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## In Memoriam: Prof. Stanislav Andriiovych Iakymenko

Professor Stanislav Andriiovych Iakymenko, Head of Department of Eye Burns at the Filatov Institute of Eye Diseases and Tissue Therapy, died on January 30, 2023, after a long illness.

Stanislav Andriiovych Iakymenko was born on September 3, 1938, in the village of Ryzhavka, Uman district, Charkasy region. After completing his secondary school education, he entered Bogomolets Kyiv Medical institute in 1955, but in 1957 was transferred to a newly formed Ternopil Medical Institute. On graduating from the latter, he opted to be sent to work as a doctor at the Center in the Prevention and Treatment of Trachoma in Kokand, Uzbekistan (1961-1968), where he was involved in eradicating the disease in that region, gained much experience as an eye surgeon and performed over two thousand ocular and adnexa surgeries.

In 1968, Dr. Iakymenko joined the Post-graduate school of the Filatov institute, and at this institute he worked his way up from post-graduate student to Head of Department of Eye Burns (1988).

Dr Iakymenko defended his Cand Sc (Med) thesis, Diagnostic Value of Ultraviolet and Infrared Biomicroscopy and Ultrasound Echography in Examination of a Corneal Leucoma Eye, in 1972, and his Dr Sc (Med) dissertation, Novel Methods of Optic Keratoprosthesis in Corneal Leucoma and Corneal Dystrophy Cases in Which Corneal Transplant is Not an Option, in 1986. He was awarded the title of professor in 1993.

His research focused on the pathogenesis and development of new methods of treatment of ocular burns, particularly studies on keratoprosthesis as an effective method of restoration of vision in corneal leukoma cases in which optic keratoplasty is not an option.

The keratoprosthesis models and surgical techniques developed by Prof. Iakymenko enabled making keratoprosthesis an effective means to restore vision in patients with "hopeless corneal leukoma". He has himself performed over a thousand of keratoprosthesis procedures, more than any other doctor in the world.

Another area of his research focused on the pathogenesis of ocular burns and the development of new medical and surgical methods for their treatment. His methods of emergency care and treatment for severe eye burns were substantiated and developed based on studies on various components of the pathogenesis, and enzymes were for the first time used in the medical treatment of eye burns and their effects. In addition, intra-arterial injection of medications was substantiated based on studies on blood-



ocular barrier breakdown in eye burns, and the use of galvanic current to remove ions of damaging compounds and necrotic tissue proteins from burnt ocular tissues was proposed. The aforementioned methods have substantially improved the outcomes for patients with this severe ocular disorder.

Dr Iakymenko also developed a number of surgical techniques for the treatment of patients with eye burns (surgery for the removal of ankyloblepharon and symblepharon; surgery for post-burn glaucoma; and excimer-laser, amniotic membrane and limbal-stem-cell-assisted surgical treatments of eye burns). In total, Prof. Iakymenko performed over 12,000 eye surgery procedures, and most of them were the highest complexity surgeries.

He was frequently invited to give lectures and perform live keratoprosthesis surgeries abroad (Bulgaria, Hungary, China, and Poland) and was a speaker at numerous international and European ophthalmology congresses, which has made him a world authority of the subject.

Prof. Iakymenko published more than 400 articles and four monographs, Optic Keratoprosthesis (1986), Eye Burns (2001), Keratoprosthesis (2018), and Eye Burns and their Treatment (2020). Two individuals completed their Dr Sc (Med) degrees, and four, their Cand Sc (Med) degrees, under the supervision of Prof. Iakymenko.

For 20 years, he was academic secretary, and for seven years, deputy chairman for the Special Academic Council

of the Filatov Institute of Eye Disease and Tissue Therapy. In addition, he has initiated the establishment of the Ethics Committee at the institute and has been the head of the committee for years. Moreover, for years he has been board member of the Ukrainian Society of Ophthalmologists, and editorial board member of the Journal of Ophthalmology (Ukraine) and International Journal of Ophthalmology (China).

Prof. Iakymenko was honored with the Filatov prize from the Academy of Medical Science of the USSR, and received certificates of appreciation from the Ministry of Health and Academy of Medical Science of Ukraine and the diploma from the Exhibition of Economic Achievements of Ukraine. In 1998, he was recognized by the International Biographical Centre of Cambridge, England, as one of the 1998 Outstanding People of the 20th Century. Dr. Iakymenko was member of International Keratoprosthesis Association, honorary member of the Bulgarian Society of Ophthalmology, and honorary professor at a number of Chinese universities as well as Horbachevsky Ternopil National Medical University.

Stanislav Andriiovych was an attentive, intelligent and friendly person, an undisputed leader of his profession, and was highly respected by his colleagues. He will live in our memories of him, and his name will always be a part of the history of the institute.

*Staff of the Filatov Institute of Eye Diseases and Tissue Therapy*