Dr. Münir Ahmet Sarpyener: A Significant Turk with Avant-garde Approaches

by Dr. Salt Naderi

In the first half of the 20th century, many studies were published on the different aspects of lumbar spinal stenosis. Finally all aspects of this disease was published by Dr. Verbiest. Therefore, the definition of this disorder has been commonly attributed to Dr. Verbiest.

However, it is of note that some aspects of lumbar spinal stenosis in pediatric patient group were reported in 1940’s by Dr. Münir Ahmet Sarpyener, a Turkish orthopaedic surgeon. Therefore, it is of importance to address the congenital spinal stenosis reported by Dr. Sarpyener and to review his scientific studies and spine surgery applications.

A life dedicated to life

Dr. Münir Ahmet Sarpyener was born in Muş in 1902. He moved to Istanbul when he was 13 years old. After elementary and college educations, he started medical school at the School of Medicine of Darülfünun University in Istanbul in 1918. He graduated from this school in 1923 and completed his internship in 1924 in Gülhane Military Academy Hospital. He completed his general surgery training in 1925-1926 in Haydarpaşa Military Hospital, and worked as a general surgeon in Erzincan between 1928 and 1932. Thereafter, he worked in pediatric surgery and orthopaedics in Lyon-France for one year, and returned to Turkey and worked in Tekirdağ in 1933-1934. He was appointed Associate Professor of Pediatric Surgery and Orthopaedics in 1934 in Şişli Child Hospital, an affiliated Hospital to Istanbul University School of Medicine directed by Prof. Akif Şakir Şakar. Dr. Sarpyener became professor of Pediatric surgery and orthopaedics in 1940, and chair of this department in 1958. He retired in 1971 and died in 1982.

Dr. Sarpyener is an outstanding figure in Turkish medical history. His reports on lumbar spinal stenosis paved the way for his successors.

Originating new ideas

Dr. Sarpyener performed many operative procedures in children with spina bifida occulta and lumbar spinal stenosis. He also performed decompressive laminectomies in cases of spinal tuberculosis and applied bone grafts on paravertebral muscles for spine fusion. To increase the fusion rate he used a custom-made demineralized bone matrix which he obtained after boiling the bovine tibia five times.

Dr. Sarpyener published six books and more than 200 papers, including 25 papers in English and French. He summarized the results of his observations on spina bifida since the 1920’s.

His manuscripts, published in 1945 and 1947 in the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery, were the first comprehensive papers in the field of congenital spinal stenosis.

In his first paper, Dr. Sarpyener reported 13 cases of congenital lumbar spinal stenosis. He classified congenital spinal canal stenosis into four groups including segmental, extensive, localized, and atypical.

Two years after this report in 1947 he reported two cases with congenital spine stenosis.
GRAMMER Winners are Winning More

by Hans-Joachim Wilke
Ulm University

The GRAMMER European Spine Journal Award is donated on an annual basis for the best basic science paper published in the European Spine Journal over the previous academic year. Due to its initial success, the Editorial Board of the European Spine Journal has decided to give it a greater weight by contributing a further 10,000 euros to the prize. Together with the original 10,000 euros donated by GRAMMER, the prize stands at 20,000 euros, the highest amount of any award in spinal research worldwide.

How can this award be won?

Papers published in the European Spine Journal dealing with basic science qualify automatically for the award.

Who makes the decision?

The award paper is selected by an interdisciplinary committee from the Editorial and Advisory Board of the European Spine Journal. The papers are rated by the experts specialized in specific topic and by an interdisciplinary committee. The rating of the papers is determined by five criteria, which consider originality, soundness of materials and methods, results, quality of presentation and relevance.

Why an award for basic research?

Basic research is the essential prerequisite for progress in problems dealing with the spine. For the purposes of this award, basic science includes theoretical medicine, cell biology, microbiology, biochemistry, biomaterials, biomechanics, ergonomics, rehabilitation, psychology, etc.

What is GRAMMER?

