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Ukrainian scientists at the Tselinograd State Medical Institute: Contribution to education and science (1960s)

Abstract. *The article examines the work, scientific achievements, and contribution of Doctor of Medical Sciences, Professor Viktor Rafailovich Faitelberg-Blank and Candidate of Medical Sciences, Associate Professor Maria Vasilievna Kropelnitskaya to the development of the Tselinograd State Medical Institute in the 1960s. Authors used the methods of microhistory and comparative historical analysis to achieve the goal of the study, which made it possible to comprehensively reveal the activities of scientists and organizers of medical education V. R. Faitelberg-Blank and M. V. Kropelnitskaya in the Virgin Land. The authors used archival funds and documents, and brief historiographical reviews during the research. For the first time, a set of sources have been introduced into scientific circulation that allow a new look and an objective assessment of the activities of Ukrainian scientists at the Tselinograd Medical Institute. Based on documentary materials from the State Archives of Astana, information from the surviving personal files of V. R. Faitelberg-Blank and M. V. Kropelnitskaya, the main stages of their formation as scientists and teachers in the territory of Ukraine, as well as the reasons for their appearance in Kazakhstan to*



work at the medical institute have been specified. The activities of V. R. Faitelberg-Blank as the founder of the Department of Pathological Physiology contributed to forming a scientific school that received recognition in Kazakhstan. Also he was engaged in the general development of the problems of "physiology and pathology of digestion". Despite the short time of V. R. Faitelberg-Blank's work at the institute (1965–1967), he was one of the first scientists at the university who contributed to instilling in his colleagues' scientific skills of experimental work with animals. The article focuses on the fact that the scientist's many years of experience led to the development of long-term scientific interests of the department in the study of functional and somatic muscles and the gastrointestinal tract under static load and exposure to high-frequency physical agents. V. R. Faitelberg-Blank laid the traditions of teaching students, which has become the foundation for the training of qualified medical personnel in Kazakhstan. The authors have proved the enormous role of M. V. Kropelnitskaya in the formation of the Department of Internal Diseases Propaedeutics, which received recognition as a scientific school engaged in the study of specific methods of treating patients with pathologies of internal organs. M. V. Kropelnitskaya paid students great attention to the study of many physiological processes in norm and pathology. For the first time at the university, she accompanied theoretical material with a demonstration of patients during classes and gave relevant clinical examples. In conclusion, a resume has been made about the enormous contribution of the scientific and pedagogical heritage of V. R. Faitelberg-Blank and M. V. Kropelnitskaya to the development of medical education in virgin Kazakhstan.

Keywords: virgin Kazakhstan; Ukraine; scientists; V. R. Faitelberg-Blank; M. V. Kropelnitskaya; medical education

Introduction.

In the 1950s and 1960s, northern Kazakhstan became a place for the development of virgin and fallow lands. Future virgin land pioneers began to come to the region from all the republics of the former Soviet Union. The concentration of a great number of people on virgin lands gave rise to many problems, among which the most important were environmental, socio-economic, and, of course, problems related to the health of the population (Balykova et al., 2023; Kozina et al., 2023). The country's leaders saw the fastest solution to these problems in opening a higher medical educational institution that trained general practitioners.

Speaking about the emergence and development of medical education in the Virgin Lands Territory in Kazakhstan (since 1960 it included the North Kazakhstan Region, Kokchetav Region, Kostanay Region, Pavlodar Region; since 1961 – Tselinograd Region), first of all, it is worth noting that in the 1960s there were no medical educational centers in the region. In the remaining regions of the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic (KazSSR), by that time, four large scientific and educational institutions in the medical field were already successfully operating: in 1931, the Medical Institute was founded in Alma-Ata, in 1950 – the Karaganda Institute, in 1953 – the Semipalatinsk Institute, and in 1957 – the Aktobe Institute. In the Virgin Islands, medical education began to emerge only in the 1960s.

In 1964, as part of the implementation of the resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan and the Council of Ministers of the Kazakh SSR dated October 26, No. 729 (by the protocol decision of the Presidium of the Council of Ministers of the USSR dated July 31, 1964, protocol No. 28) and to expand the training of medical personnel, the Tselinograd State Medical Institute (TSMI, now “Astana Medical University”) was organized with a plan to admit 300 students in the first year and 100 in the second year in the specialty “General Medicine” in the 1964/1965 academic year, subordinated to the Ministry of Health of the Kazakh SSR (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 1, Case 7, Sheet 1). In the order of the Minister of Health of the Kazakh SSR N. Senkov, the Department of Personnel and Educational Institutions was charged with the responsibility of “staffing the Tselinograd Medical Institute with qualified professors and teaching staff of the 1st year department and ensuring the start of academic classes at the institute by November 20, 1964” (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 1, Case 7, Sheet 62).

A notable feature of this important historical event was that in the first year of the institute's work, specialists from other universities of the republic were invited to fill the positions of almost the entire faculty of the opening university. Thus, in the order of the Minister of Health of the Kazakh SSR No. 1452 of October 28, 1964, the rectors of the Alma-Ata and Karaganda Medical Institutes were obliged to provide practical assistance to the Tselinograd State Medical Institute in staffing with professors and teachers (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 1, Case 7, Sheet 92). Already on November 4, 1964, the first group of teachers and employees arrived from Alma-Ata: S. D. Poletaev (rector, associate professor), I. P. Serdyuk (dean, head of the foreign language department), P. A. Pak, G. S. Morenko, S. S. Likhodiy, E. Tursunov, Rakhmatullina, V. V. Tuzovskaya (head of the physics department), V. A. Vdovtseva (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 1, Case 2, Sheet 57). An admissions committee was organized to accept applicants to the institute. As planned, in the year of its opening, the institute accepted 300 students for the first year (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 1, Case 7, Sheets 1–10).

