]. Its activities began with the 1st Ukrainian Historical-Medical Conference, which took place on November 26–28, 1959 in Lviv and which was dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the unification of western Ukrainian lands with the Ukrainian Soviet Socialistic Republic. More than 60 participants came together at the conference – from Lviv, Kiev, Kharkiv, Odessa, Dnepropetrovsk, Stalino (currently Donetsk), Uzhhorod, Stanislav, Chernivtsy, and other cities. Scientific collaborators and doctors from Lviv's clinics and hospitals also showed great interest in the conference. Chairman of the All-Union Scientific Historical-Medical Society M.I. Barsukov and his deputy I.D. Strashun took part in the conference.

Opening the conference, the Chairman of The Ukrainian Scientific Historical-Medical Society K.F. Duplenko said that the 20th anniversary of the unification of the Ukrainian people as one republic was a momentous historical event and noted the importance of studying the history of medicine and health in the USSR, including within the framework of the given conference. Thirty reports were read after the introductory remarks were made by the Director of the Lviv Regional Health Department R.Ya. Manastyrsky, who welcomed the participants on behalf of the Lviv Regional Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine and the Regional Executive Committee. M.I. Barsukov presented his report on the objectives of medical historians in the light of the 21st Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) in 1959. I.Ya. Shapiro gave a description of the state of historical-medical research in Ukraine's western regions, including in the Bucovina and Zakarpacie regions. S.A. Verkhratsky talked about what was left of household medicine in Ukraine's villages. K.K. Silvai gave examples of the ties between the doctor-natives of the Zakarpacie region and medicine in the Russian state and Yu.I. Rafes told the conference's participants about the Polish doctors who had been educated at and who had cooperated with Lviv University. Several reports

¹ N. Bidloo (about 1670–1725).

in the conference shed light on works on the history of medicine and health in separate regions of the Ukraine and in the Zakarpacie region, as well as on the history of the activities of Lviv's scientific-research institutes in the 20 years of Soviet rule [8–10]. Theses were published for the beginning of the conference [11] and after its conclusion the participants prepared a collection of material titled, "For the History of Medicine in Ukraine", which contained the largest volume of information on the development of Soviet medicine in the Ukrainian SSR's western regions in the postwar years [12].

The Kiev Scientific Historical-Medical Society was established on the eve of the 1st All-Union Scientific Historical-Medical Conference. In 1960, it launched its activities and conducted a joint session with other medical societies, which helped medical historians expand their ties with researchers in other medical fields, as well as with a series of scientific and medical institutions in Kiev [13, 14]. The chairman of the Kiev Society was Docent Ruvim Yakovlevich Benyumov (1898–1967), who in 1946 headed the Kiev Medical Institute's² Department of the History of Medicine and in 1959, due to the unification of this department with the Department of Health Organization, headed the new department's course on medical history. Subsequently, the Society of Medical Historians in Kiev continued conducting joint sessions with other scientific medical societies and learning and scientific research medical institutes. In 1962, Professor I.D. Strashun was elected an honorary member of The Kiev Scientific Historical-Medical Society and the following year the members of this society participated in the organisation and delivery of the 3rd Ukrainian Historical-Medical Conference [15–18].

Among Kiev's medical historians we must mention Professor of Neuromorphology Yuriy Nikolaevich Kvitnitsky-Ryzhkov (1921–1993). He studied the history of Kiev medicine and was author of a study on Kiev's first professor of histology P.I. Peremezhko (1985). Professor Mikhail Konstantinovich Dal (1901–1985), dean of the Department of Pathological Anatomy at

the Kiev Institute for Advancing Doctors³ and the author of a treatise on G.H. Minkhe, also extensively studied the history of medicine. One of the most famous Kiev medical historians was Vadim Yakovlevich Kogan (1932–1999), who defended his candidate's thesis on the history of hospital construction in Ukraine's rural areas. The Director of the Ukrainian Center for Scientific-Medical Information Professor Anatoly Rodionovich Uvarenko (1935–2014) also studied issues related to medical history.

The 2nd Ukrainian Historical-Medical Conference, dedicated to the history of hygiene and sanitation in Ukraine, took place in Kharkiv on June 2–3, 1961. It had been organized by the Ukrainian Scientific Historical-Medical Society in collaboration with The Ukrainian Scientific Society of Hygienists. In 1948, the Department of the History of Medicine was established in the Kharkiv Medical Institute,⁴ whose first and only dean was Candidate of Medical Sciences (docent from 1949) Petr Timofeevich Petrov (1896–1966). In 1948, Petrov held a cycle of medical history courses for professors and teachers in Soviet universities at the Central Institute for Advancing Doctors in Moscow. The independent Department of the History of Medicine at the Kharkiv Medical Institute operated until 1957 and then became part of the Department of Health Organization, where P.T. Petrov taught a course on medical history for many years.

In 1958, P.T. Petrov was one of the creators of the section of medical historians within The Kharkiv Regional Scientific Hygienic Society [19]. At the section's organisational session he was elected chairman, a position that he held until his death. In 1963, the section had 20 members. The sessions were conducted once a month. Besides the scientific sessions and the annual summary assemblies, there were also meetings (in collaboration with the regional societies of hygienists, pharmacologists and therapists) in which the section's members presented their historical-medical reports. During the session dedicated to Professor M.I. Barsukov's 70th birthday Barsukov was elected the section's honorable chairman and on the session in honor

² Currently the A.A. Bogomolets National Medical University.

³ Currently the P.L. Shupik National Medical Academy of Post-Graduate Study.

