Streszczenie

Konstrukcja praktycznego cystoskopu i wynalezienie promieni rentgenowskich ułatwiło rozpoznanie chorób dróg moczowych oraz umożliwiło wykonywanie endoskopowo zabiegów wewnątrzpęcherzowych. Odkrycia te były początkiem wyodrębnienia urologii z chirurgii ogólnej. Urologia we Lwowie powstała ponad 100 lat temu.

Celem pracy było opisanie powstania urologii we Lwowie. Przedstawienie znanych chirurgów, zwłaszcza zajmujących się chorobami układu moczowo-plciowego. Ukazanie powstania samodzielnego polskiego oddziału urologicznego, jego działalności w okresie międzywojennym i podczas II wojny światowej oraz rozwój powojennej ukraińskiej urologii w tym mieście. W pracy wykorzystano materiały i dokumentację z bibliotek i archiwów polskich i niemieckich.

Autor przedstawił również sylwetki czołowych urologów ukraińskich we Lwowie, którzy w okresie powojennym oraz w ostatnich 22 latach (od grudnia 1991 r.) wolnej Ukrainy przyczynili się do powstania dzisiejszej nowoczesnej urologii.

H a s ł a: historia medycyny – historia urologii – Lwów – Lemberg – Lviv

Summary

Innovations in diagnostic techniques due to the introduction of endoscopy, and the development in X-ray technology were fundamental in lessening dependence on surgery, and for urology to be recognised as a new discipline. Afterwards, endoscopic surgery came to the fore. Urology in Lemberg, Lwów (Lviv) was born over one century ago.

The aim of the study is to present the development of urology in Lemberg as an independent speciality, and its separation from surgery. Well-known Lemberg surgeons who were interested in surgery of the genitourinary system are discussed. The beginning of urology and its development within the framework of surgical departments, and as an independent facility in the interwar period is described. The fate of the Polish department of urology during the interwar period and the World War II is also presented. The development of Ukrainian urology after the World War II is also described. Extensive research was undertaken to collect the literature and documents in Polish and German archives and libraries in order to prepare this study.

The author also presents the leading Ukrainian urologists who contributed from the post war period to the last 22 years of free Ukraine (from December 1991), and discusses the development of modern urology in Lviv today.

K e y w o r d s: history of medicine – history of urology – Lwów – Lemberg – Lviv.

Introduction

From 1349 Lviv (Lion City) and Wolhynia belonged to the Kingdom of Poland. Between 1569 and 1772 the region became part of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria was a product of the First Polish Partition of 1772. The section was annexed by Austria. After the end of the World War I and the dissolution of the Habsburg Monarchy, Western Galicia again became part of the restored Second Polish Republic. Following the Polish-Ukrainian conflict and the Polish-Soviet war all of
former Galicia and Lodomeria was incorporated into the Republic of Poland [1].

Up to the end of the 19th century there were no independent urology wards in Lwów (Lviv), and urological surgery was in the hands of surgeons and, in the centuries before that, in the hands of academically uneducated persons such as bath house attendants, barbers, and wandering surgeons.

Since the beginning of the 20th century Poland has had excellently staffed urology centres, principally those in Warsaw, Lwów and Cracow. These cities have had surgeons whose names have left a lasting trace in the history of our discipline. They were the creators of Polish urology, whose combined efforts laid the foundations for the development of independent clinical urology [2].

The first urology specialists in Poland acquired their essential knowledge within Poland, and then either went on to obtain scholarships or went abroad at their own expense. Mostly, they visited France, Germany, England, Austria or Denmark.

There were no particular curricula in the discipline, the duration of studies was not laid down, and no check in the form of an examination was envisaged. Just as for other specialities that had existed for ages and achieved recognition, there were no governing rules. No special certificates were issued to confirm that the minimum level of knowledge and ability in the field of urology had been acquired. The situation was similar throughout Europe [2, 3].

The city of Lwów is a prime example of the influence that politics can have on its inhabitants and science. Changes in the national status often resulted in tragedy for the city’s inhabitants, who were uprooted from their hometown, where they were born and had grown up. The following description of the influence of two totalitarian ideologies (communism and fascism) on the development of science contains a warning: such an influence on medicine may lead to large scale of criminal acts.

Lwów and the University under Austrian rule, 1772–1918, as the University of Lemberg

Following the first partition of Poland, so-called Little Poland (Małopolska), along with Lwów and Cracow, became a province of Austria – Galicia, and Lwów was renamed Lemberg. At this time, Gerhard van Swieten’s (1700–1772) reforms took place in Vienna. Attempts to organise the study of medicine were also undertaken in Austrian Lemberg, under annexation.

In 1773, by order of the Austrian Empress Maria Theresa, Galicia’s top doctor, Jędrzej Krupiński (1744–1783), set up a school for barber-surgeons in Lemberg, followed by education for midwives (the Collegium Medicum). The so-called Surgeons’ School for the training of surgeons and midwives in Lemberg existed, under a variety of names, for 100 years – from 1773 to 1874. The surgical school was a facility to educate a lower form of physician-surgeon and midwives. A graduate of this school could cure the lowest, poorest rural part of the community, the peasants. The duration of the education at the beginning was limited to 2 years, and later on was extended to 3 years. Josepha Edle von Just, the grandmother of Prof. Johann von Mikulicz-Radecki (1850–1905), graduated from this midwives school.

Following the establishment of the German-language University of Lemberg, reconstituted by Emperor Joseph II in 1784, the medical faculty that functioned there ceased to develop. The reason why it did not last long was the lack of candidates for places as students, and the small number of students (in 1788 there were no more than 7 students in the entire faculty). It was shut down in 1789. Another reason for its demise was that young Polish aristocrats were not keen to choose the “subservient” profession of doctor, while others did not have the requisite preliminary education or the means to engage in study. The few Austrians there preferred to pursue their studies in Vienna.

In 1805, due to the Napoleonic wars, the “Josephinum” University was finally closed, and when it was re-opened some years later (in 1817) there was no longer a Faculty of Medicine.