The first departments to start functioning at the institute were the departments of foreign language, Latin, physics, history of the CPSU, and anatomy (Balykova et al., 2023). At the same time, they began accepting applications from students who transferred from other medical universities to the second year of the institute. On February 8, the second year, consisting of 130 people, began their studies (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 1, Case 2, Sheet 58). If the first year, according to the curriculum, studied mainly general education disciplines, then second-year students had already begun to master medical subjects. In connection with the start of classes in the second year, the following departments were organized: histology (Associate Professor F.S. Balakin), normal physiology (Associate Professor R. D. Kolesinskaya), philosophy (Candidate of Law N. S. Gagarin), microbiology (Candidate of Medical Sciences V. A. Fainshmidt), biochemistry (Associate Professor V. K. Zakharova) (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 1, Case 15, Sheet 6). By September 1, 1965, to ensure a full-fledged educational process, it was

planned to expand the work of the third-year departments: pathological physiology, pathological anatomy, topographic anatomy and operative surgery, pharmacology, general surgery, and propaedeutics of internal diseases (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 1, Case 1, Sheet 17).

The first classes began not on November 15, as prescribed in the Resolution of the Central Committee of the CPC and the CM of the Kazakh SSR, but on December 25, 1964. The postponement of the start of classes was influenced by several reasons: a shortage of classrooms, medical equipment, inventory, reagents, and much more, but most importantly – a shortage of teaching staff with an academic degree.

Since the Virgin Lands Campaign was one of the areas of the “general line of the party”, its practical implementation was of great importance for the country. The experience of the first year of the institute's work showed that it was difficult to resolve the personnel “hunger” and other current issues by the efforts of the Kazakh Republic. Therefore, “to improve the quality of training doctors, expand exchange and communication between the republics in the field of training health care personnel ..., by the order of the Minister of Health of the USSR No. 744 dated December 20, 1965, the Tselinograd State Medical Institute was transferred from the health care of the Kazakh SSR to the direct subordination of the Ministry of Health of the USSR” (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 1, Case 1, Sheet 1). The subordination of the Tselinograd State Medical Institute to the USSR Ministry of Health led to the expansion of the geography of the search for candidates for the positions of teachers at the institute.

In this regard, the rector of the institute, S. D. Poletaev launched an energetic effort to attract scientists from the country's central universities to the institute. It should be noted that the problem of finding highly qualified personnel in the first years of the university's work was permanent and required a constant search for a solution to the problem. As we wrote above, the departments organized in the first year of the institute's work were not fully staffed with professors and teachers. Thus, in the explanatory note to the annual accounting report for 1964, it was noted that “the estimate provided for staffing the teaching staff by 37 units only 26 were staffed. The positions of heads of departments were mainly understaffed due to the lack of specialists” (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 1, Case 9, Sheet 12). Thus, the personnel problem, despite the actions taken by the rector of the university, was not resolved. It is no coincidence that in the summer of 1965, the university administration announced a competition to fill vacant positions of heads of departments, inviting leading specialists from Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus, who were to provide the educational process for the third year.

After the competition in the summer of 1965, the following third-year departments were organized: pathological anatomy (Associate Professor B. M. Shapiro), pharmacology (Associate Professor L. S. Grebneva), pathological physiology (Candidate of Medical Sciences V. R. Fitelberg-Blank), propaedeutics of internal diseases (Candidate of Medical Sciences M. V. Kropelnitskaya), general surgery (Candidate of Medical Sciences V. M. Udod), operative surgery (Associate

Professor V. M. Klebanov) (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 1, Case 15, Sheet 9).

Among the galaxy of famous teachers of the Tselinograd State Medical Institute who arrived in those years from Ukraine are highly qualified medical personnel who made an enormous contribution to the formation and development of this institute, Kazakhstani science, and education: Head of the Department of Pathological Physiology V. R. Faitelberg-Blank, Head of the Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Diseases M. V. Kropelnitskaya, Vice-Rector for Research N. M. Khomenko, head of the forensic medicine department E. I. Zaitseva and others. In 1965, 15 teachers with academic degrees arrived from Ukraine alone (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 1, Case 2, Sheet 117).

The importance and role of the Tselinograd State Medical Institute in the current state of medical education in Kazakhstan is challenging to overestimate. It is enough to note that along with the training of professional medical staff for healthcare entities of the republic, the medical institute has become a place not only for the concentration of high-level specialists but also a forge of highly qualified scientific and pedagogical personnel who have made a significant contribution to the creation and development of Kazakhstan's healthcare and education.

Through the efforts of the teaching staff of the institute and its management, the Tselinograd State Medical Institute eventually turned into the largest medical higher educational institution in Kazakhstan, where the training of medical personnel in the 1960s was carried out in the specialty of “General Medicine”, which was in demand not only in the Virgin Land of the republic but also in all sectors of healthcare in the Kazakh SSR.

In this regard, we believe it is necessary to dwell in more detail in the article on the period associated with the organization of the first departments of the clinical and therapeutic profile – pathological physiology and the department of propaedeutics of internal diseases, the first heads of which were Ukrainian scientists and teachers Viktor Rafailovich Faitelberg-Blank and Maria Vasilievna Kropelnitskaya, respectively. Thus, the purpose of the article is to study the contribution of Ukrainian scientists to the establishment of the Tselinograd State Medical Institute in the 1960s based on documentary materials from the state archive of the city of Astana.

Discussion.