⁴ Currently the Kharkiv National Medical University.

of I.D. Strashun's 70th birthday Strashun became its honorable member. Later the section's list of honorable members would include corresponding member of the USSR AMS B.D. Petrov (1904–1991) and Professor P.E. Zabludovsky (1886–1980) from Moscow, as well as USSR AMS academician M.M. Soloviev (1886–1980) and Professor V.M. Zhabotinsky (1895–1983) from Kharkiv. In 1966, the section had 22 full members and six honorary members (almost everyone was over 60 years of age) [20]. Between 1973 and 1976, the section was chaired by Professor Zinovy Anatolievich Gurevich (1898–1985), who in 1974 was dean of the Department of Social Hygiene and Health Organization at the Kharkiv Medical Institute. Later the section was headed by Docent Z.P. Petrova, who taught a course on medical history at the department. In 1979, the medical history section was separated from the composition of the Society of Hygienists after the establishment of the independent Kharkiv Scientific Society of Medical Historians, which operated until 1986 [21].

In our overview, we must return to 1961 when the medical historian section's members participated in the organization and realization of the 2nd Ukrainian Historical-Medical Conference in Kharkiv. Scientists from Kiev, Odessa, Vinnytsia, Lugansk, Dnepropetrovsk, doctors from more than 40 sanitary-epidemiological stations, as well as guests from Moscow, Minsk and other cities participated in the conference. When opening the conference, Kiev hygienist, director of the National Research Institute of General and Communal Hygiene and corresponding member of the USSR AMS D.N. Kalyuzhnyi (1900–1976) remarked that, although the republic's sanitary organization contributed to the development of the Soviet Health System, the history of hygiene and sanitation in Ukraine is one of the least studied scientific fields. The reports at the conference were dedicated to the activity of Ukraine's sanitary-epidemiological service and the republic's sanitarians and hygienists in the pre-Soviet and Soviet periods. I.D. Strashun (Moscow) dedicated his report to the origins of Ukraine's regional sanitation. Docent P.T. Petrov (Kharkiv) spoke about the 100-year activity (1861–1961) of the Kharkiv Medical Society in the field of hygiene and sanitation. Professor B.D. Petrov (Moscow) dedicated his

report to people's hygiene in Ukraine. USSR AMS academician M.N. Soloviev (Kharkiv) told the attendees about the historical meaning of academician D.K. Zabolotny's (1866–1929) scientific method for studying epidemiological foci. Professor S.S. Kagan (1894–1965) from Kiev gave a presentation on scientist-hygienist A.V. Korchak-Chepurkovsky (1857–1947), while Kharkiv professor M.L. Koshkin (1896–1965) spoke about the activity in Kharkiv of one-time leading hygienist V.A. Uglov (1874–1942). A.A. Grando dedicated his report to the Ukrainian SSR sanitary organization in the first years of the Soviet regime [22]. Theses were published for the beginning of the conference [23] and after its conclusion the participants prepared a series of reports to be published in the second collection of material on the history of hygiene and sanitation in Ukraine [24].

The 3rd Ukrainian Historical-Medical Conference took place in Kiev on May 6–8, 1963 [25]. In relation to the 130th anniversary of the A.A. Bogomolets National Medical University, the conference was dedicated to the history of higher medical education and scientific medical schools in Ukraine. On the opening day of the conference there were already 10 local historical-medical societies in Ukraine: in Kiev, Kharkiv, Dnepropetrovsk, Donetsk, Lugansk, Odessa, Simferopol, Lviv, Chernivtsi, and Uzhhorod. The total number of members of the Ukrainian Republic's Scientific Historical-Medical Society at the time was 241 people [26–27]. A collection of material was published for the conference, including the charter of The Ukrainian Republic's Scientific Historical-Medical Society [28], while the reports presented at the conference were published in a book titled "Outlines of the History of Higher Medical Education and Scientific Medical Schools in Ukraine" [29].

The 2nd All-Union Scientific Historical-Medical Conference devoted to issues related to the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution took place in Leningrad in October 1963. The conference's collection of material included 19 reports presented by Ukrainian SSR medical historians. The 31-member board included K.G. Vasylyev and K.F. Duplenko. At the first plenum of the All-Union Society (October 27, 1963) M.I. Barsukov was again elected chairman and

among his five deputies Ukraine was represented by K.F. Duplenko.

On November 16–18, 1964, the Lviv Scientific Historical-Medical Society organized The Interregional Scientific Historical-Medical Conference dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the unification of western Ukraine and the Ukrainian SSR [30], which, judging by the participants, was inter-republican [31].

The 4th Ukrainian Historical-Medical Conference dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution was held in September 1967. The Zakarpattia Region's Scientific Historical-Medical Society was chaired by Abram Solomonovich Podrazhansky (1896–1971). In 1949, he had defended his candidate's dissertation on the history of sanitation matters in western Ukraine before its unification with the Ukrainian SSR and then headed the united Department of Prophylactic Disciplines at the Uzhhorod University. A.S. Podrazhansky had done a great deal for the organization of the 4th conference of medical historians, but the material from this scientific forum was not published. Candidate of Medical Sciences Konstantin Konstantinovich Silvai (1932–1984) also worked in Uzhhorod. His dissertation was dedicated to the history of Russian-Hungarian and Soviet-Hungarian medical ties. Silvai collected material on the development of traumatology and orthopedics in the USSR but he passed away not having finished his historical-medical research.