Lwów’s University from 1661 to 1772
(Polish University)

The University of Lwów was established in 1661 out of the Jesuit College, on the basis of a deed promulgated by the King of Poland, Jan Kazimierz (1609–1672), but it had no faculty of medicine. This Academic School had 2 departments: theology and philosophy (Fig. 1). To ensure a fuller provision of training for surgeons to meet the needs of small towns, the decision was taken to introduce a system of scholarships. By royal order, the scholarships imposed a duty on towns to send young people for training to the University of Cracow, at the town’s expense, with the proviso that they had to return following their studies to work in their native surroundings. Unfortunately, full and practical propagation of the reforms arising out of the activities of the Commission for National Education was cut short by the successive partitions of Poland (1772, 1793 and 1795) [4, 5].

Fig. 1. University of Lwów (1817–1919)
There was, however, still a 2-year course in medicine and surgery, with a high level of education for those times. This state of affairs continued until a faculty of medicine was re-opened.

At the “Franciscan” University of Lemberg (1817–1894), the Faculty of Medicine was not opened until 1894. Departments in this Faculty were staffed by outstanding specialists. From 1873 Galicia was de facto an autonomous province of Austria-Hungary, with Polish and, to a much lesser degree, Ukrainian or Ruthenian, as official languages [4, 5].

On May 1897 Prof. Ludwik Rydygier (1850–1920) became the first Professor and Director of the Surgical Clinic of the University of Lemberg (Fig. 2). His new surgical clinic with 50 beds was set up in 1898, and became the centre of the surgical service and science in Lemberg. He was the driving force behind the building and organization of the surgical clinic.

Prof. Ludwik Rydygier’s clinic was also the source of many works on urinary tract surgery. Besides stomach and abdominal cavity diseases, and abdominal, thorax, breast and orthopaedic surgery, Rydygier was also interested in urology. Rydygier performed operations for the majority of urogenital system affictions. He was the author of some original ideas, including plastic surgery of the ureter, perineal extra urethral nucleation of the prostate gland, and he used transperitoneal access to the urinary bladder. Rydygier was the first to operate on urinary fistulae, and he performed a large number of successful closures of vesicovaginal fistulae.

Ureteric constrictions and defects were replaced by him using a tube made of a flap of hypergastric skin. In diseases affecting the upper section of the right ureter, he also tried to install a replacement made of vermiform appendix. He removed prostate adenomas both with perineal access and using a transvesical route.

Rydygier showed an interest in hydrotherapy and gave lecture entitled “Truskaviec and urinary tract disorders” in 1902. He visited more than once, and recommended, the paraffin-flavoured local spa water “Naftusia” in certain forms of kidney irritation due to a predisposition to gout and to urolithiasis.

At his clinic Prof. Rydygier introduced X-ray examinations, radium and tuberculin. At Rydygier’s instigation lectures on urology were given by Professors Ziembicki, Schramm and Herman [3, 6].

It was at the Surgical Clinic in Lwiw that Maksymilian Herman (1871–1919) took a particular interest in urology. He lectured on this subject for students and published his lectures in written form. He did a great deal to promote Polish urology through his extensive writings on this subject. Mention should also be made of other publications by him on the diagnostic significance of X-rays in lithiasis (1899), on the surgical treatment (capsulotomy and nephrotomy) of nephritis, nephralgia and renal hypertension (1904), and on testicular tuberculosis (1901). He was the first to describe a prostatectomy (adenomectomy) carried out by the Freyer method in Poland (1909), which was done at the hospital in Przemyśl [3, 6, 7, 8].

Surgeons distinguished for their services to urology

In the second half of the 19th century Lemberg had some skilled surgeons. Only outstanding doctors engaged in urology there, such as Józef Molendziński (1841–1875), Jan Szeparowicz (1843–1882), Grzegorz Ziembicki (1849–1915), Roman Barącz (1856–1930) and Hilary Schramm (1857–1941). They mainly functioned in one of two surgical departments: the largest such department in the country, at the General Hospital (149 beds), and at the University of Lemberg’s Surgical Clinic (50 beds) [9, 10].

Transurethral lithotripsy in the urinary bladder was first practised in Lemberg by the Senior Physician at the surgical department, Dr. Józef Molendziński. He described this procedure in 1867. In cases of urethral constriction and urine retention, he also recommended “forced dilatation” [3, 11, 12].

But the greatest skill in performing this operation was acquired in Lemberg by Prof. Grzegorz Ziembicki, who had obtained his education in Paris, and was interested in urology. He had performed 120 lithotripsy operations by 1907. He regarded this as the method of choice, performing a cystotomy only if there were contraindications. Ziembicki was an excellent performer of the suprapubic stone removal operation, and of transurethral crushing of urinary bladder stones. He was the man with the greatest experience in this field in Poland at that time. He published 18 works on urology [3, 5].

Grzegorz Ziembicki was born on 23 April 1848 in Przemyśl, where he began his primary schooling. His father, a graduate of Vienna University, was a military physician. His mother, Berta née Breuer, was a member of the nobility. In 1861 his father sent his 13-year-old son to the boarding
TADEUSZ ZAJĄCZKOWSKI

School of the College Sainte Barbe in Paris. After sitting his 2-part final examination in science and arts subjects he graduated in 1867. Ziembicki then studied medicine at the University of Paris.

Grzegorz, still a student, played an active part in the Franco-Prussian War (1870–1871), helping out with health care, and subsequently lived through the entire siege of Paris. He was awarded the Cross of Merit for his conduct in military actions. Once the military actions had ceased he won a competition for the post of “assistant intern”, which he occupied for 4 years. This was followed by a series of posts as assistant under Professors Tillaux, Trèlat, Labè and Pèan. Shortly after completing his practice under Prof. Pèan, Ziembicki graduated with distinction in 1875. A year later he obtained his medical degree, upon which he left Paris. He spent several months at the Prof. Theodor Billroth (1829–1894) Clinic in Vienna. While in Vienna he obtained nostrification (recognition) of his medical and doctoral diplomas, which was a condition for obtaining approval to practice medicine in Galicia.