The historiography of the history of the formation and development of medical education is quite extensive and covers a wide range of issues, covering both the subject matter of the medical school itself and the problems of medicine and health care organizations. In their works, researchers undertake conceptual attempts to analyze not only the problems of the history of medicine and health care in different geographic regions, but also general and specific factors that influenced the emergence and development of medical educational organizations (Kamyshnikov, 2022; Sokolova & Tkach, 2022; Gubergrits et al., 2023; Isaeva et al., 2023; Kamyshnikov, 2023; Kharitonova & Grigoriev, 2023; Rakhimkulov et al., 2023; Nikolaeva & Murtazina, 2024; Stochik, 2024).

The first historical and journalistic works about the Tselinograd State Medical Institute appeared in the pages of periodicals in the 1960s and 1970s (Dobrov, 1969; Lempel, 1972; Shendrik, 1972). At the same time during these years, interest began to grow in Kazakhstani historiography in the scientific and pedagogical activities of scientists and teachers who stood at the origins of medical education not only in the Virgin Lands, but also in other regions of the republic, and who made a significant contribution to the development of higher medical education (Shitikov, 1969; Rozhitsyn, 1972).

In Soviet historiography, it is necessary to highlight the works that revealed the systemic achievements and prospects for the development of Kazakhstan's healthcare, including medical educational institutions (Sharmanov, 1980; Aliyev, 1982). In particular, in an article by the Minister of Health of the Kazakh SSR, Professor T. Sh. Sharmanov, it was noted that “the truly golden fund of the republic is the trained medical personnel” (Sharmanov, p. 11).

In recent years, studies have appeared in domestic historiography that reflect the activities of scientists and teachers of medical universities in Kazakhstan, who have had a significant impact on the formation and development of medical science and education (Ermukhanova et al., 2018; Baizoldauly, 2022; Tusupbekova, 2022). At the same time, it is worth noting that the history of the Tselinograd State Medical Institute – “Astana Medical University”, the activities of its teachers in the medical, socio-political and cultural spheres is still studied fragmentarily, within the framework of general and reference-bibliographic studies. Unfortunately, the history of the Tselinograd State Medical Institute and the activities of its teachers in the medical, socio-political, and cultural spheres were studied fragmentarily, within the framework of general reference and bibliographic studies (Lust et al., 1981; Tsoi, 1984; Dalenov, 1995; Omarova et al., 2019). As the authors of the biographical collection “With Love to Alma Mater (1964–2019)” write: “The biographical collection presents materials dedicated to the biographies of rectors, vice-rectors, deans, heads of departments, professors, and doctors of science of the NAO MUA” (Omarova et al., p. 1). The same biographical information is available in collections dedicated to the university's anniversaries, the history of individual departments, etc. A brief comparative analysis of the activities of the heads of the departments of pathological physiology of the Tselinograd State Medical Institute is proposed by the authors in a special article (Udartseva & Kabdualieva, 2015). However, these materials did not reflect the full activities of the heads of departments, Viktor Rafailovich Faitelberg-Blank and Maria Vasilievna Kropelnitskaya, who arrived in the city of Tselinograd in the first years of the university's formation and made a huge contribution to its development.

Only recently, the history of the formation and development of the Tselinograd Medical Institute has become the subject of research by Kazakh scientists, whose works fragmentarily cover the activities of Ukrainian teachers and scientists who came to work at this institute (Balykova et al., 2023; Mazhitova & Kurbanova, 2023).

Thus, a brief historiographical review allows us to summarize that, despite the relatively long period of its existence, there are still no special research works devoted

to the analysis of the contribution of Ukrainian organizers of medical education and science in the Virgin Land. Our article is a modest attempt to fill this gap.

Methods and Materials.

The methodology of the article is based on the use by the authors of the methods of microhistory and comparative historical analysis, which allowed for verify the sources used about the work activities of scientists, teachers, and organizers of medical education in the Virgin Lands Region Viktor Rafailovich Faitelberg-Blank and Maria Vasilievna Kropelnitskaya at the institute, to link little-known/unknown biographical data in their internal relationship. In addition, the article uses biographical and historical-typological methods, which contributed to the systematization of archival materials of the Virgin Lands Fund, allowing us to identify the contribution and importance of scientists in the formation and development of medical education in the city of Tselinograd.

This article is based on materials from the State Archives of Astana. In this archive, in fund 215 – “Tselinograd State Medical Institute” there are materials related to the activities of the institute from the moment of its creation (1964) to 1990. The files used in this study present materials on the history of the first departments of the institute, personal files of the faculty, reports of the departments, and materials of the Academic Council of the institute. Also used from this fund (inventory 3) are files that are directly related to the educational and scientific activities of V. R. Faitelberg-Blank and M. V. Kropelnitskaya at the Tselinograd State Medical Institute.

Mr. Faitelberg-Blank's Viktor Rafailovich contribution to the formation and development of the Department of Pathological Physiology.

Viktor Rafailovich Faitelberg-Blank was born on July 3, 1934, in Odessa in the family of an employee. In 1952, after finishing high school, he entered the medical faculty of one of the best Ukrainian institutes of that time – Odesa Medical Institute named after N. I. Pirogov, from which he graduated in 1957. While still in his 2nd year at the institute, he began working at the Department of Pathological Physiology, performing several experimental works and studying the processes of absorption in the pleural cavity under normal and pathological conditions. During his studies at the institute and later, during the years of scientific and pedagogical activity, Professor N. N. Zaiko (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 6, Sheet 10) had a huge influence on the formation of V. R. Faitelberg-Blank's professional views and his choice of scientific direction.

