

Hasan Reşat Sığındım, MD (1884-1971)

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Abstract

Background: Hasan Reşat Sığındım lived between 1884 and 1971. He was graduated firstly from Kadirga Civilian Medical School in 1905. He became a dermatology specialist in 1909. He began to the speciality of physiology in Germany in 1909. Dr. Hasan Reşat established Kabul Medical Faculty in 1933. He worked as a clinical chef of the Department of Skin and Venereal Disease of Haydarpaşa Numune Hospital between 1941-1953. He contributed to Turkish and World Medicine with the diagnosis of 'Monocytic Leukemia' when he was at 29 years-old.

Hasan Reşat Sığındım was born in Fatih, İstanbul in 1884. His Father was Colonel Dr. *Selim*. His father was born in Drama and his mother was born in İstanbul [1].

He completed his primary education in İstanbulköy and secondary education in Fatih Merkez Secondary School and Vefa High School. Then, he started his medical education in Civilian Medical School in Kadirga and he was graduated as the first from medical school in 1905. In the same year, he was started to work in dermatology clinic as an assistant of the *Celaleddin Muhtar Özden*. After 4 years, he became a specialist doctor (Figure 1).

In those years he entered an examination and deserved to be one of seven people which would go to Germany. In Germany, while continuing to deal with dermatology, on the other hand he started to interest in physiology. He increased his knowledge by working with professors such as *Rubner, Piper, Lesser, Arndt*

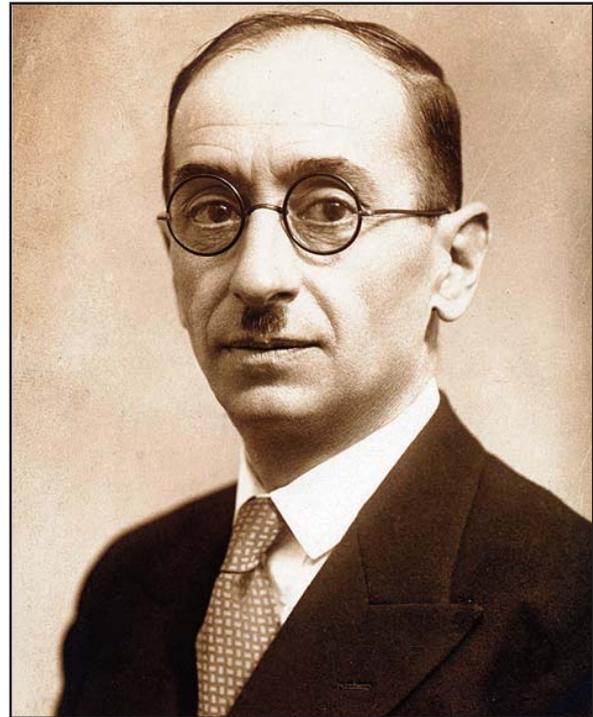


Figure 1. Hasan Reşat Sığındım

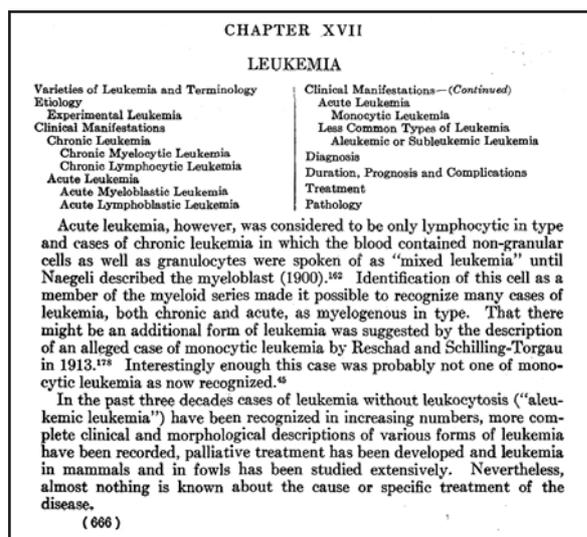


Figure 2. The page describing monocytic leukemia by Hasan Reşat Sığındım [as Reschad] (Wintrobe MM. *Clinical Hematology*)

and Arning in Berlin and Hamburg between 1909-1913 [1, 2, 3, 4].

He started to research about Ross corpuscles upon the recommendation of his lecturer Prof. Arning in Sankt-Georg Hospital in Hamburg in 1913. In that time, while working on the blood from a patient with leukemia, he noted that the signs of the disease were not compatible with diagnosis. After long studies, Dr. Hasan Reşat Sığındım named a previously unidentified disease, as 'monocytic leukemia'.

This diagnosis or brainchild was published in the 36th edition of the *Münchener-Wochenschrift* journal with the support of famous German doctor Schilling who was the second name of this paper. Thus, Dr. Hasan Reşat Sığındım entered the medical literature with this new diagnosis. This new entity was designated by Wintrobe MM at the book of Clinical Hematology as an additional form of leukemia (Figure 2) [1, 4].

In 1913, he returned to his country and worked as a lecturer and director in Damascus Medical Faculty. In 1915 he worked in the same position in Beirut Medical Faculty. In the beginning, he undertook the task as assistant professor in the Department of Skin and Venereal Disease in Haydarpaşa Medical Faculty in the last years of the World War I and then he had served as professor at the same department for 15 years. He stayed out

of the staff during the university reform by the Ministry of National Education in 1933. He said that it was the biggest trouble that he faced throughout his life [1].

After his tasks in Haydarpaşa Medical Faculty, he had been invited by the Afghans. They wanted to open new medical faculty and Afghans offered salary of 100 British gold to Hasan Reşat per month. Dr. Hasan Reşat established a new medical faculty like Haydarpaşa Medical Faculty in Afghanistan, known as Kabul Medical Faculty. He gave the diplomas of the first graduates with his own hands and then, he returned to Turkey in 1938.

After returning to Turkey, he had been appointed to the Department of Skin and Venereal Disease as a clinical chef in Haydarpaşa Numune Hospital. Dr. Hasan Reşat, who was unaware of the appointment, had worked by accepting the signed decision in here for many years. He treated many patients and educated many physicians [1, 3].

Dr. Hasan Reşat also examined to Atatürk who had suffered from itching in 1938 and diagnosed as 'Prurigo Diathesique' and suggested some topical medications [3].

Dr. Hasan Reşat Sığındım was a honorary member of scientific societies of Turkish, German, French, British and Hungarian. He knew the languages of German, French, and Persian very well. There were 24 publications related to his speciality and all of them were published in international journals [1].

He worked in the Department of Dermatology of the Denizcilik Bankası Hospital between 1953-1963. Then he served as a consultant physician in İstanbul Hospital for 5 years. This honorable physician who shared his own informations with other doctors was quited his task by government decision in March, 1970 [1, 2, 4].

Dr. Hasan Reşat was a rationalist, efficient, productive physician, he also worked on serious projects throughout his life. He performed his scientific investigations with a serious research discipline and much contributed to Turkish and World Medicine with the diagnosis of 'Monocytic Leukemia' at 29 years-old. Dr. Hasan Reşat Sığındım dead in

29 March 1971, in İstanbul. He was burried in the Eyüp Cemetery [1, 2].

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