

A life dedicated to surgery: Serhii Tymofieiev's contribution to medicine and education

Serhii Lukianovych Tymofieiev (1875—1943) was a renowned physician, surgeon, scientist, and teacher in the history of Ukrainian medicine. Continuous education and practice shaped his professional career, which began in the Kherson province. Tymofieiev became a Doctor of Medical Sciences after defending his dissertation on the pathogenesis of renal edema. His contribution covers several medical fields, including orthopedics, traumatology, urology, and military surgery. Serhii Lukianovych founded the Department of Traumatology and Orthopedics at the Kyiv Medical Institute, which became the basis for the development of modern Ukrainian orthopedics. He developed innovative approaches to the treatment of injuries, reconstructive surgery, and the training of future doctors. During World War I, Tymofieiev headed the surgical department of the Kyiv Military Hospital, where he treated gunshot wounds. His pedagogical activity was focused on improving the teaching of military field surgery, a topic that is particularly relevant during times of military conflicts. Tymofieiev not only worked tirelessly but also educated a generation of doctors who continued his legacy. Having written more than 90 scientific works, he became one of the founders of Ukrainian surgery and medical education. His life path is an example of high professionalism, extensive scientific knowledge, and commitment to the medical profession. Tymofieiev made a significant contribution to the history of medicine, and his legacy continues to inspire modern doctors.



Serhii Lukianovych Tymofieiev was born on September 25, 1875, in the family of a paramedic in the Kherson province (village of Glodosy). In 1893, he successfully graduated from the Kyiv Military Paramedic School and was appointed a junior paramedic at the Kyiv Military Hospital. The education gained at the Military Paramedic School did not qualify students for university admission. Instead, they needed a gymnasium certificate. Serhii Lukianovych Tymofieiev, known for his perseverance, independently completed the classical gymnasium course. In 1897, he successfully passed the final exams and received a certificate of maturity. The same

year, he entered the medical faculty at St. Volodymyr University. During his student years, beginning in the third year and continuing after graduation, he actively worked in the surgical pathology laboratory under the guidance of Professor Alexander Dmitrovich Pavlovsky, where he completed his doctoral dissertation.

Serhii Lukianovych Tymofieiev graduated with honours from St. Volodymyr University on October 15, 1902. According to the terms of his state-funded studies, he was required to serve three years in the military. S. L. Tymofieiev, a young doctor, had a heavy workload. He had to gain medical experience, learn surgical skills, do shifts in the hospital and clinic, write a doctoral dissertation, and partially perform the duties of a junior doctor in the regiment. S. L. Tymofieiev successfully addressed all of these challenges.

On November 19, 1908, Serhii Lukianovych Tymofieiev advanced in his scientific career by defending his doctoral dissertation on the theme «On the question of the pathogenesis of renal edema». This defence was not merely an academic accomplishment but also an important turning point in the evolution of his scientific method. After successfully defending his doctoral dissertation, Serhii Lukianovych continued to serve in the army.

Throughout his career, Serhii Lukianovych Tymofieiev was an active member of the Kyiv Surgical Society. He presented the greater part of his research and results at the society's regular meetings. Tymofieiev approached M. M. Volkovych in December

1911, requesting permission to serve as a part-time resident at the surgical clinic of the Department of Faculty Surgery at St. Volodymyr University, and he received approval. Before World War I, S. L. Tymofieiev resigned from the Military Department and completely transferred to the Ministry of Public Education. His introductory lecture, «Surgical Clinic Requirements for Modern Anesthesia», was published in «University News» in 1914. Serhii Lukianovych Tymofieiev was mobilized into the 19th Infantry Division in 1914, at the outbreak of World War I, and was appointed head of the surgical department of the Kyiv Military Hospital on December 23, 1914.

Tymofieiev, using his urological expertise and experience, became a pioneer in the field of surgery and treatment of gunshot wounds to the urinary system during military operations. On February 15, 1916, S. L. Tymofieiev presented his accumulated experience and material on gunshot wounds to the bladder at a meeting of the Kyiv Surgical Society. His high level of professionalism and understanding of the problems distinguished him among other medical practitioners, and his contribution to the development of urology and military surgery remains noteworthy.

On August 1, 1918, Tymofieiev held the position of head of the surgical department at the Kyiv Clinical Hospital. According to the staff list, he received a promotion to senior resident of the surgical department on September 2, 1919, during a period when surgical departments were referred to as departments.

Having experienced the years of World War I and the Civil War, Serhii Lukianovych Tymofieiev actively engaged in important medical work and military paramedic training. At that time, he was interested in the issues of training and the lives of military paramedics.

In 1920, Serhii Lukianovych Tymofieiev received the title of private associate professor at the Department of Hospital Surgical Clinic, and in 1923 he was awarded the title of professor. In 1923, he founded the Department of Traumatology and Orthopedics at the Kyiv Medical Institute (now Bogomolets National Medical University). The department was based at the Kyiv Military Hospital. Serhii Lukianovych Tymofieiev demonstrated an extensive understanding of both the medical and social aspects of childhood injuries and musculoskeletal deformities. He stated that it is critical to include conservative and surgical orthopedic procedures in young doctor training programs so that the fight against this disease becomes not only a medical but also a state and social effort.