After graduating from the institute, having received the qualification of a doctor, V. R. Faitelberg-Blank went to work in Donbas, where he worked as a neuropathologist at the Kirov Makiivka Physiotherapy Hospital. At the same time, V. R. Faitelberg-Blank continued his scientific work at the Department of Biochemistry of the Donetsk Medical Institute. In this place, he gradually determined a specific scientific direction, an interest in independent research appeared, and the contours of scientific interests were established, around which plans personal ideas, and interests were born. Based on the results of his work at the department, in 1960 he

defended his dissertation for the degree of candidate of medical sciences, dedicated to the problems of the absorption capacity of the pleura in various states of the body using therapeutic atoms (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 6, Sheet 7).

In addition, V. R. Faitelberg-Blank organized an isotope laboratory at the hospital, where several clinical and experimental works were carried out, and in this laboratory, under his supervision, candidate dissertations of practicing doctors were prepared (M. I. Yatsenko, G. B. Isaeva) (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 6, Sheet 25).

In 1960, V. R. Faitelberg-Blank moved to work at the Ukrainian Research Institute of Balneology and Physiotherapy, where from 1961 he worked as a senior research fellow, whose subject area of scientific interest became issues of studying the influence of physical agents on the body under normal and pathological conditions. During this period, he published a lot in well-known scientific journals, lectured at advanced training courses for doctors, on behalf of the Ministry of Health of the Ukrainian SSR, provided advisory assistance to specialists working in various regions of Ukraine, became close to outstanding scientists and figures of Ukraine, Academician V. N. Chernigovsky, Professor A. O. Voynar et al. (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 6, Sheet 26).

In 1964, based on the results of many years of research, V. R. Faitelberg-Blank completed and in June 1965 submitted for defense at the Pavlov Institute of Physiology of the USSR Academy of Sciences his doctoral dissertation, in which the physiological mechanisms of action of high-frequency physical agents on absorption processes in the gastrointestinal tract were investigated (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 6, Sheet 9). By the decision of the Higher Attestation Commission under the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education of the USSR on April 23, 1966, he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Medical Sciences (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 6, Sheet 68).

As we noted above, in those years the development of virgin and fallow lands continued in the Kazakh SSR, and the construction of a network of medical institutions was underway, in connection with the need for training highly qualified medical specialists and increasing the share of professional national medical personnel in the republic increased sharply. For the Virgin Lands region, this problem was of primary importance.

In the summer of 1965, the management of the Tselinograd State Medical Institute invited V. R. Faitelberg-Blank to participate in the competition for the position of head of the department of pathological physiology (pathophysiology). On July 2, 1965, he wrote an application to the rector of the Tselinograd Medical Institute S. D. Poletayev with a request to allow him to participate in the competition for the vacant position of head of the department of pathological physiology (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 6, Sheet 4) (see Figure 1).



Figure 1. V. R. Faitelberg-Blank, 1965 (from a personal file). (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 6, Sheet 1).

Together with the application of V. R. Faitelberg-Blank sends a package of necessary documents (a copy of the diploma of a senior research fellow, a list of works, an autobiography, a reference from a previous place of work) (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 6, Sheet 51). As the director of the Ukrainian Institute of Balneology and Physiotherapy F. E. Kurkudym wrote in his reference: “V. R. Faitelberg-Blank has a good command of various physiological, pathophysiological, the latest biochemical and biophysical research methods, as well as surgical techniques. As a clinical physiotherapist, V. R. Faitelberg-Blank is a trained and erudite specialist” (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 6, Sheet 10).

On July 13, 1965, the first meeting of the Academic Council of the Tselinograd State Medical Institute was held, at which the issue of electing heads of departments, including pathological physiology, was considered. Professor P. I. Lomanos, Doctor of Medical Sciences, who was elected to this position, refused several days later (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 1, Case 22, Sheet 1). Therefore, already at the next meeting of the Academic Council on July 20, the agenda again included consideration of candidates for the position of head of the pathological physiology department. Now, Candidate of Medical Sciences P. Ya. Novorassova and Doctor of Medical Sciences V. R. Faitelberg-Blank are applying for this position. The opinion of the selection committee was as follows: “Comrade Novorassova is denied participation in the competition due to her advanced age” (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215,

Inventory 1, Case 22, Sheet 1). Thus, having passed the competitive selection, by the decision of the Academic Council of the Tselinograd State Medical Institute dated July 20, 1965 (minutes No. 2), V. R. Faitelberg-Blank was elected to the post of head of the Department of Pathophysiology and began to perform his duties on August 20 (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 6, Sheet 5). From that day on, V. R. Faitelberg-Blank's scientific, pedagogical, and organizational activities in Kazakhstan until the day of his dismissal from the post (due to family circumstances) – September 4, 1967, were associated with the Tselinograd Medical Institute.

Appointed to the post of head of the department, V. R. Faitelberg-Blank actively formed the teaching staff of the department and negotiated with many famous scientists located both in the republic and abroad (in Alma-Ata, Odessa, Moscow, Leningrad, etc.).

After being appointed head, V. R. Faitelberg-Blank intensified the scientific work of the department. It should be noted that thanks to his efforts, the department acquired an operating room with a preoperative room, rooms for scientific research of microelements, blood electrolytes, enzymes of parietal digestion, biopotentials of the brain and nerves, physicochemical analysis of proteins, “animal housing for the temporary maintenance of experimental animals”, etc. (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 1, Case 135, Sheet 153). Considering that in the first years of the institute's work, there was not enough money even for the acquisition of educational and methodological equipment, the energetic position of the head of the department in creating favorable opportunities in scientific work positively influenced the scientific potential of the team.