In December 1882 the young surgeon Ziembicki was named “provisional senior physician” in the Surgery Department at the General Hospital. In this way Ziembicki took up the post of senior physician in the surgery department, then the largest department in Galicia, with 101 beds.

Following the opening of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Lemberg Prof. Rydygier was appointed head of the surgical department in 1897, and Dr. Ziembicki was named as a private docent (lecturer) and acquired the title of Associate Professor, lecturing weekly in his department on diagnosis and surgical treatment. At Rydygier’s clinic he lectured in urology on a freelance basis. In 1901, Ziembicki upgraded his department and set up additional urological and laryngological outpatient units [3, 5, 13, 14, 15].

Prof. Ziembicki’s interests were crucial to the subsequent development of urology in Lemberg. Ziembicki was the founder of the first urology sub-department at the General Hospital in Lemberg. In 1898 he made beds available in his surgical department for urology patients and assigned Dr. Zenon Leńko to deal with these patients. Through the considerable efforts of Prof. Ziembicki in 1901 the first urology outpatient unit came into being as part of the surgical department at the General Hospital, and Dr. Leńko became its Director. Prof. Ziembicki died 1915 in Lemberg [2, 16].

Department of Urology in Lwów 1918–1927.
Dr. Zenon Leńko (1868–1950)

Zenon Leńko was born on 14 September 1868 in Dmytryw, Lemberg district as the son of a village teacher, Onufry, and Wilhelmina, née Heska-Dziczek. Upon completing primary school he attended the Franz Joseph I old classic secondary school in Lemberg, gaining his school-leaving certificate in 1888. He studied Medicine at the University of Vienna and graduated, being awarded a doctorate in 1894 (Fig. 3). Then he became an assistant at the Surgery Department of the National General Hospital in Lemberg (head: Dr. Grzegorz Ziembicki, later professor).

In 1907, with the aid of the National Department, Dr. Leńko received a scholarship to study urology in France and Germany. In 1910 he visited urological departments in Denmark, and again in Germany and France. He underwent urological training at the departments of Professors Marion and Caihelm in Paris, Kümmell in Eppendorf, outside Hamburg (twice), Rovsing and Schwaldemose in Copenhagen, and Israel at the Jewish Hospital in Berlin. Dr. Leńko was the first physician in Lemberg to deal exclusively with urology patients. He became one of the best-known urologists in the country. As his authority was on the rise, in contrast to other heads of department, he was drawn into the training of doctors on courses organized by senior physicians at the hospital. He developed such a range of urological activities that he became a fully-fledged urology specialist capable of running a separate department. This eventually came about in 1918, when, on 23 May, he was given the title of Senior Physician. He continued in these duties until 1927. During the period from 1909 to 1927 about 100 doctors worked or trained under Leńko (sometimes on very short courses), so the number of doctors getting to grips with urology was significant. He authored 34 publications on urology. From 1927 until 1937 Zenon Leńko headed Out-door Department of Urology and Surgery Railway Company in Lwów. Because of his bad physical condition due to advanced chronic disease he resigned from this post. 1945, Dr. Leńko escaped from Lviv to Cracow where his son already lived. Dr. Leńko died of a stroke on 10 March 1950. He is interred in the Rakowicki Cemetery in Cracow [2, 3, 17].

Fig. 3. Dr. Zenon Leńko (1868–1950)
University of Lwów between the two world wars, again Polish (1918–1939)

In between the wars Poland was again an independent and sovereign state, although it struggled with the backwardness that had remained after the Period of Partition, and was visible in many public spheres. Towards the last days of the World War I the Austro-Hungarian Empire began to collapse. On 1 November Galicia and Lodomeria were incorporated into the new republic of Poland, which itself was declared on 7 November 1918. From 1919 until September 1939, in the Polish Second Republic era, the university was known as John Casimir University in honour of its founder. During the interwar period the Jan Kazimierz University in Lwów was the third biggest academic centre in the country, after the universities in Warsaw and Cracow. The university received from the Polish government the building formerly used by the Galician parliament, which has been the university’s office ever since (Fig. 4). The school had five faculties. Ukrainian professors were required to take a formal oath of allegiance to Poland; most of them refused and left the university in the early 1920s. Altogether, in the academic year 1934/1935 there was 5900 students at the University: 3793 Roman-Catholic, 1211 Jewish, 739 Greek-Catholic, 72 Orthodox, and 67 Protestant [4, 18].


Stanislaw Laskownicki was born on 30 August 1892 in Lemberg (at that time belonging to Austria-Hungarian Empire), the son of Bronislaw L. and Izabela Tabor. His father was a man of letters and a newspaper editor in Lemberg. Stanislaw attended primary school and the Classical Secondary School in Lemberg, where he attained his certificate in 1910. Thereafter he enrolled at the University of Lemberg. The outbreak of World War I interrupted his studies when he was mobilised and inducted into the Austrian army on 1 July 1914 (Fig. 5). He took part in the opening battles against Russian forces, and then on the Italian front on the River Piave. He remained in active service in the Austrian army until 30 October 1918: as a private, a first-aid NCO, an ensign and a lieutenant-doctor. Making use of brief periods of leave he completed his studies, and in June 1917 he obtained his diploma as Doctor of General Medical Sciences. Following demobilisation, on 1 November 1918 he took up service in the newly-formed Polish army, where he would remain until 30 November 1920. As a lieutenant and later a captain in the medical corps he fought in the Defence of Lwów and was appointed head of the Surgery Department at the Military Hospital in Lwów. He was mobilised again in August 1939 for the war between Poland and Germany, with the rank of captain in the medical corps.