During the period from 1923 to 1932, the staff of the Department of Orthopedics and Traumatology published about 40 scientific papers. These publications

concerned organizational aspects and improvements in the treatment of orthopedic and traumatological diseases, as well as new developments in the fields of shock treatment, bone plastic, and reconstructive orthopedic surgery. This indicates the great activity and high level of research conducted at the department during this period. In 1927, Professor S. L. Tymofieiev published a textbook-monograph entitled «Fundamentals of Orthopedic Surgery and Traumatology». This textbook became the main guide for students for many years, which indicates its significance and influence on training in the field of orthopedics and traumatology.

Serhii Lukianovych Tymofieiev was the first head of the Department of Military Field Surgery, established between 1932 and 1934. The prerequisite for the creation of the department was the order of the People's Commissariat of Education of Ukraine dated September 3, 1932: «In order to ensure the training of doctors graduated from the medical institute in military field surgery, to organize a department of military field surgery at the Kyiv Medical Institute and to propose to the management of the medical institute to provide for the 4th year the required number of hours in the curriculum, based on the department of military field surgery at the Institute of Emergency Care in Kyiv», an excerpt of which is cited by Tymofieiev in the 1935 article entitled «Teaching Military Field Surgery at the Kyiv Medical Institute».

Serhii Lukianovych was the head of the Department of Surgery of the Sanitary and Hygienic Faculty of the Kyiv Medical Institute from 1934 to 1941. During this period, Professor Tymofieiev and the staff of the department published the following scientific works: «To the methodology of studying histolysates» (Klin. Medicine, 1935), «On thermal burns» (Soviet Medical Journal, 1936), among others.

S. L. Tymofieiev is the author of more than 90 scientific works on inguinal canal plastic surgery, bone plastic surgery in pseudoarthrosis, ulnar nerve displacement in traumatic neuritis, laparotomies in abdominal injuries, and gunshot wounds to bones.

A prominent figure in the history of Ukrainian medicine, professor Tymofieiev was an outstanding physician, surgeon, and scientist. His contribution to the development of surgery, orthopedics and traumatology in Ukraine is significant. Tymofieiev showed high skill as a surgeon and was a great organizer in the field of medical education. His works in the field of orthopedics and traumatology are recognized and respected. Through his scientific research and practical activities, he made a significant contribution to the development of surgery and the treatment of traumatic injuries.

Tymofieiev's pedagogical contribution is no less important. He not only overcame great difficulties during periods of difficult historical events but also managed to transfer his knowledge to the younger generation of doctors. He recognized not only the need for high-quality surgical treatment but also the importance of transferring his knowledge and experience to a new generation of doctors. Improving the teaching of military field surgery occupied a significant place in his life. He believed that this subject not only teaches students ingenuity and endurance but also prepares them to provide effective assistance in war conditions. His article «On the Teaching of Military Field Surgery at the Kyiv Medical Institute» testifies to a deep understanding and systematic approach to this direction. Through his pedagogical activities, he educated a whole generation of highly qualified medical specialists who continued his work. Tymofieiev's memoirs about studying and collaborating with professor Mykola Markiiianovych Volkovych testify to the high erudition, deep medical thinking, and practical skills possessed by the scientist. Serhii Lukianovych Tymofieiev was a recognized and outstanding doctor, and he received high awards for his contribution to the development of surgery and medical practice. He

was awarded the Orders of St. Volodymyr IV degree, St. Sviatoslav III degree, and II degree.

Serhii Lukianovych was an excellent teacher, mentor, and educator, as evidenced by his numerous students, three of whom (professors S. T. Novytsky, A. R. Shuryuk, and A. Ya. Shtefel) headed the surgical departments of the Kyiv Medical Institute.

The overall picture of the life and work of Serhii Lukianovych Tymofieiev creates the image of an outstanding specialist who dedicated his life to medicine, teaching, and improving medical education and science in Ukraine.

Serhii Lukianovych Tymofieiev died on December 20, 1943. He was buried at the «Baykove» cemetery in the city of Kyiv.

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Життя, присвячене хірургії: внесок Сергія Тимофєєва в медицину та освіту

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Сергій Лук'янович Тимофєєв (1875—1943) — визначна постать в історії української медицини, відомий як видатний лікар, хірург, науковець і педагог. Його життєвий шлях розпочався в Херсонській губернії. Професійна кар'єра сформувалася завдяки наполегливій освіті та практиці. С. Л. Тимофєєв став доктором медичних наук, захистивши дисертацію про патогенез ниркових набряків. Він зробив внесок в ортопедію, травматологію, урологію та військову хірургію. Сергій Лук'янович заснував кафедру травматології та ортопедії в Київському медичному інституті, яка стала базою для розвитку сучасної української ортопедії. Розробив інноваційні підходи до лікування травм, реконструктивної хірургії та навчання майбутніх лікарів. Під час Першої світової війни очолював хірургічне відділення Київського військового шпиталю, лікував вогнепальні поранення. Удосконалив викладання воєнно-польової хірургії, що було актуально під час воєнних конфліктів. Професор Тимофєєв не лише самовіддано працював, а й виховав покоління лікарів, які продовжили його справу. Автор понад 90 наукових праць, він став одним із основоположників української хірургії та медичної освіти. Життєвий шлях Сергія Лук'яновича — це приклад поєднання професіоналізму, глибоких наукових знань і відданості медичній справі. Він залишив глибокий слід в історії медицини, а його спадок продовжує надихати сучасних лікарів.