GRAMMER Office GmbH produces chairs for the office, the home, event centres and airports. GRAMMER AG is an international company for driver seats, passenger seats and other automotive equipment. With this GRAMMER award, these two companies would like to support successful basic spinal research and to help disseminate the latest scientific knowledge within industry.

THE START IS GIVEN

The opening sessions on with cervical spine provided ground for fruitful discussions and new influences.

EURO SPINE 2006 started at 08.30 with an opening speech by Congress Chairman Haluk Berk, which was followed by a mini concert to warm up the participants.

First session of the oral presentations started with Germany and UK. Having completed the presentations the researchers answered the questions in the discussion session. Mr. Dehner’s study on the effects of the sternocleidomastoid muscles and the semispinalis capitis muscles on the acceleration of the head during a rear – end collision was one study to obtain interest and many questions. In the second part of the session, speakers from Denmark, Turkey, Japan and USA gave their enlightening speeches which were followed by the discussions. Mr. Kongsted from Denmark explained the economical consequences of the treatment upon the related questions.

Mehmet Zileli from Turkey gave detailed information about their 10-ears of retrospective study on the outcome and complication rates of transoral odontoid resection and the frequency of the treatment in the discussion part. Mr. Zileli stated that transoral resection has made considerable improvement in neurological and pain scores and added that this challenging surgery technique had a 2/43 mortality rate among the studied clinical case series.

To operate or not to...

Yesterday’s afternoon sessions started with presentations about non surgical treatments.

Dr. F. Pelise made a speech about the work done about quality of life in patients who did not undergo surgery for fracture of the thoracolumbar junction in Xeral Hugo Hospital in Barcelona, Spain. Dr. R. Hasserius from Sweden presented the study on the evaluation of the long term clinical and the radiological outcome after non-operatively treated burst fractures in adults. On the conclusion of the presentation, Hasserius stated that the outcomes were rather positive and the non operative treatment can be mentioned to have a favorable long term outcome. In the discussion part the question raised by the chairman about the decision to operate the patients or not, could not get a definite answer as the patients and psychological components concerned.

Workshops Today

Room Rumeli 1
Injury at Work: Can guidelines prevent it?

Room Dolmabahçe B
The Wallis implant - Concept and clinical experience

Room Rumeli 2
Disc arthroplasty an evidence based approach

Room Rumeli 4
Coblation technology for minimally invasive spine surgery

Room Sultan 2
Managing bleedings in spinal surgery

Room Topkapı B
BiODiscTM NPR: An emerging technology for nucleus pulposus replacement

Room Dolmabahçe C
Cervical Arthroplasty - Better than fusion?

Room Marmara
The need for posterior motion preservation system

Room Halic
InterspinSwing - non fusion tensioning interspinous stabilization for intervertebral diseases

Room Topkapı A
Cervical Solutions - Fusion versus non fusion

Room Rumeli 3
Orthobiom: Non fusion stabilization in adolescent idiopathic scoliosis

Room Dolmabahçe B
Stryker delivering what’s next in less invasive technologies. The challenges of using less invasive techniques to treat multisegmental dorsal spondylodesis.

Please refer to programme book for details.

Thursday, October 26, 2006 / Anadolu Auditorium

08:30-10:10 Motion Preservation
10:10-10:40 Break / Exhibition Area
10:40-12:00 Thoracolumbar III
12:00-14:00 Lunch / Workshop
14:00-16:00 Symposium: Health Care Technology Assessment
Spine Tango workshop: Insight to the rising value of data

One of the first workshops was about Spine Tango which could be defined as a sort of dancing with documents and the outcomes of treatments. Establishing the SSS, the doctors/researchers had already realized that documentation had started receiving increasing importance as well as the value of spine surgery along with the competence of the surgeon and the efficacy of the implants.

Professor Max Aebi, Chairman of Orthopedic Research Center at the University of Bern summarized the process and the background of Spine Tango.

The researchers, when trying to find an establishment to share data, were well aware of economic values, usefulness and efficiency of treatment and what they aimed at doing was to take a key role in the debate about the value of spine surgery and to have access to documented good praxis. As the data was something that could change very often it required an internet based system. In doing so they would consolidate the clinical radiographic and implant data, provide comparative access to data from anywhere and deliver real-time statistical overview of all recorded parameters, display comparison of own comparison, of own performance with good benchmarking, create a database for research and reference and deliver common platform for implementation of MC studies.