Under the scientific supervision of V. R. Faitelberg-Blank, a regional scientific school of pathological physiology was formed and recognized at the department, which was engaged in the general development of the problems of “physiology and pathology of digestion” (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 1, Case 44, Sheet 140). Professor V. R. Faitelberg-Blank regularly reported on the scientific achievements of the department at all Union and Republican scientific conferences in the cities of Kyiv, Odesa, Rostov-on-Don, Moscow, Leningrad, Alma-Ata, Tselinograd and other cities of the country (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 6, Sheet 60).

The acquisition of animals for scientific experiments by a medical institute is always associated with certain difficulties. However, V. R. Faitelberg-Blank, repeatedly appealing to the university management about the need to purchase animals for scientific experiments, to a certain extent solves the department's problem. Thus, in the 1966/67 academic year alone, Associate Professor of the Department P. A. Pak conducted a study on the absorption activity of the pleura using the radioactive indication method in experimental obstruction on 51 cats and 14 dogs, which allowed him to successfully defend his dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Medical Sciences in the future. The research team of the department studied “functional and somatic muscles of the gastrointestinal tract under statistical load and exposure to high-frequency physical agents as a result of experiments on dogs and mice (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 1, Case 44, Sheet 140). In addition, it was found

that under the conditions of serous and purulent pleurisy, there was a change in the absorption of organic and inorganic substances in the intestine. These areas of scientific research in the republic were just gaining momentum, and therefore the contribution of the department to the study of these problems was undeniable.

In general, the obtained scientific results allowed the teachers of the department to prepare and defend one doctoral and five candidate dissertations.

The department had a well-organized student scientific circle. For example, students of the department took part in the All-Union Student Conference in Leningrad, and the regional conference in Tselinograd, where they reported on the results of their research.

The undoubted successes of the department staff in the scientific plan became the methodological foundation, allowing to organization of the educational process of training specialists with higher medical education at a qualitatively new level. It should be said that the short organizational, scientific, and teaching activities of V. R. Faitelberg-Blank during these years took place in extremely difficult conditions. The newly-established university was provided with four not-the-best educational buildings in the city, so it occupied only one building (the former boarding school at 51A Mira Street). During the work of the department, there was a lack of premises, an incomplete adaptation to the educational process, and a shortage of medical equipment, which negatively affected the organization of the educational process. The department's arsenal included "2 classrooms, ...and 1 room for experimental research" (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 1, Case 44, Sheet 135. Therefore, it is no coincidence that on September 3, V. R. Faitelberg-Blank wrote a statement to the rector with a request to send him on a business trip to Moscow "to purchase equipment necessary for the educational process and scientific work" (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 6, Sheet 53).

In a short period, the educational process was well-established using the latest teaching methods for that time. For example, biophysical devices were demonstrated during biophysics lectures, with an analysis of their operating principles, and two scientific films were shown ("Biopotentials of the Brain" and "Cybernetics in Diagnostics"). During practical classes, students were introduced to the methods of working with many devices in the clinic (electrocardiographs, VEKS, electroencephalographs, physiotherapy equipment, etc.) (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 1, Case 44, Sheet 156). At that time, the use of the latest equipment significantly distinguished the regional medical university from similar ones in the republic.

On April 18, 1966, V. R. Faitelberg-Blank left for Moscow to the first and second medical institutes to get acquainted with the educational process and master new experimental methods (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 6, Sheet 58). The information he received allowed him to develop and implement in the educational process, in addition to the programs on pathological physiology approved by the USSR Ministry of Health, methodological developments for a new practical course "The Influence of Physical Agents on the Body" (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 1, Case 22, Sheet 9). He was also the author of the curriculum for

the discipline “Pathological Physiology” (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 6, Sheet 47). In total, Professor V. R. Faitelberg-Blank, during his short time at the institute, prepared over 20 educational and methodological developments and scientific works that were of great importance in practical health care (Faitelberg-Blank, 1965a; Faitelberg-Blank, 1965b; Faitelberg-Blank & Matveeva, 1966).

By the order of the Minister of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education of the USSR No. 396 from December 31, 1964, to November 1, 1965, the Republican Educational and Methodological Directorate “was charged with the responsibility of summarizing the reports and proposals of the ministries... on the development and application of programmed learning... in educational institutions of higher and secondary education” (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 6, Sheets 8–11). Taking into account the order of the Minister of Education, the Institute planned to prepare programmed teaching aids for 1965–1967. To solve this difficult scientific and technical problem, on October 19, 1965, the Rector of the Institute S. D. Poletaev sent V. R. Faitelberg-Blank to Alma-Ata for a republican conference on issues of programming learning. The information received by V. R. Faitelberg-Blank at this conference allowed the Department of Pathological Physiology, one of the first departments of the Institute, to introduce programmed learning in practical classes (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 6, Sheet 54). Undoubtedly, this innovation made it possible to ensure the educational process at a higher educational and methodological level.

Professor V. R. Faitelberg-Blank carried out a great deal of organizational and methodological work: having arrived in the region, he organized and was the chairman of the Tselinograd Society of Physiologists and Pathophysiologists, which initially united 32 people; he was a lecturer for the Znanie Society, and provided all possible assistance to healthcare organizations (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 6, Sheet 35).

On September 4, 1967, V. R. Faitelberg-Blank wrote a statement about his release from the position of head of the Department of Pathological Physiology “due to family circumstances” (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 6, Sheet 86).

Professor V. R. Faitelberg-Blank had worked within the walls of the institute for a short period. But his contribution to the establishment and development of the Tselinograd Medical Institute, as a whole, science, and education of the Kazakh Republic, is undeniable. Thanks to his active scientific position, the team was able to determine the vector of scientific research from the moment the department was organized, which it adheres to at the present stage. The foundations of educational and methodological work and organization of the educational process laid by Professor V. R. Faitelberg-Blank showed a multiplier effect, allowing to ensure high-quality implementation of the educational and methodological process at a high theoretical and practical level.