K.F. Duplenko was the organizer and chairman of the Ukrainian Society (up to 1967). Being dean of the Department of Health Organization at the Kiev Institute for Advancing Doctors, for more than 25 years starting in 1949 he headed the Department of the History of Medicine at the N.D. Strazhesko Ukrainian Scientific-Research Institute of Clinical Medicine (currently the Cardiology Institute), which for many years was the coordinating center for scientific research on medical history in the republic. A series of historical-medical digests edited by K.F. Duplenko was prepared in the 1950s. For the 300th anniversary of the unification of Ukraine and Russia the society published a collection dedicated to Russian-Ukrainian ties (1954) and then two collections of articles on the history of the health system in Ukraine (1957, 1958), as well as outlines on the history of

therapy (1960). It was Professor K.F. Duplenko who chaired the first four Ukrainian Historical-Medical Conferences.

From 1967 to 1974, Professor K.G. Vasylyev was chairman of The Ukrainian Scientific Society of Medical Historians. He had come to Odessa from Riga in 1966 in relation to the appointment of the dean of the Department of Epidemiology at the N.I. Pirogov Odessa Medical Institute.⁵ In 1949, the Department of the History of Medicine was established in the institute, which until 1962 was headed by Docent Fyodor Fyodorovich Burlakov (born in 1895, year of death unknown). The dean of the Department of Health Organization was Professor Isaak Lvovich Dailis (1888–1981), who was also interested in issues dealing with medical history. After the unification of the Department of the History of Medicine and the Department of Health Organization, medical history was taught by Docent Lyudmila Osipovna Grabovskaya (1916–1990), whose candidate's dissertation was dedicated to the development of scientific, medical and theoretical thought at the Novorossiysk University. She is also the author of a treatise on L.A. Tarasevich (1970). From 1959 to 1964, the dean of the Department of Forensic Medicine was Professor Sergei Vladimirovich Shershavkin (1912–1993), the period's leading Soviet historian of forensic medicine in the USSR. It is important to mention his collaborator Vladimir Alexeevich Rukin (1904–1990) of the V.P. Filatov Institute of Ophthalmology and Tissue Therapy, the author of a series of works (including treatises) on the history of ophthalmology in Odessa. While still a student, Eduard Yuzefovich Gold (1937–1995) began participating in a scientific student circle headed by Docent F.F. Burlakov and when Gold was doctor-epidemiologist he prepared a candidate's dissertation under the guidance of Professor Vasylyev on the role of the D.K. Zabolotny Scientific School in the development of epidemiology. During Professor Vasylyev's directorship of The Ukrainian Scientific Society of Medical Historians Gold was the society's executive secretary. The Odessa Scientific Historical-Medical Society was already operating by the beginning of the 1960s [32]. Professor K.G. Vasylyev headed the society after moving to Odessa.

⁵ Currently the Odessa National Medical University.

The 3rd All-Union Scientific Historical-Medical Conference, dedicated to the 59th anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution, took place in Leningrad in December 1967. One of the five chairmen of the conference's organizational committee was K.F. Duplenko. The conference's material consisted of nine theses prepared by Ukrainian medical historians.

Also in December 1967, the Ternopil Regional Scientific Medical Society conducted a regional conference that in the end published the theses presented [33]. Extensive work for the preparation of the conference was done by Lev Nikolaevich Karpov, who at the time was docent at the Department of Social Hygiene and Health Organization at the Ternopil Medical Institute⁶ (and later became professor in Leningrad). Material from his candidate's dissertation dedicated to the history of regional sanitary organization in Russia was published as a treatise while his doctoral dissertation dealt with the social-hygienic activity of sanitarians in pre-revolutionary Russia. It is important to note that between 1959 and 1975 the Department of Hygiene at the local medical institute was headed by Professor Orest Vladimirovich Perov (1908–1992), whose doctoral dissertation was dedicated to hygiene and sanitary technology in Russia between the 9th and 17th centuries.

The plenary session of the Ukrainian Scientific Historical-Medical Society took place on November 2, 1968 [34] during which the Society's chairman K.G. Vasylyev and board member Professor K.F. Duplenko presented their report, "The Objectives of Medical Historians of the Ukrainian SSR in the Preparation for the 100th Birthday Anniversary of V.I. Lenin." The report summarized the Society's activity and said that the realization of the objectives set by the 23rd Session of the CPSU (1966) and by the Decree of the CPSU Central Committee "On the Preparation of the 100th birthday anniversary of V.I. Lenin" (1968) require further steady growth of Ukraine's historical-medical community's activity in order to expand scientific research and improve the teaching of medical history, as well as spread Lenin's ideas and testament in the field of medical science and health. The plenum decided

to hold the following Ukrainian conference in 1970 in Odessa, dedicating it to Lenin's 100th birthday anniversary. Chairman of The Nikolaev Regional Scientific Historical-Medical Society A.F. Kiselev presented information on the conference being prepared in Nikolaev, dedicated to the 225th birthday anniversary of Danilo Samoilovich.

In December 1968 the Historical-Medical Meeting on Museum Activity took place in Vinnytsia in honor of the 100th birthday anniversary of V.I. Lenin. The Department of Social Hygiene and Health Organization was headed by Professor Leonid Grigorievich Lekarev (1908–1983), who was the permanent chairman of the regional society of hygienists and medical historians. Besides the representatives of the branches of The Ukrainian Scientific Historical-Medical Society, medical historians from Moscow, Riga and Ryazan also participated in the meeting [35]. The Chairman of the Board of the Ukrainian Society Professor K.G. Vasylyev remarked that the meeting, which was organized within the framework not of the republic-wide but of the All-Union Scientific Historical-Medical Society, intended to unite the efforts of the country's historical-medical museums. Professor L.G. Lekarev presented a report on the objectives of the historical-medical museums in relation to the 100th birthday anniversary of V.I. Lenin. On the opening day of the meeting a monument to N.I. Pirogov was unveiled in a solemn ceremony in the courtyard of the medical institute.

