



THREE GIANT PLANE-TREES IN THE ANKARA MEDICAL FACULTY - III: PROF. TARIK YAZAR, M.D.

*ANKARA TIP FAKÜLTESİNDE ÜÇ DEV ÇINAR-3:
PROF. DR. TARIK YAZAR*

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SUMMARY:

Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology of Ankara University's school of Medicine kept and raised many academicians in terms of almost every sub branches Orthopaedics from the very first day of establishment, until today. Masters as Professor Güngör Sami Çakırgil and Professor Rıdvan Ege were played an important roles on the basis of development of spinal surgery in a certain manner which also known as "Ecole of Ankara Medical School". After these two masters, three giant plane -trees took over the mission and they were also a pioneer and contributor to develop Turkish Spinal Surgery countrywide. In these biography series, it has been told the life stories of these milestones and their endeavors' for development of Turkish Spinal Surgery in three chapters. Third chapter is including the studies of Professor Tarık Yazar. On behalf of their students, we also aimed to emphasize our appreciations and our gratitude to them.

Key Words: Tarık Yazar, scoliosis, Ibn-I Sina Instrumentation System (ISIS), spinal surgery

Level of evidence: Biography, Level V

ÖZET:

Ankara Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Ortopedi ve Travmatoloji Anabilim Dalı, kuruluşundan bu güne kadar aşağı yukarı Ortopedi ve Travmatolojinin her dalında çok kıymetli ve konusunda üst düzey bilgi ve deneyime sahip birçok öğretim üyesi yetiştirmiş ve bünyesinde bulundurmıştır. Ankara Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Ortopedi ve Travmatoloji Anabilim Dalı'nda Güngör Sami Çakırgil ve Rıdvan Ege gibi ustalar çalışmış ve omurga cerrahisinde Ankara Tıp ekolünün gelişmesinde önemli rol oynamışlardır. Onları takip eden ve hâlihazırda çalışan Prof. Dr. Tarık Yazar, hocalarından aldığı misyonu, daha geniş bir vizyonla sürdürmüş, Türk Omurga Cerrahisi'ne önemli katkılar sağlamış, gerçek bir öncü olmuştur. Bu üç bölümden oluşan biyografi çalışmasında Türk Omurga Cerrahisine büyük katkıları olan üç dev çınarın hayat hikâyeleri ve Türk Omurga Cerrahisinin gelişmesi içi çabaları anlatılmıştır. Bu çalışmanın son bölümü Prof. Dr. Tarık Yazar'a ayrılmıştır. Bu vesile ile onlara yetiştirdikleri öğrenciler adına minnet ve şükran duygularımızın ifade edilmesi amaçlanmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Tarık Yazar, skolyoz, İbn-i Sina Enstrümantasyon Sistemi, omurga cerrahisi

Kanıt Düzeyi: Biyografi, Düzey V

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INTRODUCTION:

Prof. Dr. Tarık Yazar is a spinal surgeon who is closer to our generation and who is friendly. In short, he is our dear elder brother. “Downright gentleman” phrase is just suitable for him. I do not know if it is due to the fact that he is a physics engineer, his scientific curiosity, as in other fields, provided him to design a new pedicular screw. Prof. Dr. Tarık Yazar is one of the frontiers who I appreciate due to his big supports to me as well as to most of our colleagues, and who had great contributions to Turkish spinal surgery (Figure-1).



Figure-1. Prof. Dr. Tarık Yazar.

LIFE STORY OF PROF. DR. TARIK YAZAR:

Prof. Dr. Tarık Yazar was born in a small village in Artvin Şavşat in 26 May 1951. His childhood period passed in a number of cities and districts in Anatolia with his family due to his father occupational carrier from being a judge to membership to Appeals Court and Constitutional Court.

He completed his high school training in Ankara Atatürk High School. While he was just 17 years old in 1968, he started to Ege University Medical School. He left the Medical School with his own decision and he became a student in Ankara University Science Faculty Physics Engineering Department.

To become a scientist in nuclear physics, he tended to this field which he wanted³.