Mrs. Kropelnitskaya Maria Vasilievna is a founder of the Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine at the Tselinograd State Medical Institute.

One of the outstanding heads of departments who stood at the origins of the development of medical education in the Virgin Lands region was Maria Vasilievna Kropelnitskaya.

M. V. Kropelnitskaya was born on December 27, 1917, in the village of Sasha, Teplikovskiy district, Vinnytsia region, in the family of a people's teacher. Due to work circumstances, in 1930 her parents moved to the village of Krutye, Kodymsky district, Odessa region, where she completed seven years of school. In 1936, M. V. Kropelnitskaya entered the Odessa paramedic-obstetric school, graduating in 1939. Before entering the Chernivtsi Medical Institute in 1947, she worked as a nurse in the district hospital in the city of Kotovsk, Odesa region, and as a paramedic in the city of Akkerman, Izmail region. From that time on, the fate of M. V. Kropelnitskaya was determined – the following years of her life were devoted to her favorite work – treating people (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 23, Sheets 3–5).

It is no coincidence that in 1947 M. V. Kropelnitskaya entered the Chernivtsi Medical Institute and in 1952 graduated with honors from the full course of the said institute in the specialty of “physician” (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 23, Sheet 8). After graduating from the institute, she was enrolled in a clinical residency at the Department of Propaedeutic and then Hospital Therapy, and in 1954 she was transferred to the position of assistant at the Department of Hospital Therapy, where she worked until arriving in Tselinograd (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 23, Sheet 7).

On December 11, 1958, M. V. Kropelnitskaya defended her candidate's dissertation on the topic of “Functional state of the liver in circulatory failure”, which she published in the form of abstract and numerous articles in conference proceedings and the journal “Medical Affairs” (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 23, Sheet 7).

As we noted above, in 1965 the management of the Tselinograd State Medical Institute invited several teachers with academic degrees to work in the then-open departments of the therapeutic profile. Among those who expressed a desire to take part in the competition for the position of associate professor of the Department of internal diseases propaedeutics with a course in radiology was M. V. Kropelnitskaya. At that time, the organized Department of internal diseases propaedeutics was one of the first therapeutic departments of the Tselinograd Medical Institute.

On June 16, 1965, M. V. Kropelnitskaya wrote a statement to the rector asking for permission to participate in the competition for the position of associate professor in the Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Diseases (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 23, Sheet 4). A submission to the rector of the Tselinograd State Medical Institute, Associate Professor S. D. Poletaev, about the competition participant M. V. Kropelnitskaya, signed by the rector of the Chernivtsi Medical Institute A. Yukhimets, has been preserved: “During her work at the Chernivtsi Medical Institute, M. V. Kropelnitskaya has proven herself to be a good clinician. She

has good experience in teaching, taught a course on the history of the clinic of internal diseases, and gave separate lectures on the course of military field therapy and a trial lecture on the course of the hospital clinic, which she handled well. She is currently working on her doctorate” (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 23, Sheet 10).

As a result of a secret vote at a meeting of the Institute’s Academic Council, a decision was made to elect Maria Vasilievna Kropelnitskaya to the position of associate professor of the Department of Internal Medicine Propaedeutics and simultaneously entrust her with the duties of head of the department (minutes No. 1 of July 13, 1965) (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 23, Sheet 4).

On October the 1-st, 1965, by order of the rector S. D. Poletaev, M. V. Kropelnitskaya was transferred from the position of associate professor to the position of acting head of the department of internal diseases propaedeutics, and on June 16, 1966, after passing the competition, she was confirmed in the position of head of the department (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 23, Sheet 16). Thus, M. V. Kropelnitskaya became the first head of the Department of Internal diseases propaedeutics.

The Department of Internal Diseases Propaedeutics of the Tselinograd State Medical Institute was opened based on the therapeutic department of the regional clinical hospital (bed capacity – of 50 beds) and the basis of the therapeutic department of the 2nd Road hospital (bed capacity – of 100 beds) and was in an extremely cramped situation. At that time, the department had only one small room for classes at its disposal (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 1, Case 1, Sheet 16). The location of the department on two bases was inconvenient since it made it difficult to normally provide the educational process. In addition, there was no room for a functional diagnostics room and a laboratory where laboratory classes with students would be held. Therefore, it was necessary to place both the equipment and the laboratory in the classroom. The lack of an auditorium for lecturing in the premises of clinical hospitals was a great inconvenience. Cold auditoriums in the morphological buildings and frequent bad weather conditions (Tselinograd was located in a zone of sharply continental climate) in the autumn and winter made it difficult to demonstrate patience at lectures. In the year of the department's establishment, in addition to M. V. Kropelnitskaya, 2 assistants worked at the department – candidates of medical sciences A. V. Shulgin and Yu. G. Zhenderkina (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 1, Case 44, Sheet 62).

The lack of sufficient space remained the main reason causing great difficulties in the development of full-fledged classes. In organizing the work of the department, the outstanding organizational skills of M. V. Kropelnitskaya were fully demonstrated. Despite the insufficient space of not only classrooms but also laboratory premises, the shortage of equipment at first, as well as the lack of visual teaching aids – M. V. Kropelnitskaya managed to subordinate everything to solving a complex task – to make the department a place for effective student training and a platform for conducting research work.