The Nikolaev Regional Scientific Historical-Medical Society, to whose activity Arkady Fyodorovich Kiselev contributed greatly, operated since the end of the 1960s [36, 37]. The planned scientific-practical conference dedicated to the 225th birthday anniversary of leading Ukrainian epidemiologist Danilo Samoilovich took place on June 19–21 in Nikolaev [38]. The conference's participants were present at the unveiling ceremony of the monument to Danilo Samoilovich [39–40]. In 1976, the Nikolaev Society consisted of 37 members, among whom were directors of medical institutions, scientists and practicing doctors [41].

On November 25–26, 1969, the Lviv Scientific Historical-Medical Society conducted another interregional conference dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the unification of

⁶ Currently the I.Y. Gorbachevsky Ternopil Medical University.

western Ukrainian lands and the Ukrainian SSR [42]. More than 240 people participated in the conference, including more than 130 guests from various cities and republics. Among the participants were corresponding member of the USSR AMS B.D. Petrov (Moscow), chairman of The Ukrainian Scientific Historical-Medical Society Professor K.G. Vasylyev, chairman of the Belorussian Scientific Historical-Medical Society G.R. Kryuchok (1918–1987) and Dean of the Department of Social Hygiene and Health Organization at the Yerevan Medical Institute Professor A.S. Ktsoyan (1907–1978). The conference closely examined the role of medical societies in the development of the health system, medical sciences and preparation of scientific staff in the Ukrainian SSR's western regions [43].

The 5th Ukrainian Historical-Medical Conference, organized by the N.I. Pirogov Odessa Medical Institute and dedicated to the 100th birthday anniversary of V.I. Lenin, took place in Odessa on March 18–19, 1970. About 70 people took part in the conference from various Ukrainian regions, as well as guests from Moscow and other Soviet republics. The conference was opened by Secretary of the Odessa Regional Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party N.I. Zotov. During the first session the Ukrainian SSR Health Minister V.D. Bratusya (1916/1917–2008) presented his report, "The Triumph of V.I. Lenin's Ideas and Testament in the Development of Health and Medical Science in the Ukrainian SSR." The Chairman of the Board of the All-Union Scientific Historical-Medical Society M.I. Barsukov spoke about the principle of socialist humanism in V.I. Lenin's works.⁷ The corresponding Member of the USSR AMS B.D. Petrov indicated the importance of Lenin's ideas for the development of the hygienic area in Soviet medicine and the Soviet health system. The Rector of the Odessa Medical Institute Professor S.I. Korkhov (1918–2009) summarized the institute's developments and shed light on the main directions for its activity, while the presentation given by Professor G.F. Emelyanova was dedicated to the history of the Dnepropetrovsk Medical Institute. Professor K.F. Duplenko

in his report spoke of the ways of forming the medical intelligentsia in the Ukrainian SSR. Professor K.G. Vasylyev's presentation focused on the Society of Medical Historians' role in the development of historical-medical science and the problem of the interrelation between general and particular research in the field of medical history. He noted that in 1970 more than 300 doctors and scientific collaborators worked in the 17 branches of the Ukrainian Society. The Society of Medical Historians held a special place within the system of the republic's scientific medical societies, uniting representatives of many medical specialities interested in medical history and being practically an organizational and coordinating center for research work in this field. Primacy in the research of general methodological issues and issues of general medical history belongs to a relatively narrow circle of specialists in the field of medical history, while specialists in other fields of medicine have made significant contributions to the study of the history of individual medical disciplines [44–46].

The 4th All-Union Scientific Historical-Medical Conference, dedicated to the 100th birthday anniversary of V.I. Lenin, took place in Minsk in June 1970. During the sessions, reports were read by representatives of Ukraine K.G. Vasylyev (Odessa), K.F. Duplenko (Kiev), L.G. Lekarev (Vinnytsia) and I.Ya. Shapiro (Lviv). This was the last all-union historical-medical conference (subsequently, conferences were no longer conducted, only all-union medical historian congresses).

A scientific conference organized by the Moldovan and Ukrainian Scientific Historical-Medical Societies and dedicated to the 125th birthday anniversary of I.I. Mechnikov was held in Kishinev (Moldova SSR) on December 18, 1970. K.G. Vasylyev represented Ukraine in the organizational committee [47]. Besides the Moldovan and Ukrainian medical historians, scientists from Moscow also took part in the conference [48].

Two years later, on May 15–16, 1972, the 5th Plenary Session of the All-Union Scientific Society of Medical Historians took place in Vinnytsia. Besides the board members, teachers from medical institutes, scientific collaborators and practical health workers were invited by the Central Institute for Advancing Doctors

⁷ According to K.K. Vasylyev, who was a student at the time, this presentation took place in the first auditorium of the main corpus of the Odessa Medical Institute.

(Moscow) and the Department of Social Hygiene and Health Organization at the N.I. Pirogov Vinnytsia Medical Institute to the seminar-symposium on topical issues related to the history of medicine and health (almost 200 people) [49]. During the plenum, among other reports, Chairman of the Board of the All-Union Society Professor M.I. Barsukov read his report titled, "The Problem of Historicism in Light of the 24th CPSU Congress and Objectives of The All-Union Scientific Society of Medical Historians". Concrete tasks were given to the medical historians at the plenum in order to implement the decisions made at the 24th CPSU Congress (1971) and the CPSU Central Committee Decree "On the Preparation for the 50th Anniversary of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Education" (1972): the republic-wide and city administrations were recommended to organize local jubilee scientific conferences, exhibitions and publications summarizing the achievements of the Soviet health system, medical science and higher medical education. The plenum decided to convene the 1st All-Union Congress of Medical Historians in Chisinau in 1973 and instructed the executive committee to use the preparation for the congress for strengthening and significantly expanding all republic-wide and city societies, as well as taking measures for creating city societies where there was a real opportunity [50].

