

100 years of phoniatics from the Polish perspective

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ABSTRACT

Hermann Gutzmann is considered to be „The Father of Phoniatics”. Hugo Stern proposed to establish a phoniatic specialization (1919). Since 1924 phoniatics has been accredited, nondependent medical faculty worldwide. The first Phoniatic Department in Europe was founded in Prague by Miloslav Seeman. Emil Fröschels formed International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatics (IALP). IALP’s official press organ is Folia Phoniatica, formed in 1947 by Richard Luchsinger, Emil Fröschels, Miloslav Seeman and Jean Tarneaud. In 1970 European phoniaticists established Union of European Phoniaticians (UEP). In Poland Jan Sistrzyński, Władysław Oftuszewski, Aleksandra Mitrinowicz-Modrzejewska, Benedykt Dylewski, Maria Łączkowska, Leon Handzel, Erwin Mozolewski, Stanisław Klajman and others have made a significant contribution to the development of this discipline of medicine. Antoni Pruszewicz is a founder of the first Audiology and Phoniatics Department and audiology and phoniatic specialization (1982; 2001).

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INTRODUCTION

Phoniatics is specialty in otolaryngology, deals with the process of communication between people and the environment. Its main interests are disorders of voice, speech, language and the organ of hearing [1, 2]. In ancient Greece, voice teachers were called “phonaskói”, in Rome — “phonasci”. British laryngologist Morell Mackenzie (1837–1892) called himself „phoniattros London” [3]. Clinical phoniatics as part of otolaryngology was established at the beginning of the 20th century in Germany and Austria. The

father of phoniatics and the co-creator of this specialization is Hermann Gutzmann (1865–1922). He was the head of the Polyclinic of Speech Disorders at the Otolaryngology Department in Berlin [4–6]. In 1905, he obtained a habilitation based on the dissertation entitled “Respiratory movements and their connection with speech disorders”. Hugo Stern (1877–1941) in Vienna at the meeting of the Austrian Society of Otology held on 30.06.1919 he first proposed the name of the new specialization: phoniatics, (phoniatics — voice and speech specialty; German:

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Figure 1. Professor Aleksandra Mitrinowicz-Modrzejewska (1898–1975) — the founder of Polish phoniatic specialization

Stimm- und Sprachheilkunde) — a specialty dealing with voice and speech disorders [3, 7]. The leader of the Vienna School of Speech Therapy and head of the Casualty Department for Voice and Speech Disorders at the Otolaryngology Department in Vienna. Emil Fröschels (1894–1972), began promoting the new medical specialty. In 1924, at the Congress in Vienna (together with R. Luchsinger, M. Seeman and J. Tarneaud), he founded the International Society of Speech Pathologists and Phoniatics (IALP), in 1947 he founded the official press body of IALP “Folia Phoniatica” [3, 7–8]. Miloslav Seeman (1892–1975) created in 1929 in Prague the first in the world Phoniatic Department. The followers of the Gutzmann/Seeman’s Phoniatic School were Eva Sedlackova (1970–1976), Karel Sedlacek (1976–1986), Alexej Novak (1987–1997), Milan Listovka (1997–2004), Peter Biesalski (1915–2001) and others [1, 8, 9].

THE CREATORS OF PHONIATRICS IN POLAND

In Poland, the development of phoniatics dates back to the beginning of the 19th century. Jan Siestrzyński (1788–1824) founded the Deaf and Dumb Institute in Warsaw. He dealt with the theory of speech and reading

and the teaching of deaf children [10]. Jakub Falkowski (1774–1848) was the first deaf-mute teacher in Poland, the rector of the Deaf and Dumb Institute in Warsaw. Władysław Ołtuszewski (1855–1922), students of Hermann Gutzmann, was the founder of the Department of Treatment of Speech Disorders in Warsaw. He described the coordinative glottis contraction and spastic aphonia, which he treated with new methods. In his works he showed a relationship between phonation, articulation and hearing. He represented a modern view on the physiopathology of the communicative process. He emphasized that “human intelligence created speech, not the other way round”. Benedykt Dylewski (1894–1976) created the first Phoniatic Center in University of Vilnius, 1925) [1, 10–13].

Aleksandra Mitrinowicz-Modrzejewska (1898–1975), the first professor of phoniatics in Poland, is considered to be the creator of modern phoniatics. In 1925, she organized a Clinic of Speech Disorders at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow, and in 1935 at the University of Warsaw, the Department of Phoniatic Disorders with the Clinic of Voice, Hearing and Speech Disorders. In 1948, she obtained her habilitations on the basis of the work entitled „Coordinating vocal deficiency (Phonasthenia)”. Mitrinowicz-Modrzejewska dealt with hyper-nasal speech, dyslexia, research on chronaxie of respiratory and articulatory muscles and phonasthenia. In 1963, she published a textbook entitled „Physiology and Pathology of Voice, Hearing and Speech”. She is a founder of phoniatic specialization in Poland (1959). Her scientific achievements are 135 works in various languages. Maria Łączkowska in 1932 opened Speech and Voice Defect Clinic at the Otolaryngology Department in Poznań. In 1982 Antoni Pruszewicz was established in Poznań Department and Clinic of Phoniatics and Audiology. In Wrocław Leon Handzel created the Phoniatic Laboratory at the Otolaryngology Dept. (1951). In addition, significant contributions

to the development of phoniatics in Poland were, among others: prof. Stanisław Klajman, Erwin Mozolewski, Zygmunt Pawłowski, Andrzej Obrębowski, Tomasz Zaleski, Henryk Skarżyński, Mariola Śliwińska-Kowalska, Grażyna Mielnik-Niedzielska and others. In 1959, phoniatics was singled out as an independent medical specialty in Poland (prof. Aleksandra Mitrinowicz-Modrzejewska). A specialization in audiology and phoniatics was established in 2001 (prof. Antoni Pruszewicz). In 1965, the Phoniatic Section of the Polish Society of Otorhinolaryngologic in Poland was established. The directions of scientific activity of Polish phoniatics are: pathophysiology and voice rehabilitation, hearing impairment, macro- and microstructures analysis of voice, pathophysiology of speech fluency disorders, voice examination in neurological disorders, voice and speech examination in cleft palate, prophylaxis of occupational vocal disorders [1, 10–13].

CONCLUSION

The development of Polish phoniatics is closely related to the development of phoniatics in Europe, mainly with its German-Czech trend. The creator of phoniatic specialization is prof. Hermann Gutzmann. Professor Hugo Stern (30.06.1919) with the support of Hermann Gutzmann proposed to establish a phoniatic specialization. The first Phoniatic Clinic in Europe was founded in Prague (1967 — prof. Miloslav Seeman). Polish doctors (mainly Jan Siestrzyński, Władysław Ołtuszewski, Aleksandra Mitrinowicz-Modrzejewska, Benedykt Dylewski, Maria Łączkowska, Leon Handzel, Erwin Mozolewski, Stanisław Klajman,

Antoni Pruszewicz, Henryk Skarżyński, Andrzej Obrębowski, Mariola Śliwińska-Kowalska have made a significant contribution to the development of this discipline of medicine. In Poland prof. Antoni Pruszewicz (1982; 2001) is a founder of the first Audiology and Phoniatics Clinic and audiology and phoniatic specialization.

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