M. V. Kropelnitskaya was forced to devote her main attention to the issues of organizing the work of the department, finding funds, and monitoring the expansion of the educational and hospital beds of the department. M. V. Kropelnitskaya's repeated appeals to the management of the institute yielded positive results for the department – already the following year it became stronger and more authoritative, setting the tone for the entire institute in educational, methodological, and scientific work. This was because, firstly, the staff of the department was increased – the number of teachers increased to 5 people (the staff included candidates of sciences V. I. Neklyudova and I. D. Rachinsky), secondly, the base of the department was expanded due to the therapeutic department of the 2nd road hospital of the Tselinograd station. At the same time, the department began to have 300 beds. Thanks to the efforts of M. V. Kropelnitskaya, practical classes on the methodology of examining a patient and studying the symptoms of individual diseases were held directly at the patient's bedside, and laboratory classes were held in a specially equipped room. New equipment necessary for biochemical research and functional diagnostics of patients was purchased. A five-channel electrocardiograph with attachments (phonocardiographic, rheographic, ballistocardiography, hagiographical, and electromanometer), as well as a spirometer, pneumotachometer, and echocardiograph were used in laboratory research (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 1, Case 44, Sheet 63). Since there were not enough visual aids (tables) at the department, students independently made original educational tables and dummies, which were included in the unique table fund, which has not lost its relevance today (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 1, Case 44, Sheet 65). Conditions were created for students not only to study the theoretical part of the taught disciplines of the therapeutic profile but also to independently conduct patient appointments for educational and scientific purposes.

M. V. Kropelnitskaya was an excellent lecturer. She gave most of the lectures herself, and since at first the department was poorly equipped with educational and methodological literature, Maria Vasilievna tried to present the material in such a way that students almost did not need to refer to textbooks when studying the material. In her classes, lecture material and practical classes were linked to material on normal physiology, pathological anatomy, and pathological physiology, and the development of many processes in norm and pathology was covered – in healthy and sick people. When giving lectures, she accompanied them, whenever possible, with demonstrations of patients, and gave relevant clinical examples (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 1, Case 44, Sheet 64). When conducting practical classes, she paid attention to providing students with independence, developing research skills in them, and practicing methods for correctly presenting a disease. Under her supervision, students constantly worked at the patient's bedside: they collected anamnesis, conducted an objective examination of patients, and carefully practiced methods for physical examination of patients (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 1, Case 44, Sheet 65).



Figure 2. Department of Propaedeutics at the Regional Hospital Head of Department Maria Vasilievna Kropelnitskaya. 3rd year. 1966 (Far left) (National Museum of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Fund 1, Inventory 1, Case 14896, Sheet 6).

Worked as the head, and since 1966, the scientific secretary of the Academic Council of the Institute left little time for scientific research. But M. V. Kropelnitskaya found it and involved the teachers of the department in the circle of her scientific interests. On December 14, 1966, by the decision of the Higher Attestation Commission of the USSR, M. V. Kropelnitskaya was awarded the title of associate professor in the department of “internal diseases” (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 23, Sheet 17). The optics of the scientific interests of the department included the following scientific problems: the clinical features and course of myocardial infarction and rheumatism in adolescents in the city of Tselinograd, changes in some enzyme systems in rheumatism, the functional state of the liver in atherosclerosis, rheumatism, peptic ulcer disease, cholelithiasis. Using instrumental methods (ballistocardiography, phonocardiography, polycardiography, rheography, and others), the department studied the functional state of the cardiovascular system in atherosclerosis, rheumatism, and chronic lung diseases. Using the liver rheography method, the department staff under the direction of M. V. Kropelnitskaya studied intrahepatic blood circulation in ulcers and cholelithiasis.

The breadth of scientific interests of the founder of the Department of Internal Medicine Propaedeutics largely determined the target settings of scientific research of her colleagues. In a short time, the department was formed as a center for the study of special methods of treating patients with pathologies of internal organs. In the 1966/67 academic year alone, the department held 23 scientific conferences, one candidate's dissertation was defended (assistant V. I. Neklyudov) and a candidate's dissertation was submitted for defense (A. V. Shulgina). Under her supervision, the teachers of the department completed 22 scientific works, of which 10 were published in journals and

collections, and 12 were accepted for publication (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 1, Case 44, Sheet 69). M. V. Kropelnitskaya is the author of 22 scientific works (Kropelnitskaya, 1966a; Kropelnitskaya, 1966b; Kropelnitskaya, 1966c), participated in the work of the 1st Republican Congress of Therapists, in the All-Union Conference of Physiologists (in Tselinograd), completed an internship at the 1st Moscow Medical Institute to familiarize herself with the work of the Academic Council and the Academic Secretary (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 23, Sheet 28).

M. V. Kropelnitskaya paid special attention to the work of the student scientific circle (she took responsibility for its work herself). The members of the circle not only listened to reports and abstracts at their meetings but also once every two weeks, under her leadership, conducted evening rounds of patients in the department with a detailed analysis of case histories and the development of methods for examining patients (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 1, Case 44, Sheet 75).

In addition to educational and scientific work, M. V. Kropelnitskaya paid great attention to helping healthcare authorities. Regularly, she conducted clinical rounds of patients in the therapeutic department of the regional and railway hospitals. To assist in practical health care, the employees of the department repeatedly traveled to the Derzhavinsky, Kurgaldzhinsky, Atbasarsky, and Alekseevsky districts of the Tselinograd region, where they regularly held consultations in various departments of hospitals and clinics (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 1, Case 2, Sheet 20). Moreover, the department's teachers traveled to distant pastures, where they assisted shepherds and their families.