At the end of 1972, a regional scientific historical-medical society was organized in Kherson.⁸ It united various specialists: doctors, biologists, veterinarians, everyone interest in the history of medicine of the Kherson Region (almost 40 people). The chairman of the society was chief epidemiologist from the regional health department, Candidate of Medical Sciences Nikolai Denisovich Revenok [51]. On November 21–22, 1974 members of the Kherson Society participated in the regional scientific-practical conference dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Kherson sanitary-epidemiological service. The conference went beyond being regional: scientists from Kiev, Odessa, Vinnytsia, Poltava, Nikolaev and Kishinev came to Kherson [52–54].

In October 1973 all the Soviet scientists came to Kishinev for The I All-Union Congress of Medical Historians. The Soviet Health

Ministry had approved the All-Union Congress's programme and number of participants. There were 36 delegates from the Ukrainian SSR. Fifty-one theses written by Ukrainian Soviet medical historians were published in the digest of material presented at the congress, among whose editors were K.G. Vasylyev and K.F. Duplenko. 55 people were included in the administration of The All-Union Scientific Society of Medical Historians, including representatives from the Ukrainian SSR: Professor K.G. Vasylyev, Professor S.A. Verkhratsky, Professor K.F. Duplenko, Candidate of Medical Sciences A.F. Kiselev, Professor I.I. Kryzhanovskaya, Docent A.K. Rudenko (Donetsk) and Professor I.Ya. Shapiro. I.I. Kryzhanovskaya and K.F. Duplenko were appointed to the executive committee, which was headed by Professor Yu.P. Lisitsyn (1928–2013) from Moscow, while the committee's honorary chairman was Professor M.I. Barsukov.

For 17 years Professor-therapist Inna Illarionovna Kryzhanovskaya (1913–2004) was rector of the Dnepropetrovsk Medical Institute,⁹ delegate of the 23rd Congress of the CPSU (1966), delegate of the 21st and 25th Congresses of the Ukrainian Communist Party (1959 and 1976, respectively) and deputy of the Supreme Council of the Ukrainian SSR in both convocations. I.I. Kryzhanovskaya was profoundly interested in topical matters dealing with the history of medicine and health. On her initiative a model museum of the Dnepropetrovsk Medical Institute's history was established at the institute and she edited a book dedicated to the institute's 50th anniversary. It is not by chance that I.I. Kryzhanovskaya's participation in the all-union forum of medical historians led to her being elected not only to the All-Union Society's administration, but also to its executive board, where she became one of the chairman's three deputies.

From 1957 to 1988, Galina Fyodorovna Emelyanova (1921–2003), an active participant of historical-medical forums, headed the Department of Social Hygiene and Health Organization at the Dnepropetrovsk Medical Institute. Medical Historian Professor Tamara Alexandrovna Bazhan (1928–2005), whose

⁸ This city did not have a medical university.

⁹ Currently the Dnepropetrovsk Medical Academy.

doctoral dissertation was dedicated to the development of labor protection and medical-sanitary services for industrial workers in Ukraine, also worked at the department. She was the last chairman of the Dnepropetrovsk Regional Scientific Society of Medical Historians. For 25 years Yulian Isaakovich Rafes directed one of the departments of the Dnepropetrovsk Institute of Gastroenterology and in 1988 he immigrated to the US. His doctorate dissertation was dedicated to Russian-Polish scientific ties in the field of clinical and theoretical medicine.

In 1974, the 6th Ukrainian Historical-Medical Conference [55], to which Alexander Abramovich Grando (1919–2004) was elected chairman of the Ukrainian Scientific Society of Medical Historians, took place in Donetsk. From 1959 to 1961, Professor A.A. Grando headed the Department of the History of Health at the Ukrainian National Research Institute of Communal Hygiene in Kiev¹⁰ and was one of the editors of hygiene and sanitation history digests in Ukraine, the first of which came out in 1959 and the second (1962) published a series of reports from the 2nd Ukrainian Historical-Medical Conference. From 1972 to 1990 Professor A.A. Grando headed the Department of Social Hygiene and Health Organization at the A.A. Bogomolets Medical Institute in Kiev. His efforts led to the establishment of the Museum of Medical History of the Ukrainian SSR in Kiev,¹¹ whose irreplaceable director was A.A. Grando. In 1994 he founded and edited the *Agapit* Ukrainian historical-medical magazine, which ceased to exist after he passed away.

On February 3–4, 1977, the 7th Ukrainian Historical-Medical Conference, in which more than 100 people took part, was held in Kiev [56]. The reports presented at the conference were published in a collection titled, “Topical Issues Related to Medical History in the Ukrainian SSR” [57]. At that time the Ukrainian Society of Medical Historians had 21 branches, including 15 city and regional societies and six sections of medical historians at various other scientific medical society branches. By the end

of 1975 there were 461 medical historians in the Ukrainian Scientific Society. On the eve of the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Union the activities of the local societies and sections were dedicated to realizing the objectives set at the 25th Congress of the CPSU (1976) and to the preparation for the celebration of the October Revolution Jubilee (1977) [58].

On March 13–14, 1980, the Republic-wide Scientific-Practical Conference, dedicated to the memory of academician D.K. Zabolotnyi and the 60th anniversary of the Department of Epidemiology that he established at the Odessa Medical Institute, was held in Vinnytsia. A session took place during the first day and on the second a trip was organized to the Museum of Academician D.K. Zabolotnyi in the village of Chobotarka,¹² in the house where the scientist was born and near which he was buried with his wife [59, 60]. Alexander Makarovich Golyachenko (Vinnytsia) played a big role in the organization of the conference. Subsequently he would go on to head the Department of Social Hygiene and Health Organization at the Ternopil Medical Institute.