On 1 February 1920 he began his professional and scientific work at the Surgery Clinic of the Department of Medicine at Jan Kazimierz University in Lwów as a trainee, receiving his nomination to the position of junior assistant at the Clinic on 1 December 1920, followed on 1 September 1921 by promotion to senior assistant specialising in general surgery, under the supervision of Professors Rydygier and Schramm and urologist Zenon Leńko [3, 10, 19, 20].

Dr. Stanislaw Laskownicki was the first person to achieve habilitation in urology in Lwów in 1928. He received a document saying that he had been awarded the habilitation qualification as “Docent (lecturer) in urinary tract surgery and urology”. He underwent training in urology in France and Austria. On 1 May 1928 Docent Laskownicki became Senior Physician in the Department of Urology at
the State General Hospital in Lwów, following Dr. Zenon Leńko. He was named a titular professor on 21 January 1938 and associate professor in the Surgery Faculty of the State Medical Institute in Lwów in 1940.

It was only with the arrival of Laskownicki that a research centre worthy of the name was set up in Lwów. In order to achieve this he completely reorganised and upgraded the urology department he inherited. This was the only urology department in Lwów, with 30 beds and a broad operating spectrum. Dr. Laskownicki introduced and popularised many new operating methods, including nephrocalicotomy (1924), cystectomy in bladder cancer, and ureter implantation in the large intestine using Coffey’s method (ureterosigmoidostomy, 1929), partial nephrectomy and resection of the renal pole in lithiasis (1934), nephrostomy and hydronephrosis reparative operations, implantation of muscle lobule following nephrotomy, his own method of transvesical diverticulectomy (1953), and his own method of kidney suspension. He used the Hryntschak method to operate on prostate hypertrophy. Laskownicki ran this department until 1939. Prof. Laskownicki contributed to the development and establishment of urology by introducing modern methods of diagnosing and treating diseases of the urinary system. He passed on his extensive clinical experience to others, he propagated it at national and foreign congresses, and he documented it in numerous publications in Polish and foreign journals [19].

The Jakub Rappaport Jewish Hospital in Lwów

The head of the surgical department at the Jewish Hospital in Lwów (Fig. 6) was Dr. Salomon Stanisław Ruff (1872–1941), a disciple of Prof. Rydygier. He was murdered along with his family by the Gestapo in 1941. A small urology sub-department was run at the Jewish Hospital by Dr. Samuel Oberlander. From 1935 Dr. Franciszek Joseph Mehrer (1888–1944) had ten urology beds in Prof. Adam Gruca’s (1893–1983) Surgical Department at the Social Insurance Hospital at his disposal. Until the outbreak of war, Dr. Franciszek Mehrer ran the largest private urology practice in Lwów. He did not publish any scientific work.

In Lwów and in the province outlying the city a large number of dermatologists and venereologists also treated urological patients. Many of them ran private urology practices, and operated at hospitals, sanatoria or private clinics, especially in the spa resort Truskaviec [15, 21, 22].

Occupation of Lwów by the Red Army (1939–1942)

During the first Soviet occupation, from 22 September 1939 until 27 June 1941, all Polish administrative, social and economic institutions were closed down, along with educational and scientific centres, foremost among which was the Jan Kazimierz University. This university, as part of the formal process of Ukrainisation, was renamed the Ivan Franko State University of Lwów. The Theology Department at the university was closed. The university continued to function with some of its pre-war Polish staff. In 1940, the Faculty of Medicine was hived off from the university, and a separate educational entity was created out of it – the Institute of Medicine. The Polish population of the city was dispossessed of its property. Thousands of citizens were imprisoned or deported into the depths of Russia, and their houses, apartments and jobs were occupied by a wave of Russian-speaking incomers. Most of the top administrative posts were taken by Polish Communist Party functionaries who had arrived with the Red Army. The remaining citizens of Lwów had their Polish documents confiscated and were issued with new, Soviet identity papers.

Following the occupation of Lwów by the Russians in 1939 Prof. Laskownicki stayed on as Associate Professor in the General Surgery Faculty of the State Medical Institute in Lwów.

In his biographical book The Sword, the Bayonet and the Lancet Prof. Laskownicki writes: “The attitude of the Soviet authorities to professors, scientists and top doctors was largely exemplary, while that of Soviet doctors placed in positions of authority was friendly”. But a lot of them were nonetheless imprisoned. Prof. Laskownicki’s assistant Dr. Helena Kornellanka was deported to Kazakhstan, where she died shortly afterwards. Thousands of Poles, including some 25,000 officers, were murdered by the NKVD (People’s Commissariat for Internal Affairs, Soviet Secret Police, head Lavrenty Beria – 1899–1953), and thousands more were exiled to the depths of Russia [1, 19, 23, 24].

Following the incursion of the Red Army into Lwów Dr. Dawid Szenkier (1886–1963) – Figure 7. became head of the urology department at the Red Army Military Hospital.

Dawid Szenkier was born on 15 February 1886 in Moscow. He attended the Pankiewicz Gymnasium (Classical High School) in Warsaw and graduated in 1904. He studied medicine in Munich and Basel, where he graduated in 1909. He learned surgery and urology as a visiting doctor in Berlin.
under Prof. James Israel (1848–1926), then in Moscow at Prof. Hercen's clinic. From 1914 he served in the Russian army. When the Revolution broke out he was demobilised. In 1918 he returned to Warsaw. As captain-doctor of the Polish Army he served in the Russian-Soviet war. Thereafter he devoted himself to urology. In 1922 he opened a private urology clinic in Warsaw with 20 beds. The clinic was fitted out with modern equipment and the latest modern instruments. Up to 1939 he ran a very large private practice in Warsaw. He published 58 works, many of which were innovative for their time.