Following the overview by Aebi, Chris Röder from Bern University gave brief information on the history of the foundation and mentioned that, in the third phase of their development in 2005, they could already release drastic consolidation, have online paper based availability and patient based documentation. He also added that there were many participating clinics including the ones in Montreal, Zurich, London, Liverpool and Bern. He also mentioned the German network consisting of many units. As Spine Tango is a data collection system, he said it was inevitable to work with other institutions. Giving the names of Spine Tango clinics in Europe, Röder informed about the register fellowships. He also gave the news of Europine Cracow to be held in 2009 in Poland.

A. Chavanne, from Vienna, mentioning the user perspectives, said that in 2002 when they were having their first applications they had 40 cases while the number rose up to 1050 cases between 2002 and 2005.

What about the future?

In one of yesterday’s workshops, the participants tried to look forward and discussed the constructive pathways for the success of spine related applications of the future, including education. ‘Spine Surgery in the Future: An Independent Speciality?’ began with the French perspective, presented by D. Chopin from France. In his presentation, Chopin indicated that the old concept of ‘the neurosurgeons decompress and the orthopedists stabilize’ has to change for the sake of the future of spine surgery. After the British Isles perspective on the issue, the viewpoint of an instructor and the viewpoint of a trainee were presented. The arguments were as follows: Is it necessary to put a standard to spine surgery education in the future, while today every country has its own education system? Is the spine surgery a specialty or a team play participated by neurologists, orthopedists and trauma specialists? ‘The spine surgery education needs evolution rather than revolution’.

notes from the coffee breaks...

Mehmet Zileli, President of Turkish Neurosurgery Association, emphasized his pleasure for participating the congress and the fact that the event is being held in Turkey. He said that it was the first International Spine Congress to be held in Turkey and reminded two eminent names from the local congress, Haluk Berk and Murat Hanc, who tried really hard for the realization of the organization. He also made it clear that the works on spine research in Turkey have reached to a point which could be well recognized and respected by distinguished institutions.

Kathryn McGinley, Regina Uhlmann from Blackstone Medical, were enjoying being chased by the official “pararrazis” of the congress and made their contentment clear by asking the date of the journal with their photos on. Upon being asked the imbalanced proportion of male/ female participants they said important people are all here and one of the ladies said she liked the way it is.

Çirağan Palace

The Gala venue

Çirağan Palace was demolished and rebuilt by reigning sultans many times through history. Selim III’s Grand Vizier Yusuf Ziya Pasha bought the Palace, demolished it built a new palace in marble which he presented to the Sultan in 1805. Selim III then gave the Palace to his sister, Beyhan Sultan but she returned it. This palace, used as a summer house during the reign of Mahmud II, was again demolished and rebuilt on a large scale by Garabed Bagdian in 1835-1843. Although great quantities of wood were used, the main section was made from marble and stone. It included forty classical columns. When Sultan Abdülmecid decided to move his official residence to Dolmabahce Palace in 1855, the Çirağan Palace was torn down again, to be replaced by an imposing some edifice designed by Nigoog Bagdian.

The biggest chandelier in the world

The palace doors, each worth one thousand gold pieces, were so admired by Kaiser Wilhelm that some were presented to him as a gift and stand today in Berlin Museum. The crystal chandelier in the middle section is a bestowal from Queen Victoria and known to be the biggest in the world. The palace became the new location for parliament and was opened on November 14, 1909. Parliament convened here for just two months before a fire, which destroyed the entire palace in just under five hours, leaving only a stone shell. Priceless antiques, paintings and books were lost, along with many vital documents. In 1946, Parliament gave the palace, its outbuildings and grounds to Istanbul Municipality where it was used as a dumping ground for sand and other construction materials. It was also used as a swimming pool and was a football ground for the local team. Combining the architectural grandeur of the palace with the modern comfort of a deluxe hotel, the Çirağan Palace Kempinski Istanbul is now standing on the grounds.
WORKSHOP: “Injury at work: Can guidelines prevent it?”