In September 1980, the 2nd All-Union Congress of Medical Historians was held in Tashkent. The Soviet Health Ministry had approved the congress’s programme and number of delegates. Afterwards, the ministry’s decree was replicated in the republic’s ministries and sent to the heads of the regional health departments. In addition to the decree it was also indicated how many delegates from each region would attend the scientific forum. If a delegate’s surname was included in the instructions, it was a guarantee that his travel expenses to the congress would be paid for. Often a number, for example 2, would be found instead of the surname. This sometimes led to the regional health department deciding at its own discretion which delegates to send. Thus, in 1980 heads of the health departments of the Dnepropetrovsk and Odessa regions who did not know much about medical history were part of the Ukrainian delegation. It also meant that some humble docent who had dedicated all his creativity to medical history would have to pay to travel to the congress.

¹⁰ Currently the A.N. Marzeev Institute of Hygiene and Medical Ecology.

¹¹ Currently The National Museum of Medicine of Ukraine.

¹² Currently it is called the village of Zabolotnoe in the Kryzhopolsky neighborhood, in the Vinnytsia region.

After the congress, a collection of material was published that included 42 reports from Ukrainian researchers. K.G. Vasylyev entered the publication's editorial board. There were 79 people in the administration of the All-Union Society. Representing Ukraine were: K.G. Vasylyev, A.A. Grando, K.F. Duplenko, G.F. Emelyanova, Yu.N. Kvitnitsky-Ryzhov, A.F. Kiselev, I.I. Kryzhanovskaya, Y.F. Mironenko, Z.P. Petrova and A.R. Uvarenko. Professor A.A. Grando represented Ukraine in the Society's executive committee. Fourteen famous Soviet scientists were elected honorary members of the society, including Ukrainian medical historians S.A. Verkhratsky and K.F. Duplenko.

An excursion to Samarkand and Bukhara and from Bukhara to the Afshona village, birthplace of the great Ibn Sina Avicenna (980–1037) and where he lived for his first five years, was organized for the participants. For his 1000th birthday anniversary a museum dedicated to Avicenna was founded in Afshona. Participation in a scientific congress is a form of upgrading one's qualifications but in this case even the excursion was useful for the delegates as medical historians.

On June 21–22, 1985 The 8th Ukrainian Historical Medical Conference dedicated to the 40th anniversary of the Soviet victory in the Great Patriotic War took place in Khmelnytsky. Two subject matters were discussed at the conference: the participation of Ukrainian doctors in the Great Patriotic War and the topical issues related to medical history and medical museology in Ukraine [61].

K.K. Vasylyev, who at the time was the assistant dean of the Department of Social Hygiene and Health Organization at the Ternopil Medical Institute, was confirmed as a conference delegate by the Ukrainian Society. The Ukrainian SSR's Health Ministry's decree on the conference and letter requesting K.K. Vasylyev's participation were sent to the medical institute's rector and consequently the rector sent Vasylyev to Khmelnytskyi. There were a total of 56 delegates at the conference (about two delegates from each region in Ukraine). Head of the Regional Health Department A.P. Kartysh, who at the conference presented his report "Podolia's Medical Workers during the Great Patriotic War," welcomed the participants on behalf of the regional administration. Among

other participants who presented their reports were Corresponding Member of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences V.D. Bratusya from Kiev ("Soviet Surgery during the Great Patriotic War"), Docent A.F. Kiselev ("Medical Workers from the Nikolaev Region during the Great Patriotic War"), Professor T.A. Bazhan ("The Activity of Underground Medical Groups in the Dnepropetrovsk Region during the Great Patriotic War"), Professor Yu.N. Kvitnitsky-Ryzhov ("Immortalizing the Memory of Leading Ukrainian Doctors"), and others.¹³

In November 1986 the final 3rd All-Union Congress of Medical Historians took place in the resort town of Kobuleti, near Batumi. The two thesis collections¹⁴ included 20 reports prepared by Ukrainian Soviet medical historians. Sixty-five people were elected to the Society's administration (from Ukraine – K.G. Vasylyev, A.A. Grando, K.F. Duplenko, G.F. Emelyanova, Yu.N. Kvitnitsky-Ryzhov, Z.P. Petrov and A.R. Uvarenko) and Professor A.A. Grando represented Ukraine in the executive committee. He was also one of the four honorary members elected at the 3rd Congress.

In 1987, Professor Boris Pavlovich Kryshstopa (1938–2014) became chairman of the Ukrainian Scientific Society of Medical Historians and Professor A.A. Grando became its honorary chairman. From 1968 B.P. Kryshstopa headed the regional health department at the Sumy Region, in the 1970s he was the deputy minister of the Ukrainian SSR's health system, from 1982–1986, he was head of international communications at the A.A. Bogomolets Medical Institute in Kiev and from 1986 to 2004 he headed the Department of Social Hygiene and Health Organization at the Kiev Institute of Advancing Doctors. In 1992 he conducted The 9th Ukrainian Historical-Medical Conference.

On May 25–26, 1989, a regional conference dedicated to the 200th anniversary of Nikolaev and organized with the active participation of A.F. Kiselev took place in the city. The collection of theses presented at the conference included

¹³ K.K. Vasylyev remembered that there was only one participant from the Russian Republic – Candidate of Medical Sciences V.P. Gritskevich (1933–2013) from Leningrad.