Following the Nazi invasion of Lwów in 1942 Dr. David Szenkier changed his name to Tadeusz Mazurek with support from the Polish underground organization Home Army (AK). During the years of German occupation (1942–1945), as a Jew he was obliged to give up his medical activities and go into hiding. After the war he used the double-barrelled name Tadeusz Szenkier-Mazurek. He worked as a urologist in various senior posts in Łódź (Lodz). He was a co-founder of the Polish Association of Urology (PTU). His son, Jerzy Szenkier commenced studies at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Warsaw in 1934 and graduated in Lwów in 1940. Following the German invasion of Lwów in 1941 he went into hiding and changed his name to Ludwik Jerzy Mazurek (1916–2005). Thereafter he moved to Warsaw, where he worked as a locksmith and turner. After the war he became a urologist under the guidance of his father. As a urologist in Łódź he succeeded in all stages of his full academic career, in both science and administration. Prof. Ludwik Jerzy Mazurek rendered considerable services to Polish Urology, the Polish Association of Urology, and the education of Polish urologists. However, the most significant measure of his successful life is the large number of patients he treated with total dedication [20, 25].

Dr. Franciszek Joseph Mehrer (1888–1944) was appointed by the Soviet authorities as director of the 35-bed urology department at the Municipal Hospital. Following the German invasion of Lwów he went into hiding, and when he realised that his Jewish origin meant he was facing death, in 1942 he made use of someone else's baptismal certificate, offered to him by members of the AK, the Polish Home Army, and changed his name to Ignacy Stanisław Cywiński. In 1942 he and his wife moved to Warsaw and settled there. As Ignacy Cywiński, with no diploma, he was unable to work as a doctor. However, using a method he developed himself he eliminated the traces of circumcision (reconstruction of the foreskin, preputium), which at the time helped quite a few Jews escape death. He died during the Warsaw Uprising, murdered by Andrey Vlasov’s (1900–1946) troops at the famous “Zieleniak” market.

Near the end of the World War II, Vlasov’s 50,000 troops were allowed by their distrustful German sponsors to go into battle against the advancing Red Army. Thousands of Jewish people, including some of the Jewish doctors, accompanied the Red Army as it left Lwów in the face of the advancing German army. Just before abandoning Lwów the NKVD murdered (shot) thousands of imprisoned Poles and Ukrainians [1, 22, 23].

**Lwów under the German occupation (1941–1944), again Lemberg**

The Germans entered Lwów on the night of 30 June and 1 July 1941, three days after the Russians had fled. In implementing the German plan to “decapitate” the Polish nation, in July 1941 the SS (Schutzstaffel, Protective Echelon) and the Gestapo (Geheime Staatspolizei, Secret Police) units arrested 22 professors at the university, the Lwów Polytechnic (Technical School) and the Veterinary School, some of these together with their wives, sons and other close relatives. At daybreak on 4 July they were shot in the Wuleckie Hills.

Most of the scientific staff were removed from the university, or forced to resign. The university’s medical department was shut down. In its place a middle level (lower medical) school was instigated: State Occupational Courses in Medical and Natural Sciences (Staatliche Medizinisch-Naturwissenschaftliche Fachkurse), to which, in the spring of 1942, students were accepted, of whom about 14% were Poles and about 85% were Ukrainians.

There is a notable quote from a letter written by Dr. Marian Pańczyszyn (Ukrainian), the appointed administrator of the Medical Department, to Dr. Hans Frank: “following the removal of Jewish elements and others who were hostile to the German government and people, and following their replacement by Ukrainian scientific personnel, we have a team that would be prepared at any time to engage in appropriate scientific and teaching work, and to carry out
These activities in full harmony with the grand traditions of German science and culture..."

During the World War II Hans Frank (1900–1946) was Governor-General of the General Government – an area of occupied Poland and administrated by the Third Reich with head-quarters in Cracow. During the Nazi occupation the Jewish Hospital was knocked down, but it was rebuilt after the war. The Nazi occupiers carried out the organized murder of thousands of the Jewish population.

During the period from 1941 to 1944 the underground Polish Jan Kazimierz University, with a faculty of medicine was in existence. Its activities were pursued illegally in private apartments as clandestine classes. Ten habilitation procedures were also carried out [1, 4, 5, 23].

Following the occupation of Lwów by the Germans in June 1941, Prof. Laskownicki set up a urology department for Municipal Hospital No. 1, in the same place as before, and ran it until 11 November 1942. His associate was Dr. Tadeusz Lorenz, and Ukrainian assistant Dr. Włodzimierz Palany. Repressed by the Germans and by the Ukrainian administration of the hospital Prof. Laskownicki was sacked from his post. Warnings reaching Prof. Laskownicki from various quarters that he was in danger of death at the hands of Ukrainian nationalists, or of being sent to a German extermination camp, caused the Professor to leave Lwów on 11 November 1942 and move to Warsaw [19].

In November 1942, Dr. Tadeusz Lorenz (1906–1986), one of Prof. Laskownicki’s associates, became head of the urology department in Lwów, and he ran it until 20 July 1944.

Tadeusz Zygmunt Lorenz was born on 21 January 1906 in Drohobycz, Galicia. In 1926 he enrolled at the University in Lwów and graduated in 1933. He started his work as a physician in Cracow at the Department Internal Diseases. In 1934 he returned to Lwów and became an assistant at the Department of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Clinic of the University of Lwów. In 1935 he began his urological career as resident at the Urological Department of the State General Hospital in Lwów (Head: Prof. Stanislaw Laskownicki). In 1938, he obtained his medical degree from the University of Lwów. During the war he worked as an associate of Prof. Laskownicki, and from 1942 till 1944 he was his successor.

In 1942, after the removal of Prof. Laskownicki as chief of the Urological Department through the Ukrainian administration of the hospital, Dr. Lorenz was appointed acting head of this department. He continued to manage it until the invasion of the Soviet army on 20 July 1944. Then Dr. Lorenz escaped from Lwów to Dąbrowa Tarnowska (in the south-east of Poland) where his family already lived. There, he founded and ran the urological ward at the District Hospital until 1946. Then Dr. Lorenz moved to Gdynia (Pomerania), where he established the urological ward at the Municipal Hospital, and led it for one year.

