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# LEGENDS IN UROLOGY

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When I was invited by the CJU to write an article about myself, I was not only proud but also honored. I hope my professional life will be a good and uplifting example not only for young Turkish urologists but also for the global urology community.

I was born in Izmir in 1946. My father was a graduate of the School of Economics and my mother was a graduate of the School of Law of Istanbul University. When I was 5 years old, my relatives took me to a friend's house where their son just had a circumcision. This boy showed me his wound and the dressing and as soon as I went back to our house I decided to apply circumcision to my 3-year-old brother. I took a razor and almost at the root of his penis I drew a small line; fortunately nothing happened, but my urology professional life was cemented at that early year. My parents taught me the consequences of failure to obtain informed consent!

I started my medical education in 1963 at Hacettepe Medical School which at that time was part of Ankara University. During summer vacations I spent my time in the operating rooms in general surgery and learned the surgical principles and discipline from Dr. Haluk Boneval and Dr. Yılmaz Sanaç.

I decided to become a urologist in the 5<sup>th</sup> year of my medical education, during the clerkship in urology. The reason I chose urology is because of the communication of urology residents with the students and being allowed to do the practical work. I have to emphasize the late Dr. Fevzi Çakmak, and the late Prof. Dr. Doğan Remzi, Chairman of the Department are who influenced me to choose urology. I completed my urology residency in the year 1973 at Hacettepe University Medical School.

Military service was obligatory as a young urologist. I worked at the Military Hospital of Ağrı (near Mount Ararat near the border of Iran) and later moved to Ankara Mevkii Military Hospital where I performed kidney stone operations, ureteroneostomies and prostatectomies. After returning to civilian service, I returned to work at the Hacettepe University Medical School as a lecturer in general urology.

In those years all the urologists in Turkey were dealing with general urology and sub-specialization was rare. I was interested in uro-oncology and in the beginning of 1978 I went to Leeds University and St. James University Hospital in England for postgraduate training in GU oncology. My mentor at the Leeds University Cancer Research Department was Prof. Edward Cooper PhD who taught me to do basic research by teaching Radio Immuno Diffusion (RID) technique and statistical analysis. This enlightened my horizon and I started to do research and publish articles in reputable medical journals.

While I was working in Leeds, my clinical mentor was Mr. P. H. Smith (consultant urologist) to whom I owe my uro-oncology professional life. I spent 18 months with him, treating uro-oncology patients according to the EORTC GU Group protocols and spending time in the operating room performing urological surgery. I was appointed as a registrar and later a senior registrar. I also spent time at the Pontefract General Infirmary Hospital with Mr. M. Robinson who was also a consultant urologist. These two colleagues introduced me to the British Urological Association, European Association of Urology (EAU) and EORTC GU Group. I also joined the Yorkshire Urological Cancer Research Campaign. I applied systemic chemotherapy, intracavitary chemotherapy and immunotherapy to our patients. After I returned to Ankara, I started a practice focused on GU oncology.

In 1980, the treatment of metastatic testicular tumor was old fashioned with poor prognosis. I started to treat our patients with the new Einhorn regimen (cisplatin, vinblastine and bleomycine). The Chairman of Medical Oncology, Prof. Dr. Dinçer Fırat asked me to teach this regimen to the internal medicine residents. It became a new systemic treatment in Turkey in the 1980s. A urologist teaching internal medicine residents the modern treatment of metastatic testicular tumors was a great honor for me, and I'll always carry this responsibility and honor on my shoulders. In 1980 I became an Associate Professor in urology and joined the EORTC Group starting to recruit uro-oncology patients to the open protocols.

Turkish Urology started to realize the significance of uro-oncology, with our pathology colleagues Prof. Dr. Şevket Ruacan and Prof. Dr. İlhan Özdemir we started to design clinico-pathological research projects in testicular and prostate cancer. Those articles were accepted and published by international journals.

In 1985 I was appointed Professor of Urology and moved to the newly established Marmara University Medical School to start a Department of Urology. In our department uro-oncology, endourology, pediatric urology, andrology, neurourology and female urology sub-specialties were established through my efforts. Transrectal ultrasound (US) of prostate and US guided biopsies were started as a joined effort between urology and radiology by my encouragement.

Our department joined the EORTC GU Group and in addition to myself, Prof. Dr. Levent Türkeri became an active member. I also recommended Prof. Dr. Ziya Kırkalı from Dokuz Eylül University and Prof. Dr. Haluk Özen from Hacettepe University to be accepted as members of the group.

While uro-oncology improved over the years, we obtained the first ESWL machine (MFL 5000) in Istanbul and the third one in Turkey. I raised funds to establish our own research laboratory with Levent Türkeri in charge and supported by a biochemist and a biologist working in the laboratory.

I established the blood bank in our hospital and bought the video monitoring system to teach endourology to our residents which was the first monitoring system in Turkey in those days. I established a team of general surgeons, urologists and nephrologists, to start up living donor kidney transplantation.

In 1986 I was appointed as the Dean of Marmara University Medical School and I served until October 1995. I not only improved urology but also substantially increased the size of our medical school. Our medical school became a very prominent school because of the outstanding academic staff who were young, full of enthusiasm and very hard working.

In 1993 I was selected as an Eisenhower Fellow for Turkey, and my task was investigating post graduate systems in hospital management. I spent 2 months in the USA, visiting different states, departments of hospital management and healthcare systems. I designed postgraduate training programs which I started in the Health Sciences Institute of Marmara University. The postgraduate program included day and evening courses, and PhD. training. Until my retirement in 2012, about 500 students from the postgraduates programs and 30 students from the PhD program were matriculated. In the year 1999 I also established the Turkish Uro-oncology Society with six of my colleagues.

During the 40 years of work at the University we established sub-specialties of urology, a focus on uro-oncology, basic and clinical research programs, the Uro-oncology Society, modernized medical education, problem based learning approach, medical economics, medical law and communication skills. My other important mission was to educate medical professionals in the importance of hospital management, and to convince them that we need professional educated people to administer our hospitals.

I hope I not only served my country during those years but the entire world. It is an honor to raise the flag and I hope the next generations will carry this flag to a better and brighter future.

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