¹⁴ K.G. Vasylyev was part of the editorial board.

reports prepared by medical historians not only from the Ukraine but also from Russia [62]. A plenum of the All-Union Scientific Society of Medical Historians was held at the conference, whose resolution spoke about the necessity to include medical workers in the Society of Medical Historians, to regularly conduct republic-wide and regional historical-medical conferences and to make preparations for the next congress of medical historians. The plenum also proposed to teach medical history not in the first university year but in the third or fourth [63]. However, subsequent events, including the collapse of the USSR, changed these plans.

On September 25, 1991, an expanded plenum of the All-Union Society, which played the role of the Founding Congress, was held in Lugansk. The (International) Confederation of Medical Historians (ICMH) became the successor of the All-Union Scientific Society of Medical Historians. The charter of this new society was approved the following year. The confederation of united medical historians from the Russian Federation, as well as two other sovereign countries that appeared in the post-Soviet landscape. Its administration was located in Moscow.

Ukrainian medical historians that were part of Soviet delegations participated in the international medical history congresses that had been convened by the International Society for the History of Medicine since 1920.

There were few official members from the Soviet delegations¹⁵ at the international congresses, which is why some medical historians travelled to the congresses at their own expense as scientific tourists—obviously, after petitioning the scientific institution where they worked and being permitted to travel abroad. But there were those who could not afford to travel to the scientific forums at their own expense. For example, Professor K.G. Vasylyev, despite having his theses published in the collections of material from the 18th (1962, Warsaw—Cracow, Poland), the 22nd (1970, Bucharest—Constanta, Romania) and 23rd (1972, London) international congresses, traveled abroad for the first time only in 1978, to the 26th congress in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, and then

¹⁵ Delegates were officially sent on the trips with all expenses paid.

only as a scientific tourist. There were also some medical historians who were not allowed to travel abroad. For example, P.E. Zabludovsky, one of the leading medical historians of the Soviet Union, a native of Ukraine and a student of the Novorossiysk University in Odessa, who for many years taught a course on medical history at the Central Institute for the Advancement of Doctors in Moscow. Professor E.D. Griбанov used to say¹⁶ that Professor P.E. Zabludovsky would be included among the delegates traveling to international congresses but in the end the authorities did not give their permission and his surname would not be found in the final lists. When P.E. Zabludovsky was first permitted to travel abroad, he even went to the train station to see who was traveling instead of him.

For the first time since WWII delegates from the Soviet Union took part in the 14th International Congress on the History of Medicine (1954: Rome-Salerno, Italy), in which representatives from 38 countries participated. There were four delegates from the USSR — three medical historians from Moscow and Docent P.T. Petrov from Kharkiv. His daughter Z.P. Petrova said that as a delegate from the Soviet Union her father was not only given a daily allowance and reimbursed for travel expenses and accommodation abroad, but before the trip he was invited to a special store where he could select fabric for a suit.¹⁷ The store made Docent P.T. Petrov a suit and he did not have to pay for anything.

At the 16th International Congress (1958; Montpellier, France) Ukraine was not represented within the Soviet delegation, but the collection of material from the Congress included theses by Ukrainian medical historians S.A. Verkhatsky, N.A. Oborin and A.S. Podrazhnsky on the first hospitals in Galician Russia, the Zaporozhian Sich and other regions. At the 17th International Congress (1960; Warsaw, Poland) the collection of theses included a report prepared by Yu.I. Rafes (Dnepropetrovsk) on Russian-Polish medical ties.

In 1968, the 21st International Congress was held in Siena, Italy. The Soviet delegation consisted

¹⁶ E.D. Griбанov told K.K. Vasylyev about Professor P.E. Zabludovsky.

¹⁷ In the Soviet era, special commercial establishments in regional centers were reserved for the party elite. There was a shortage on good woolen fabric, which is why it was impossible to buy it in an ordinary store.

of eight people, among whom was Professor G.F. Emelyanova from Dnepropetrovsk. She was also part of the Soviet delegation at the 22nd International Congress (Bucharest–Constanta, Romania; 1970) where she presented a report on issues related to deontology in the works of Ukrainian ophthalmologists. G.F. Emelyanova participated in the 23rd congress (London, 1972) as well.

Eleven reports by Ukrainian Soviet medical historians were published in the works of the 26th International Congress on the History of Medicine, which took place in Bulgaria (Plovdiv) in 1978. They included reports by K.G. Vasylyev, A.A. Grando, Yu.K. Duplenko, A.F. Kiselev, I.I. Kryzhanovsky, G.F. Emelyanova, L.G. Lekarev, and others.

In the post-Soviet period the administration of the Ukrainian Scientific Society stopped holding medical history conferences. However, in various regions, on the initiative of the researchers working there, a series of such events was organized.

On May 25–26, 1993, on the initiative of Professor A.F. Kiselev (The Nikolaev State Pedagogical University), a scientific-practical conference for medical historians and medical workers dedicated to the 500th anniversary of Ochakov was held in Nikolaev. Participants included not only Ukrainian medical historians, such as Professor Yu.M. Kvitnitsky-Ryzhov (Kiev), Professor T.A. Bazhan (Dnepropetrovsk), Professor K.G. Vasylyev (Odessa), V.S. Ermilov (Nikolaev), but also scientists from Russia such as Professor M.B. Mirsky (1930–2010), N.N. Blokhina and S.G. Goncharova [64–66].

In December 1993, the Ukrainian Central Museum of Medicine in Kiev organized the “Medicine and Ukrainian Culture” conference, which examined issues related to medical history in the context of the Ukrainian people’s spiritual and material culture [67].