In May 1947 a 30-bed Urological Ward was opened in Gdańsk (Danzig), forming part of the first Surgical Clinic of the Gdański Academy of Medicine. Dr. Tadeusz Lorenz was appointed its head. On 10 October 1954 he qualified as a university lecturer with his postdoctoral thesis. In 1958 Docent Lorenz left Gdańsk and took over the Urological Clinic with 70 beds at the Medical Academy in Wrocław (Breslau) from Prof. Florian Nowacki (1902–1957). In this post he succeeded in all stages of his full academic career, in both science and administration [20, 26, 27].

The disciples (co-workers) of Prof. Laskownicki in Lwów and their fate

A number of doctors worked with Prof. Laskownicki in Lwów, including Helena Kornellanka (deported to Kazakhstan, where she soon died), Tadeusz Lorenz (1906–1986), Dr. Mokrzycki and Dr. Herman Drucker (1891–1942) – murdered by the Nazis – and Dr. Stefan Malczyński, who mainly worked in the out-patient clinic. After the war Dr. Malczyński ceased to work as a urologist. Dr. Władysław Flunt (1899–1956) was an assistant in the urology department in Lwów. In the opinion of Prof. Laskownicki he was a good surgeon: “Dr. Flunt came to be a very good specialist, but he was offered a post as urologist at the Provincial Consulting Office, which was far better paid than that of a second-string man, so he left us...” After the war he worked in Zabrze and Krynica, where he died prematurely.

Ukrainians Dr. Makarenko and Dr. Vladimir Palancia were also assistants of Prof. Laskownicki from January 1935 to 9 September 1938 [5, 20, 21].

Professor Laskownicki’s activity in Warsaw (1943–1944)

On 1 January 1943 Prof. Laskownicki took up the post of head of the urology department at the Social Insurance Hospital in Warsaw, where he worked until the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising. Having lost all his property and papers during Warsaw’s uprising, and having been evicted from Warsaw on 12 August 1944, he made his way via a camp in Pruszków, to Stara Wieś in the Rawa Mazowiecka district, where he remained until liberation and the end of the war [19, 27].

The academic career of Prof. Laskownicki after the World War II

Docent Stanisław Laskownicki was named titular professor on 21 January 1938, associate professor at the Faculty of Surgery of the State Medical Institute in Lwów in 1940, associate professor at Warsaw University on 12 April 1948, and at the Academy of Medicine in Cracow on 2 November 1950, and became a full professor on 31 December 1956. For a urologist these were the first such titular awards in Poland. He was the first professor of urology in Poland and
HISTORY OF UROLOGY IN LWÓW (LEMBERG, LVIV)

From September 1944 the university resumed its scientific activities. Polish scientists, together with the Polish population were expelled and gradually moved away from Lviv to the south-west of Poland and Pomerania. Most moved to Breslau (now Polish Wrocław), a region where the German population had in turn been expelled.

Only a few Polish university employees remained behind in Lviv. The new scientific staff came in from Eastern Ukraine and the USSR (Soviet Union). Some of Western Galicia and Lwów (now Lviv) were built into the Ukrainian Soviet Republic. In 1944 the Faculty of Medicine was hived off from the university and turned into a separate educational institution – the National Institute of Medicine, which is now a multi-departmental entity and is known as the Medical University of Lviv (Fig. 8) [4, 5, 23, 24, 27].

From the ivan franko university to the medical university of lviv (1944–2013)

After the conclusion of the war Allied leaders met at Tehran, Yalta and in Potsdam, where they decided to return Poland to its medieval boundaries. The frontiers shifted 120 miles west, and Lwów became part of Ukrainian Soviet Republic. The end of the World War II created a new political situation in Europe. Lwów/Lemberg (now Lviv) and the west Wolhynia region became part of Ukraine.

Following the expulsion of the Germans from Lwów in August 1944 the city and university authorities were taken over by a Soviet-Ukrainian administration. As in 1939, but this time for good, the Jan Kazimierz University was renamed the Ivan Franko State University of Lviv.

Almost the entire Polish population was repatriated, mainly to lands that had been recovered in north-west Poland and in Silesia. Lwów University became a Ukrainian educational institution and bears the name of Ivan Franko (1856–1916), in honour of the merits of the Ukrainian poet, writer and political activist.

From 1945 till 1962 Docent (lecturer) Michaylo B. Plastunov (1894–1962) was the chief of the Department of Urology in Lviv. Michaylo Plastunov was born 1894 in Bracław, Vinnytsya district, into a physician’s family. He graduated at the Medical Institute in Kiev in 1923. In 1939 he qualified as a candidate of science with his thesis. Then he led the Docents’ (Lecturers’) Courses at the out-patient clinic of the Department of Urology at the Medical Institute in Kiev. In 1945 he became the head of the Urological Department in Lviv. At the beginning the focus of his scientific work

Fig. 8. Medical University of Lviv
was hydrotherapy. Docent Plastunov, like Ludwik Rydygier a half century before, but with more intensive investigations, confirmed, on the basis of laboratory tests of all spa water in Truskavetz, its powerful diuretic effect. It was in this diuretic activity, especially “Naftusia”, that he saw its “great beneficial influence on various ailments of the bladder and kidneys”. The Department of Urology in Lviv had 65 beds. In 1959 there were 12 full urologists and 33 residents in Lviv and the entire province. Docent Plastunov was a talented academic teacher. He distinguished himself through continued scientific endeavours, and above all through his pedagogical activities. Under his guidance 6 doctors became chiefs of the Urological Departments and 28 became urologists (2–5 grade) in Lviv and the entire province. Plastunov published 49 scientific works on different urological subjects, including 6 books. He headed the facility until his death on 28 April 1962 in Lviv [28].

Docent Plastunov was followed by Docent Zenona K. Korenkova (1913–1995). She headed the Department of Urology from 1962 to 1973.

