IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR, ACADEMICIAN

OTAR GUDUSHAURI

A great leader and educator who contributed immensely to improving the health of others throughout Europe. He provided advancements to the scientific community and enhanced the social conditions for people in Georgia and Eastern Europe. The most precious memories of this man still reside with hundreds of his patients, who until this day, feel the beauty of life because of his medical skills and efforts to help others. He has cared for those who were dying and dedicated his life to helping even the most marginalized members of society who needed medicare care and specialized treatment.

Academician Otar Gudushauri is the author of more than 300 scientific papers and 23 books. Four of his monographs are medical handbooks used by many traumatologists throughout the civilized world. In 1978, the Public Health Ministry of the USSR recognized one of his monographs as the “Best Scientific Work of the Year in Medicine.” He was an honorary member of the SICOT (need to define this and explain what it is) that underscores his international popularity among medical experts.

Otar Gudushauri was born in a small Georgian town Daba Kazbegi in 1925. He had graduated from the North Ossetian Medical Institute in 1949 and started his professional carrier as the head physician of the in patient/out patient hospital of Ardeni (North Ossetia-North Cucasus). In 1952, he was a post-graduate student at the Moscow Scientific and Research Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedics. After finishing his post-graduating training (dates), he was personally invited by his Director, the Head of the Institute Academician Nikolay Priorov, to continue his work at the Institute. Dr. Gudushauri worked his way as a junior-scientific worker to the head of the largest department. In 1956, after only 2 years in his first research level position, he was promoted to head of his department. He successfully defended his thesis for his master’s degree and in 1965 defended his thesis for a doctor’s degree. In 1966, the title of Professor was conferred on him. Like the best specialist-surgeon and head of the main Department of Trauma and Orthopedics in Eastern European countries, he was a leading researcher and manager of trauma hospitals starting from Bulgaria and finishing in Cuba, China and North Korea. As an excellent surgeon, Professor O. Gudushauri provided consultations and treatments for thousands of
patients in many countries throughout Europe.

In 1970, Prof. Otar Gudushauri returned to Tbilisi and occupied the position of Director of the Georgia Institute for Scientific and Research Traumatology and Orthopedics. He was Head of the Department of Traumatology and Orthopedics Faculty of the Tbilisi Medical Institute. He was appointed Dean of the Medical Faculty and in 1972-1975 he was the Rector of the Medical Institute.

In 1974, Prof. Otar Gudushauri was elected as a Full Member of the Academy of Sciences of Georgia, a leading Scientific Board for Researchers in Georgia. Since 1981 Prof. Otar Gudushauri was the Director General of the Republic Scientific/Research and Clinical/ Experimental Center and the Head of Traumatology, Orthopedics and Military and Field Surgery Faculty of the State Medical Institute.

His first and most important achievement was creation and implementation into clinical practice of the compression/destruction method of the tumatic bones. He had started his work before he began his post-graduate training and them implemented the results of his scientific medical research at the Central Moscow Scientific and Research Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedics. This method was recognized in the USSR, in Europe and in the United States of America. Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt (the wife of the Ex-President of the United States) was famous for her charity in the field of medicine and she helped to popularize the Gudushauri method to the world. In 1978 Prof. Otar Gudushauri was awarded the Lenin Prize (the highest award possible in socialist countries) for the creation and implementation of this method. In the same year he was invited by the English Royal Society to London and Birmingham to familiarize Western European specialists with the method. His lectures were well received and recognized by the medical profession in Europe.

In 1987 Prof. Acad. Otar Gudushauri was awarded the State Prize of the USSR for creation of intrabone fixation apparatus and restoration of hand function by means of a replacement method. The bone joint system defects were replaced by corundum/ceramic endoprothesis as a new method of treatment of false joints and fractures with displacement of fragments caused by osteomilits.

The social and political activities of Prof. Acad. Otar Gudushauri are remarkable and of importance to Georgia. He was Deputy Director of several departments with the People’s Deputy Council. From 1988-1991, Dr. Gudushauri was the Deputy Director of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. This was an extremely influential body of citizens and professionals from different social classes in the USSR who influenced Soviet reforms.

The history and life of Academician Otar Gudushauri belongs to the people of Georgia, and to the thousands of people whose lives have been improved by his medical contributions and interventions. The people of Georgia will not forget this man whose greatness and outstanding merits reflect so positively on all of Georgia. His memories will remain for decades to come, and those in the medical profession will always have access to his medical contributions and scientific advancements. Otar Gudushauri was a man of the people in Georgia.