On September 22–23, 2004, on the initiative of Professor A.M. Golyachenko, the All-Ukrainian Historical-Medical Conference dedicated to topical issues related to the history of medicine in Ukraine took place in Ternopil [68]. Given the inactivity of the executive committee of the Ukrainian Scientific Society of Medical Historians, the conference’s participants announced that they would create the All-

Ukrainian Association of Medical Historians [69]. However, everything ended there.

Professor K.K. Vasylyev, with the help of Sumy State University, organized three international historical-medical conferences: “Medical Education in Classical Universities: History and Modernity” (May 16–17, 2002) [70], “Current Problems in the History of Medicine,” dedicated to the 350th anniversary of Sumy and the 60th anniversary of the Soviet victory in the Great Patriotic War (April 26, 2005) [71], and “Teaching the History of Medicine in Higher Schools: History and the Modern Condition” (April 13, 2007) [72, 73]. The collections of materials from the conferences included reports prepared by researchers not only from Ukraine but also from Russia (Yu.P. Lisitsyn, A.M. Stochik (1939–2015), M.B. Mirsky, D.A. Balalykin, A.A. Butko, S.P. Glyantsev, E.D. Griбанov (1932–2005), S.N. Zatravkin, K.A. Pashkov, A.S. Sozinov), Belarus (E.M. Tischenko), Latvia (A. Viksny), Estonia (H. Tankler), Lithuania (V.P. Syudikas), Azerbaijan (F. Alekperli), Georgia (R. Shengelia), Germany (I. Kestner), and others.

Ukrainian medical historians participated in the ICMH. All three congresses took place in Moscow, in 1998, 2003 and 2009. The collection of materials from the I Congress included 11 theses prepared by Ukrainian medical historians, the II Congress – 25 and the III Congress – 12. In 1998, K.G. Vasylyev was elected to the ICMH’s executive committee and in 2009 Professor K.K. Vasylyev represented Ukraine in the ICMH’s executive committee.

At the 2nd ICMH Congress Professor A.F. Kiselev (Nikolaev) described the activities of the republic-wide, regional and city societies of medical historians in Ukraine in the post-Soviet period. In his opinion, the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the appearance of independent states created a crisis in these societies’ activities. Lacking communication with the ICMH, The Ukrainian Scientific Society for Medical Historian’s administration’s “long silence” led to the disunity of the regional societies, which began working in a spontaneous manner. Thus, the Nikolaev Regional Society, not having any links to the All-Ukrainian society, continued to work at its own discretion. The regional health department decided to unite the societies of social hygiene and medical historians. Medical

historians entered the united society as a section whose number of members was reduced from 42 to 14 people [74].

In the post-Soviet period Ukrainian medical historians continued participating in the activities of the International Society for the History of Medicine. Official delegations from Ukraine were no longer created and everyone attended the congresses on his or her own initiative and at his or her own expense. Thus, the 38th Congress (Istanbul, 2002) saw the participation of K.G. Vasylyev, K.K. Vasylyev, Yu.K. Duplenko and S.P. Rudai and the 40th Congress (Budapest, 2006) – that of K.G. Vasylyev and K.K. Vasylyev. At the 44th Congress (Tbilisi, 2014) Ukraine was represented by K.K. Vasylyev (Odessa) and S.P. Rudai (Kiev), as well as Ya.V. Ganitkevich (Lviv) and Yu.K. Duplenko (Kiev), who sent in their theses but could not participate in person. At the 45th Congress (Buenos-Aires, 2016) Ukraine was represented only by Professor K.K. Vasylyev.

Examining the activities of The Ukrainian Scientific Society of Medical Historians, we see that it is inseparably tied to the activities of The All-Union Scientific Society of Medical Historians established in 1946. The first historical-medical society in Ukraine appeared in 1947 in Stanislav,¹⁸ where S.A. Verkhtsky was working at the time. The Ukrainian Republic Scientific Historical-Medical Society was established in 1959 and in the same year it organized the 1st Ukrainian Historical-Medical Conference. In various years its chairmen were K.F. Duplenko, K.G. Vasylyev, A.A. Grando and B.P. Kryshchop. In those years local societies were founded in Ukraine, primarily in cities that had medical universities: Lviv, Kiev, Kharkiv, Odessa, Uzhhorod, Dnepropetrovsk and others. The activities of the local historical-medical societies requires a separate study. Medical historians of Soviet Ukraine actively participated in all of the all-union historical-

medical conferences and congresses. They were also part of the conferences' organizational committees, the editorial boards that published the works presented at the scientific forums and they took part in the work of various international congresses and conferences. Thanks to the government's organizational and financial support, an orderly system of medical historian societies, including all-union, republic-wide and local (regional, city) societies, was created. On the one hand, the government helped the societies realize historical-medical research programmes but on the other, it ideologically and politically controlled their activity. It can be said that the dissolution of the Soviet Union led to the disorganization in the activities of the medical historian societies in Ukraine, which were left without permanent government support. The Ukrainian Scientific Society of Medical Historian's executive committee could not reconstruct the Society's work and the Ukrainian National Museum of Medicine did not initiate the reorganization of the Ukrainian Scientific Society's activity and the consolidation of the national community of medical historians, which became passive and incapable of functioning in the new socio-economic and political reality. On the initiative of individual medical historians, historical-medical conferences were held in Nikolaev (1993), Kiev (1993), Ternopil (2004), and Sumy (2002, 2005, 2007).

The demand for Ukrainian medical historians in scientific circles in the post-Soviet period was stimulated thanks to their participation in foreign historical-medical forums: congresses of the International Confederation of Medical Historians, congresses on the history of medicine convened by the International Society for the History of Medicine and other scientific forums, whose activities are too numerous to be described in this overview.

¹⁸ Currently Ivano-Frankivsk.

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