

The history of establishment and evaluation period of Ottoman-Turkish urology inside the surgical science

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ABSTRACT

The first Urological international organization was occurred in Paris in the year 1908 and three Ottoman Urologist had been present among the total 29. At that year, Ottoman Urological society had only 9 Urologist, almost all of them from the Ottoman minorities with the exception of two, under the main branch of General Surgery. Among them, Cemil Pasha who was the first dean and the department chief of Surgery, and also urology, of the Medical School in modern manner (1909) and was the most dominant figure of the pioneers of the Turkish Surgery-Urology. Four beds among 20 were separated for Urology clinic.

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Ottoman Empire (1299–1922) was an important historical figure that located at the center of the ancient three continents with her capital Istanbul that settled near Bosphorus which is a border between Europe and Asia. Although 19th Century was regarded as declining period of the Empire, modernity activities also had begun at this period. Western type Medical education were tried to be formed at this century. During the dissolution period in the early 20th Century, Ottoman and German collaboration was increased in every field of life [1]. Military was at the leading position of this trend. Ottoman's first Medical Academy, Gülhane Military Medical Academy, was established with the contributions of German physicians, Prof. MDs R. Rieder and G. Deycke, in Istanbul at 1898 [2, 3]. Dr. Reider was the pioneer of usage of Ether instead of chloroform for the anesthesia as a medical revolution during the surgical

procedures in Ottoman Medicine [4]. Meanwhile, in the Europe, since the improvement of surgical techniques in parallel with the development of the surgical devices, national Urological associations had been begun to establish during the late 19th Century. French Urological Association that established at year 1896 was one of the pioneers of this trend and the idea to collaborate of the national ones under international umbrella was belonged to them. This idea was realized in the year 1908 at Paris under the presidency of Prof. Guyon [5].

At the same period, Ottoman Urology saw the day light with a few urologists under the influence of French school that influenced all fields of Ottoman Medicine. Thus, there was also Ottoman urological delegate, Dr. Tomaso Sgurdeos, from RUM [Greek of Turkish citizenship] Hospital Kazlıcesme-Istanbul that is still on duty with the same name, among the 29 delegates of this

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FIGURE 1. The first medical faculty as modern manner was formed via the combination of military and the civil medical schools at Haydarpasha Hospital in the year 1909.

first international committee. Since there should be two other members other than the delegate, Dr. Andrea Antipapas and Dr. Leon Lacombe, both also from Istanbul, also participated the congress under the title of Turkey. At the year 1908, Ottoman Urological national association had total 9 Urologists that all from Istanbul with one exception of Izmir that a city located at the shore of Aegean (Dr. Psaltoff from Izmir RUM Hospital) under the main branch as General Surgery. Almost all these members with two exceptions originated from Ottoman minorities. In the following years, Turkish interest in Urology had begun to increase [5, 6]. Meanwhile, the first medical faculty as modern manner was formed via the combination of military and the civil medical schools at Haydarpasha Hospital in the year 1909 (Figure 1) [3–6]. Moreover, Ottoman urology had seen the day light via the same reorganization with 4 bed unit under the discipline of General Surgery [7]. Cemil Topuzlu Pasha as an important figure of the surgical sciences took part in among these 9 Urologists (Figure 2). He was one of the pioneers of Ottoman-Turkish Urologists, who trained in Paris (1887) in the clinic of Prof. Guyon and also a founded member of French Urologic Society and some other European surgical associations, was attendant first dean of the faculty and department Chief of General Surgery department and conducted many invasive procedures in almost all surgical fields [3, 8–10]. Cemil Pasha approved Dr. Alexandre Pappas (also a brilliant painter) who also had a Urologic training in Paris for a director with the title of associated professor of this pio-



FIGURE 2. Cemil Topuzlu (1866–1958), The founder of Modern surgery, and urology in special, in Ottoman-Turkey.

neer 4 bed Urology unit of Medical Faculty. Dr. Pappas separated from the Medical Faculty in 1908 and settled in Greece, positioned as the Health minister for a period and continued his life in Athens (Figure 3). The first Urology resident (Prof. Sabit Erduran) was on duty at 1915 and now the Urology clinic reached to 20 beds and ready to be a separate department [7, 11]. However, long period of wars such as First World War and subsequent Turkish independence war interrupted the development of this academic maturation. Cemil Pasha also involved in Ottoman Official Bureaucracy. He conducted the position of “Mayor of Istanbul province” during the period of 1912–1920 [3]. Then, he was selected for Ottoman Minister of “public works” in the last years of Empire. Actually, Cemil Pasha was also a private doctor of Sultan V. Mehmet Reşad (1909–1918) who was suffered from bladder stones for six years [12]. Thus the rapid and early improvement of Turkish Urology can be attributed to the Sultan Reşad’s Urological health problem that negatively contribute the quality of life for long years till to his



FIGURE 3. Alaexandre Pappas (1877–1942) (Self-portrait), teaching staff of the first Urology department.

operation in the year 1915 [12]. It was not considered as an exaggeration to mention that Sultan's stones were the mile stones of Ottoman-Turkish Urology because of training facilities in Europe was surely under the permission of Sultan. During this period Ottoman State sent about a total 60 educational staff to Europe for training to form the former staff of Istanbul University via the confirmation of Sultan [6].

Since the Ottoman officials did never prefer to use the name of "Turkey" in the official communications, the official notes of the first international Urological association (The former form of Societe International d`Urologie –SIU-, 1908) interestingly pointed to delegates of "Turquie" that is the name of subsequent Turkish state that established later at 1923 [5]. In our opinion, Ottoman urologist as also the high educated political figures of the country had already realized that their empire was in ending period, thus the idea of the new state with its special name began to appear in the minds and also the international era under the influence of French type nationalism. SIU separated during the World War I (WWI) and reestablished at Paris in 1919. However, at those years, even these kind of international scientific societies were under the political influences and the losers

of WWI such as Germany, Ottoman Empire and Austria were not reaccepted to the association. This point of view was not changed at the next SIU meeting in the year 1924, although Ottoman Empire had recently been collapsed, as already had realized by the Urologists, and new Turkish republic was born after an independent war.

Despite of the ongoing political, socio-cultural discussions whether the state of Ottoman-Turkey in or outside Europe, Turkish Urology has been already involved in the history of European Urological community since the beginning. This process gave rise the quick development of Turkish urology as a separate branch many years earlier than other modern surgical departments of Turkey.

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