Zenona Korenkova was born on 26 December 1913 in Vitebsk (now: Belarus), where she began her primary schooling. Between 1930 and 1932 she attended Medical High School and became a nurse. 1933 she enrolled in the Medical Institute in Vitebsk and graduated in 1938. In 1940 she played an active part in the war against Finland, helping out as a physician with the medical service of the Soviet Army. She remained in active service in the Soviet Army, helping out with health care. She worked in the military hospitals until demobilization in November 1945. Following demobilisation she moved to Lviv and took up service as head of the urological and surgical units there. In 1965, Dr. Korenkova qualified as a candidate of science with her thesis: On the material of the ureteroureterostomy. She attended and completed some postgraduate urological courses and became Docent, the head of the Urological Department in Lviv. She ran the facility until 1973. Docent Korenkova was very active in both clinical work and local urological politics. She was a skilled urological surgeon, a good academic teacher and an excellent physician with long training. She introduced in her clinic modern methods of diagnostics and therapy of urological and uro-oncological diseases. From 1962 she organized and ran until 1973 postgraduate courses for urologists. She founded “Docents’ Courses in Urology” in Lviv. Docent Zenona Korenkova authored 63 scientific publications. She died on 19 September 1995 in Lviv [28].

From 1973 to 2001, Prof. Caesar K. Borzhevsky (*1930) headed the Urological Clinic of the Medical University in Lviv (Fig. 9).

Cesar Borzhevsky was born on 5 November 1930 in Bagovicya, Podilsk region (Podolia), the son of landowner Kayetan B., whose wife’s maiden name was Dragomierecka. His primary education was disturbed due to the communists’ barbaric politics. His family was relocated to Kazakhstan as “Kulaks” or “wealthy” peasants, “Nation enemies”. By mid-1939 some 100,000 families had been deported to Siberia and Kazakhstan. The result was a famine in 1932–1933, and the loss of lives estimated to be as high as 5,000,000 to 7,000,000 – a man-made demographic catastrophe unprecedented in peace time. Settlers from Russia were brought in to repopulate the devastated countryside. The traditional Ukrainian village was essentially destroyed [30].

Caesar started his schooling in Kazakhstan. In 1943 his family moved to Petropavlovsk. In 1945 his father Kayetan B. died at the age of 27 years. Cesar began his education at technical medical secondary school. It was a facility to educate a lower level of physician and midwives. The school was intended to train assistants for army surgeons (German – Feldscher, Ukrainian – feldsher, Polish – felczer). He graduated in Kamyanetz-Podilsky with distinction in 1948. He worked as a feldsher, a physician’s assistant (practitioner), for one year. While working there he used every free moment to improve his knowledge to prepare for study. Thereafter he enrolled at the Institute of Medicine in Vinnitsa and graduated in 1955. He learned surgery at the regional Bagrinivsky hospital for two years. In 1957 Caesar Borzhevsky became the main physician of the multi-profile Medical Institute in Vinnitsa.

1964, Dr. Borzhevsky started his academic career at the Medical Institute in Lviv. He was mentored by the Rector of the Medical Institute, Prof. M. Danilenko. He became head of the Clinic of Thoracic Surgery. In 1970, he qualified as a university lecturer (Docent) with his postdoctoral thesis. He went for one year to Kiev to learn urology at the Postgraduate Teaching Institute. In 1972 the first department of Urology in Lviv was founded. On July 1973 Docent Borzhevsky completed a course (under the supervision of

Fig. 9. Prof. Caesar Borzhevsky (*1930)
Docent Z. Korenkova) in urology, and was nominated the first head, as professor, of this new facility.

Borzhevskiy was both a very active and a progressive urologist. In his three decades as the head of the Department he made use of the opportunity to contact Western urologists. His cooperation with leading urological departments brought modernisation to his own unit. Under Borzhevskiy’s leadership most of the contemporary diagnostic apparatus and therapeutic equipment were introduced, as well as treatment methods of urological diseases. These greatly improved the quality of the department’s service.

Under his leadership, or under his guidance, almost all contemporary diagnostic apparatus and therapeutic equipment and treatment methods of urological diseases were introduced for the improvement of the department (ESWL, PNL, Lithotripsy, Ureterorenoscopy and TUR of Benign Hypertrophy of the Prostate (BHP and Bladder tumours).

The next step of his activity was closely connected with his strong engagement with the Department of Haemodialysis and Kidney Transplantation in 1986. He also founded a ward for patients in the terminal stage of renal insufficiency. During the first 10 years of its existence (1986–1996) 6000 haemodialysis and 130 kidney transplantsations in 127 patients were performed. The survival of kidney transplant patients during one year was 55.5%, and during the next two years it was 55.2%. He had extensive contacts with many of well known Western professors and European Schools of Urology. It is worth mentioning, among others: Fritz Schroeder, Peter Alken, Hugh N. Whitfield and Aaron Kirkemo. Prof. Borzhevskiy encouraged his co-workers, and he arranged for many them scholarships for scientific trips to visit prominent European and American urological clinics, in Poland, Germany, France and the USA. Together with Prof. Jerzy Lorenz from Wroclaw they initiated and organized numerous Polish-Ukrainian Conferences. Prof. Lorenz and his co-workers performed live operations in Lviv. Both clinics exchanged residents. Prof. Borzhevskiy also took part in the administrative work of the Medical University in Lviv (MUL). From 1981 to 1983 he served as the Dean of the Faculty for Foreign Students at the MUL. He was the holder of many honorary posts, and was a member of numerous associations. He was awarded a number of prestigious Ukrainian and foreign prizes. He authored or developed over 120 scientific works and inventions.

Prof. Borzhniewski was the head of the Lviv’s Department of Urology during the period of political and economic changes that transformed life in the free Ukraine, especially significant changes relate to the protection of health service. He has won his place in the history of medicine as the originator of Lviv’s urology, and was a man of rare application and energy. His conduct inspired a new generation of doctors to continue upholding the values that had shaped his life and work. Prof. Borzhiewski was a great urologist, visionary and teacher, a talented organizer and an extraordinary manager. He was simply a giant in his field.