Injury at work costs society millions of pounds/dollars every year. This debated issue will be discussed today in room Rumeli 1 after an introduction by Mr Douglas Wardlaw. Following the introduction, three important aspects of the issue given below will be undertaken.

Professor Tom Bendix Dr Med Sci
Professor Tom Bendix is a specialist in rheumatology at the University of Southern Denmark. He has always been involved with back research and created ‘The Back Research Center’ based at the Funen Hospital in Ringe which he was head of research for 5 years. Professor Bendix will be talking about the roles of fitness and rehabilitation training.

Professor Hege Randi Eriksen, PhD, Cand. Scient, MSc
Professor Hege Eriksen is the Research Director for the Department of Education and Health Promotion at the University of Bergen in Norway. Some of his major research interests include effects of different interventions to improve health among employees, selection of personnel and sport psychology. Professor Eriksen will be talking about Spinal Ergonomics in the Workplace.

Amnon Lehad MD, MPH
Professor Amnon Lehad is a family physician based in Jerusalem Israel at Hebrew University. He holds a number of posts within the university and at present is the Chair in the Department of Family Medicine within the School of Medicine. Professor Lehad will be talking about the psycho-social aspects of prevention of back pain.

1st International Congress on Growing Spine & Early Onset Scoliosis (ICEOS)

The treatment of early onset scoliosis is being a challenging topic of modern spine surgery. However, significant progress is being made in recent years. The 1st ICEOS will bring together faculty and participants from around the world to highlight and discuss these advances. In these two days, conferences, lectures, panel discussions, debates and demonstrations will cover the many problems of growing spine from basic science to surgery and emerging technologies. No other program worldwide did bring together such expertise on this very specific subject till now. Congress will be chaired by Behrooz Akbarinia, MD and Bob Campbell, MD and Muharem Yazici, MD will serve as co-chair. ICEOS will be an interesting meeting for spine or pediatric specialist who see very young scoliosis patients in their medical practice.

Detailed program, registration and accommodation materials will be available in February 2007.

For further information please note following e-mail address: vbroyles@broad-water.com

Land of Beautiful Horses and Fairies: CAPPADOCIA

Did you know that some of the scenes of the original Star Wars films were filmed in Cappadocia? This is thanks to the eerie and other worldly atmosphere of the land.

For millions of years, the volcanoes of the Central Anatolian Plateau erupted and spewed their contents across the land that would become the cradle of civilization. In ancient geography, Cappadocia (from Persian: Kapatuka meaning ‘the land of beautiful horses’) was an extensive inland district of Asia Minor.

Formation of the Chimneys

The interesting rock formations, known as ‘fairy chimneys’ have been formed as the result of the erosion of tufa layer, sculpted by wind and flood water, running down on the slopes of the valleys. Water has found its way through the valleys creating cracks and ruptures in the hard rock. The softer, easily erodible material underneath has been gradually swept away receding the slopes and in this way, conical formations protected with basil cap ha been created.

Underground Cities

Although referred to as ‘cities’ the underground communities of Cappadocia probably served as temporary shelters rather than as permanent hidden cities. No one is certain as to the number of underground communities that exist or even by whom they were built. It is thought that the Hittites may have excavated the first few levels in the rock when they came under attack from the Phrygians around 1200 BC. These chambers were later expanded into an extensive troglodyte complex by Christians escaping the Arab invasions of the 7th and 8th centuries.

Rock Cut Churches and Monasteries

Many settlements in Cappadocia were established primarily as monastic communities. Here, a number of small communities with their own churches formed the large monastic complex that is now the Open Air Museum.

Pigeon Houses

Near Uchisar is a valley that has become quite popular with hikers. It is known by thousands of pigeon houses that have been carved into the soft tufa since ancient times. In Cappadocia, pigeons have long been a source of food and fertilizer. Some farmers insist that the reputation of Cappadocian fruits as the sweetest and most succulent in Turkey is entirely due to the pigeons’ droppings.