He graduated from Ankara University Physics Department in 1973 with a degree. Since the academic members liked him so much, they insisted him on staying in the department. When he just started to the “master” program, with the “University Amnesty” provided by the government in charge in that period and by the insistence of his advisor in the university, and since this amnesty included the ones “who was enrolled into another faculty with the University Entrance Exam”, he was entitled to enroll to Ege University Medical School and he started to medical school.

Prof. Dr. Uğur Büğet, who he still remembers him with gratefulness and who was a “Solid State Physics” lecturer in Ankara University Science Faculty Physics Engineering, encouraged him by saying that “You graduate from the Medical School and we can make progress in those studies” since he does not have enough medical information about the neuronal and cellular communication subject in his studies about the liquid crystals. In the mind of Uğur Hoca, especially, there was the questions that what the communication between the cancer cells and how it can be prevented.

In the last years of his Medical School training, he started to spend most of his time in Orthopedics and Traumatology clinics, which he relates with especially Physics since physics was “the arithmetical condition of the justice of the matter”. Since, unfortunately, there was no assistant position in Ege University in 1980, he started specialization in Orthopedics and Traumatology in Ankara University Medical School after the academicians Eroğlu, Çallı and Lök contacted directly with Prof. Dr. Rıdvan Ege³.

The time he spent in anatomy provided him to command on surgical anatomy seriously during the surgery. While he was continuing his specialization in orthopedics, Prof. Dr. Avni Duraman, Prof. Dr. Rıdvan Ege, Prof. Dr. Güngör Sami Çakırgil, Prof. Dr. Zeki Korkusuz and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yücel Tümer, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ertan Mergen were the academic staff. İlker Çetin, Oğuz Polatkan and Derya Dinçer were the head assistants³.

In 1981, he married with Prof. Dr. Zeliha Yazar, who was an Eye specialist and who is currently an academician in Kafkas University Medical School Eye Clinics and who was his classmate. He currently has 2 daughters. His daughter Elif graduated from Bilkent University Economics Department and started to work in a bank. Başak, on the other hand, graduated from Industrial Engineering Department, again, in Bilkent University and she started to work in a software company (Figure-2)³.



Figure-2. Prof. Dr. Tarık Yazar, with his wife and daughters.



Figure-3. Prof. Dr. Tarık Yazar follows all the technological improvements probably because he is a physics engineer. While he was driving with his googles which can take a picture and video.

He became an Orthopedics and Traumatology Specialist by completing his specialization in 1985. Again, in the same year, with the encouragement of Güngör Sami Çakırgil, he tended to Spinal Surgery and he attended to a spinal surgery training programme organized by him in Zurich, Switzerland. He worked with Prof. Dr. Adam Schrabert in Zurich University for 4 months. In the same year, he stayed in United States of America in Ohio University with Prof. Dr. McCulloch for a while. In following years, he attended to a number of courses and symposia about spinal surgery in a number of countries³ (Figure-3).

He started to work in Ministry of Health Ankara Training Hospital to perform his compulsory service, which was brought into force, in 1985. He worked with Prof. Dr. Faham Sipahioğlu and Surgeon Dr. Behçet Sepici in those years. He started as a head assistant in Ankara University in 1987 after completing his compulsory service. He became an associated professor with Dr. Yener Sağlık in 1988. He was appointed to professorship in 1995. He has been working in Ankara University Medical School since then. Prof. Dr. Tarık Yazar, who was interested in cycling sports in his childhood, tended to tennis. His biggest passion is “Hayat”. “Hayat” is the name of the “Kangal” hybrid dog, who was adopted by his daughter Başak after a car crash and who was recovered with a surgery due to the broken legs and waist. Tarık Yazar says that his fitness is due to his walking two times a day with it (Figure-4)³.



Figure-4. Prof. Dr. Tarık Yazar, with his dear dog “Hayat”.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF PROF. DR. TARIK YAZAR TO TURKISH SPINAL SURGERY:

Prof. Dr. Tarık Yazar worked with Prof. Dr. Rıdvan Ege, Prof. Dr. Güngör Sami Çakırgil and Prof. Dr. Zeki Korkusuz, who are the doyens of the spinal surgery during his specialization in Ankara Medical School. Tarık Yazar, who was grown completely in Ankara Medical School ecrole, made significant contributions to this ecrole.