He passed on his passion for urology to his son Andrij B. (born 1972), who is currently a Prof. of Urology in Lviv also.

At the time of writing Prof. Yuriy Borzysh heads the Department of Urology of the Danylo Halitzky – Lviv National Medical University [27, 28, 31, 32].

Yuriy Borzysh was born on 30 June 1948, in Lviv, Ukraine. From upon completing primary school he attended the Classical High School in Lviv, studying physics and chemistry, where he attained a secondary certificate with distinction in 1966. Thereafter he enrolled in the Medical University in Lviv and graduated from the Dynylo Hylfty Lviv National Medical University in 1972. He started his physician’s work at the Municipal Hospital in Lviv. In 1975 he began his urological career in Busk, continuing his urological education in the military hospital and other departments of urology in Lviv. From 1978 to 2001 he was employed in the department of urology at the 5th Lviv City Clinic. In 1984 and 2001 he obtained his Ph.D. and D.Med.Sci. Medical degree, respectively, from the Institute of Urology (Kyiv). During this period he became a full urologist. In 2001, Dr. Y. Borzysh qualified as a university lecturer with his postdoctoral thesis.

Since 2001 Prof. Yuriy Borzysh has held the chair of the Department of Urology. Technically, the Medical University itself has no beds. However, the University has 20% of the beds in the Urological Department of the Regional Hospital.

Prof. Yuriy Borzysh has introduced laser lithotripsies, and he helped to introduce laparoscopic operations in the clinic.

Since 2010 the clinic has had green light 120 laser (AMS) at its disposal. In 2010, 2017 operations were performed at the urological department of Lviv Regional Clinical Hospital. Prof. Borzysh has authored over 120 publications, and has 2 inventions to his credit. He, along with his co-workers and the chiefs of the other urological units in Lviv, are engaged in clinical urological science and political activities in Ukraine and abroad. The department performs a wide spectrum of urological operations. The clinic is now famous across the Ukraine for ESWL, PCN, URS and Uro-oncology.

Lvov's urologists have published hundreds of scientific works in their native county and abroad. They have authored many monographs and textbooks, and also works in reputable international journals. They attend Conferences and Congresses all over the world. They have been awarded prizes in Ukraine, Europe and overseas. The son of Prof. Yuriy Borzysh Dr. Bogdan B. (*1974) followed the family tradition and has become urologist. As an urologist he is active in Lviv urological service as a translator of the urological literature [28, 33, 34].

**Urology in Lviv today**

Presently, in addition to the Urological Department of the Lviv Regional Clinical Hospital (LOKL) with 70 beds (head Dr. Roman Sheremeta), there are seven more independent urology units in Lviv:
– The Department of Urology in the 5th Lviv City Clinical Hospital (60 beds, 9 doctors), Chief Dr. Ljubomyr Skolozdra. The Hospital was founded in 1966.
– The Department of Urology of the City Emergency Hospital care Lviv City Clinical Hospital, (60 beds, 12 doctors), Chief Dr. Oleg Lesnjak. The hospital was opened in 1973. Dr. Valentina Kushpil became the first head of the Ward of Urology in the surgery department. The Department of Urology was opened in 1982. Volodymir Ivashko became the head of this unit. Under his leadership the department came to be a well-known facility in the city. Since 1980 Dr. Oleg Lesnjak has guided the work of the facility, and has also been chief Urologist.
– The Department of urology and Nephrology in the Military Hospital (35 beds, 5 Physicains), chief Dr. Mykola Polishchuk.
– The Department of Urology of the Veterans’ and Victims of Reprisals’ Hospital (45 beds, 5 physicians), headed by Dr. Igor Buchma.
– The Railway Clinical Hospital, Centre of Endourology (30 beds, 7 doctors), chief Yurij Hrystana. Department of Urology (30 beds, 2 doctors), chief Dr. Bohdan Fedorchuk.
– The Department of Urology, Centre of Mini-Invasive Operations in Lviv City Children’s Community Hospital (30 beds), head Dr. Z. Stupnitsky.
– The Urology Department of the Regional Extrapulmonary Tuberculosis Hospital Phthisiourology (70 beds, 4 physicians), chief Dr. Yurij Matvijiv. The department was opened in 1989. The head of the department was then Dr. Jaroslav Matvijiv. Since 2005 Yurij Matvijiv has led the department. In 2011, altogether, there were 330 urological beds in different hospitals in Lviv.

In 2011, altogether, there were 330 urological beds in different hospitals in Lviv.

Statistical data from 2013 show Lviv to have about 734,000 inhabitants. University of Lviv has 11,649 students.

For the location of The Lviv University Urological Clinic, see picture (Fig. 10) [28, 31, 34, 35, 36].

Epilogue

In the post-Soviet era the Ukrainian system of healthcare and academic education completely differs from that of the West. In Ukraine the goals of the Medical University are to teach students and to conduct postgraduate education of physician. Only a few Ukrainian Medical Universities have their own clinics with beds. In Lviv there are no university clinics. Departments of Urology are based in hospitals. In these hospitals there are offices, and they have staff and managers. For example, the Medical University of Lviv has 20% of the beds in the Department of Urology of Lviv Regional Clinical Hospital.

In the history of medicine important developments are mostly reduced to a single person's work and ideas. However, nowadays such important developments can rarely be reduced only to the hands of the departments or the institutes. The special regulation and situation in urological services in Lviv also shows that many other top urologists have contributed to the modernisation of urology in the city in the last 2 decades. Not only have the heads of the urological departments enormously contributed to urology, but also their associates and many other co-workers and other clinics. It is especially worth mentioning some of the chiefs of the urological units in Lviv who have done this. Other doctors, associate professors and professors: Pyetro Maxymovich Kovalchuk, Pyetro Kondrat, Mykola Artyschuk, Roman Sheremeta, Andryi Cezarovitch Borzyhievsky and Oleksandr Shulyak can be credited with improving our speciality here [28, 34, 36].

References