**FAMOUS UKRAINIAN SURGEON-INNOVATOR APOLLINARIUS PODREZ (1852–1900). CELEBRATING THE 170TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH**

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**The objective** of the jubilee paperdevoted to the 170th anniversary of the birth of outstanding Ukrainian surgeon, scientist, and lecturer, Professor of Imperial Kharkiv University A. G. Podrez is to outline main life and career milestones of the medic, his contribution to world surgery as well as to make them accessible to a wider group of scientists, in particular, English-speaking.

**Materials and methods**. Biographical approach is the main one in the study. It helps to find reasons for emergence of medical ideas and innovations made by the surgeon, to outline formation of physician’s outlook. Phenomenological and paradigmatic approaches provide the necessary scientific tools to reconstruct A. G. Podrez’s outlook, determine his impact on surgery development. Similarly, systematic approach is used for detachment of professional development periods. Wide range of used historical and medical literature as well as other materials ensure the completeness of the task implementation.

**Results**. Authors analyse formation of the surgeon as a specialist basing on study of his early years, education, and, especially, his participation in the Serbian-Turkish war which gave a great impetus for further A. G. Podrez’s professional growth. Second period of his life we can point starting from the defense of the doctoral thesis in 1879, when the scientist not only continued gathering medical experience in Ukraine and abroad, but also started implementation of his own professional ideas. The third and the last period of his life started from 1897, when he, for the first time in the world, performed a successful surgical removal of the bullet from the heart, offering original surgical access to this organ. That was the time of world glory. Moreover, A. G. Podrez became one of the founders of spleen surgery and domestic urology, the author of original surgical instruments and techniques. However, sudden death did not give a chance for further development of these directions of his professional interests.

**Conclusions**. Apollinarius Podrez became the founder of heart surgery in Ukraine and the Russian empire, developed some other surgical directions, instruments, and methods which made a great contribution to world surgery. He was a person of great knowledge and talent. However, his potential was not completely realised because of tragic death during its heyday.

**Keywords**: biography, surgeons, Ukraine, heart surgery, urology