Despite the short period of work at the institute, it can be safely said that her name is associated with the traditions of organizing teaching and research work at the department. During her two-year tenure as head of the department, M. V. Kropelnitskaya carried out significant organizational and methodological work, and also equipped the department with modern equipment. Being an experienced clinician, she carried out extensive medical work in the regional hospital, on the basis of which the department was located. She conducted advanced training for general practitioners. She also had extensive experience in teaching and conducting scientific work.

Her husband's health problems became the basis for M. V. Kropelnitskaya's appeal to the rector of the institute with a request to dismiss her at her request. In the statement, written on July 17, 1967, it was noted that "due to health reasons, her husband cannot be in the conditions of the Tselinograd climate and left for Ukraine to his previous place of work" (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 23, Sheet 41). Family circumstances developed in such a way that she was forced to look for work within the western regions of Ukraine. M. V. Kropelnitskaya left for the city of Ternopil, where she got a job at the Ternopil State Medical Institute (State Archive of Astana city. Fund 215, Inventory 3, Case 23, Sheet 40).

Thus, having analyzed the key aspects of the subject of our research, it can be noted that the Tselinograd I State Medical Institute, created in 1964, thanks to the support of state health authorities and the efforts of the faculty, eventually became the

regional center of medical education. While inferior in many respects (educational infrastructure, treatment facilities, materials, medical devices, etc.) to leading foreign and domestic medical educational centers, the Tselinograd State Medical Institute eventually began to transform into a large scientific and educational institution, becoming the flagship in the republic for the training of medical personnel. Undoubtedly, scientists and teachers of Ukraine played an important role in this process, whose experience and qualifications provided invaluable assistance to the young university.

Conclusions.

In the article, the authors have attempted to analyze the contribution of Professor V. R. Faitelberg-Blank and Associate Professor M. V. Kropelnitskaya in developing the Tselinograd State Medical Institute in the 1960s. Considering the main aspects of the problem of “the contribution of Ukrainian scientists to the development of the Tselinograd Medical Institute”, it is possible to formulate several conclusions. Firstly, the topic of “Ukrainian scientists in virgin Kazakhstan” is poorly studied, and only recently has it become an object of research in domestic historiography. Secondly, the analysis of archival materials made it possible to determine the leading role of Ukrainian scientists in setting off the third-year departments of pathological physiology and propaedeutics of internal diseases (the first therapeutic department of the institute). Thirdly, the results of this study allow us to objectively state that V. R. Faitelberg-Blank and M. V. Kropelnitskaya were not only the founders of the Chairs, but also managed to determine the vector of directions of scientific and pedagogical searches of teachers for many years, created educational and methodological traditions that became a solid foundation for the comprehensive development of departments in the training of highly qualified medical personnel in the region.

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Conflicts of interest.

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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Українські вчені в Ціліноградському Державному Медичному Інституті: Внесок в освіту і науку (1960-ті роки)

***Анотація.** У статті об'єктом вивчення стали питання трудової діяльності, наукових досягнень та вкладу доктора медичних наук, професора Віктора Рафаїловича Файтельберг-Бланк та кандидата медичних наук, доцента Марії Василівни Кропельницької у становленні Ціліноградського державного медичного інституту у 1960-ті роки. Для досягнення мети дослідження було використано методи мікроісторії та порівняльно-історичного аналізу, що дозволили всебічно розкрити діяльність вчених та організаторів медичної освіти В. Р. Файтельберг-Бланк та М. В. Кропельницької у Цілінному краї. Дано характеристику архівних фондів та документів, на основі яких було написано статтю, короткий історіографічний огляд дослідженої теми. Вперше в науковий обіг було запроваджено комплекс джерел, які дозволяють по-новому поглянути та дати об'єктивну оцінку діяльності українських вчених у Ціліноградському медичному інституті. На основі документальних матеріалів Державного архіву міста Астани, відомостей із особистих справ В. Р. Файтельберг-Бланк та М. В. Кропельницької, уточнено основні етапи їх становлення як науковців та педагогів на території України, а також причини появи у Казахстані для роботи в медичному інституті. Діяльність В. Р. Файтельберг-Бланк як засновника кафедри патологічної фізіології сприяла формуванню наукової школи, що здобула визнання в Казахстані та займалася спільною розробкою проблем «фізіологія та патологія травлення». Незважаючи на нетривалий час роботи В. Р. Файтельберг-Бланк в інституті (1965–1967), він одним із перших вчених вишу сприяв прищепленню колегам наукових навичок експериментальної роботи з тваринами. У статті акцентується увага на тому, що багаторічний досвід вченого призвів до розробки довгострокових наукових інтересів кафедри з вивчення функціональних та соматичних м'язів та шлунково-кишкового тракту під час статистичного навантаження та дії високочастотними*

фізичними агентами. Показано, що В. Р. Файтельберг-Бланк вдалося закласти традиції навчання студентів, які стали фундаментом підготовки кваліфікованих медичних кадрів у Казахстані. Автори довели величезну роль М. В. Крпельницької у формуванні кафедри пропедевтики внутрішніх хвороб, що здобула визнання як наукової школи, яка займалася вивченням спеціальних методів лікування хворих із патологіями внутрішніх органів. М. В. Крпельницька приділяла велику увагу вивченню студентами багатьох фізіологічних процесів у нормі та патології. Вперше у виші на заняттях вона супроводжувала теоретичний матеріал демонстрацією хворих, наводила відповідні клінічні приклади. Наприкінці зроблено висновки про величезний внесок науково-педагогічної спадщини В. Р. Файтельберг-Бланк та М. В. Крпельницької у становленні медичної освіти у цілинному Казахстані.

Ключові слова: цілинний Казахстан; Україна; вчені; В. Р. Файтельберг-Бланк; М. В. Крпельницька; медична освіта

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