He became the Turkish Spine Association Administrative Board membership and also he became the head of the 3rd International Spinal Surgery Congress conducted in Antalya in 1-6 October 1994, on behalf of Turkish Spine Association (Figure-5)¹.



Figure-5. Prof. Dr. Tarık Yazar, during his headship in 3rd International Spinal Surgery Congress conducted in Antalya in 1994.

One of the most significant contributions of Prof. Dr. Tarık Yazar to Turkish Spinal Surgery is the cortical spongy pedicular screw, which he designed. The pull out, bending and axial loading biomechanical tests of this screw, whose upper part stays in the cortical corpus and the lower part has spongy screw threads, were performed by myself by comparing with the other modern screw systems and it was shown that it is more durable when compared to other modern screw systems especially in terms of its resistance to pull-out moment. The patent of this pedicular screw was taken by Prof. Dr. Tarık Yazar both from TSE and "International Patent Center" in Vienna, and it was transformed to an instrumentation system by addition of the hook designs. The system was called as İbn-i Sina Instrumentation System (ISIS) and the production started in İstanbul.

The introduction of the system was performed in 1993 in Turkish Orthopedics and Traumatology National Congress⁵.

Prof. Dr. Tarık Yazar has large series and he is one of the people who applied the interspinous device, which is used in the kyphoplasty and degenerated disc treatment in osteoporotic vertebra fractures in Turkey⁴. He is the indispensable speaker of the Bioengineering congresses about the spinal osteoporosis for years⁸.



Figure-6. Prof. Dr. Yazar provided a number of young surgeons to have an experience on the cadaver by organizing Basic Spinal Surgery Cadaver courses. From the right, the course trainers; Prof. Dr. Alpaslan Şenköylü, Prof. Dr. Emre Acaroğlu, Prof. Dr. Necdet Altun, Prof. Dr. Tarık Yazar, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Altınmakas and yours truly Prof. Dr. İ. Teoman Benli.

He is the person who performed the studies about the dynamic CT and MR applications in lumbar spinal stenosis and osteoporotic spine⁹.

One of the most significant contributions of Prof. Dr. Tarık Yazar to Turkish Spinal Surgery is his book called "Degenerative Spinal Diseases" which he was the editor with Prof. Dr. Necdet Altun on behalf of Turkish Spine Association and which he wrote a couple of sections in and which he included the foreign authors about the subject. This book is one of two books published by Turkish Spine Association and it is a comprehensive work which gives much information from the student⁷.

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Prof. Dr. Tarık Yazar gave conferences on "Science History" subject in a number of organizations and meetings (Figure-7).



Figure-7. Prof. Dr. Tarık Yazar, while talking in television programme.

CONCLUSION:

He increased his studies about minimal spinal surgery subject, he performed a number of speech on this subject and he contributed to the guidance of young people. He conducted minimal invasive surgery courses about this subject until this year and he became the founder head of Turkish Minimal Invasive Spinal Surgery Association and he conducted 1st Turkish Minimal Invasive Spinal Surgery Congress in Antalya. He was selected as the honorary president of the World Minimal Spinal Surgery congress (IV.WCMISST) in Paris in 2014 June (Figure-8)².

He has a number of national and international publications about the Spinal Surgery¹⁻¹⁰. He is still continuing to train new spinal surgeons in Ankara University Medical School

Orthopedics and Traumatology Department as an Academic Member.

He overcame the unfortunate disease he had a while ago and he recovered his health again. We wish dear Prof. Dr. Tarık Yazar, who will be retired after 2 years, a long and a healthy life and happiness.



Figure-8. Prof. Dr. Tarık Yazar, with me and Prof. Dr. Feza Korkusuz in the gala dinner, in award ceremony in 6th International Spinal Surgery in Ankara.

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