

To the biography of Professor V.G. Vogralik: method of acupuncture and aspects of Soviet-Chinese relations in the 1950s

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The article deals with the main stages of the activity of Professor V.G. Vogralik, one of which is associated with the introduction of methods of reflexology into medical practice. His scientific and pedagogical activity began at Tomsk State University. Then V.G. Vogralik was the head of the Department of propaedeutic therapy at Stavropol Medical Institute. His activity in Gorky Medical Institute (GMI) became a special milestone in his life and work. There is a reconstruction in this article of the main period of professional activity of V.G. Vogralik, which is associated with his work as the head of the Department of Hospital Therapy at GMI. The research was carried out on the basis of archival materials (most of them are data from the Central Archive of the Nizhny Novgorod region). The choice of the period (1947–1960) can be explained by the fact that it includes events that affected the future activities of the scientist. The author of this article highlights several such moments. Firstly, it is the realization of the basic scientific approaches in different fields of medicine (e.g., neurology, therapy, cardiology) at the Department of Hospital Therapy at GMI. Secondly, the business trip to China as a part of the delegation of Soviet doctors (1954–1956; the main purposes of the trip were medical examination of the highest Chinese command and military personnel and holding a complex of scientific and medical activities), where V.G. Vogralik obtained information about the main provisions of traditional oriental medicine and the treatment method of Zhen-Jiu. Third, his teaching work. Due to the active work of V.G. Vogralik, the Gorky school of acupuncture began to form at GMI, tremendous work was done to study and approbate the mechanisms of action of Zhen-Jiu therapy, to translate special literature and comprehend and adapt the theoretical postulates of Chinese medicine. Using the example of the biography of V.G. Vogralik, the author considers an interesting moment in the history of Russian health care, connected with the development of Soviet-Chinese relations in the 1950s in the field of medicine.

Keywords: *history of medicine, history of health care, V.G. Vogralik, Soviet-Chinese cooperation, the national school of acupuncture, a scientific school*

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Introduction

Ties between Russia and China have a long history. Numerous works have been published based on the analysis of various areas in Russian-Chinese ties [1–3]. In recent decades, works have appeared whose authors, mostly doctors, conduct a general analysis of the history of the development of Zhen-Jiu¹ therapy. There are publications based on translations of official

teaching materials from Chinese medical institutes that are part of the higher education system of the People's Republic of China [4], and works investigating both the philosophical principles of ancient Oriental medicine and the practical aspect of traditional treatment methods [5]. Foreign researchers have also taken an interest in Chinese medicine [6]. There have been publications devoted to peculiarities of various Chinese medical treatment techniques which, from the medical perspective, demonstrate how acupuncture points and meridians relate to the basic principles of the structure and functioning of the human body, i.e., information which

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¹ Chinese term for the practice of acupuncture and moxibustion.

helps shed light on the value of acupuncture and moxibustion in Oriental medicine [7, p. 109, 347].

The number of assignments of local experts from the Ministry of Health of the Soviet Union to several socialist states increased significantly in the 1950s. The Foreign Liaison Directorate coordinated the areas and objectives of both the missions of Soviet doctors and regular visits by foreign experts to the Soviet Union.² Soviet-Chinese ties were a special case. The introduction of Chinese medical techniques into local medical practice is associated with this time.

The establishment and development of the Soviet school of acupuncture is associated with Vadim Gabrieleovich Vogralik (1911–1997), a renowned general physician, whose professional and research interests covered many areas of domestic medical research and practice. His name is associated with the development of not only various areas of clinical medicine, but medical procedures, medical ethics, as well as the establishment and development of domestic acupuncture and moxibustion.³ Guided by systemic approach principles, V.G. Vogralik advanced the idea of nervism (S.P. Botkin, I.M. Sechenov, I.P. Pavlov) in light of achievements in neurosciences, immunology, etc, of his time (his research was based on in-depth pathogenetic analysis). Circumstances forced V.G. Vogralik to change his place of work on several occasions: the “geography” of his professional activity is expansive – from Tomsk to the S.M. Kirov Gorky Medical Institute (GMI), with which a good part of his professional work is associated (from 1947 to 1997). V.G. Vogralik held administrative positions. As head of the inpatient therapy department at GMI (1947–1984), V.G. Vogralik concentrated on key medical issues, and upon returning from his assignment in Beijing (1954–1956), he was able to lay the foundations of the Gorky (and from now on, Soviet) school of acupuncture. In the last eight years of his life, V.G. Vogralik, still a professor in the same department at GMI,

presided over the country’s first acupuncture course for doctors⁴ that he had crafted.

The majority of articles about the professional work of Professor V.G. Vogralik, mostly written posthumously after his death in 1997, essentially generalise his contribution to the clinical treatment of internal diseases. We have attempted to reconstruct the principal stage of his professional activity associated with his work as head of the department of inpatient therapy at GMI (from 1947 up to the 1960s). The choice of this period has to do with moments in his life which influenced the line of activity of this scientist. We think there are three of these moments. Firstly, there is the research and medical work (neurology, therapy, cardiology) in the department of inpatient therapy at GMI. Secondly, there is his assignment as part of the delegation of Soviet doctors to China (1954–1956) to conduct medical check-ups on the country’s party and military top brass and to participate in reforming higher medical education, during which time V.G. Vogralik was introduced to the basic principles of traditional Oriental medicine and Zhen-Jiu therapy. Thirdly, there is his teaching work at GMI. Our work focuses on one of the Soviet health ministry’s missions which, was headed by Professor V.G. Vogralik. Analysis of this assignment helps paint a more complete picture of the assistance rendered to China by the Soviet Union in setting up a national healthcare system. It also helps understand the peculiarities of the establishment of the Soviet school of acupuncture.

The article employs data from the State Archive of the Russian Federation, the Central Archives of Nizhny Novgorod Region and museum materials from the Educational and Historical Centre of the Nizhny Novgorod State Medical Academy.

The beginning of the professional and teaching work of V.G. Vogralik at GMI (1947–1954)

The historiographical basis of the reconstruction of the period under investigation is materials from the Central Archives of Nizhny

² State Archive of the Russian Federation (GARF) F. 8009. Ministry of Health of the USSR 1936–1991. Op. 34. Foreign Liaison Directorate. 1934–1967.

³ V.G. Vogralik was one of the first to attempt to introduce traditional Chinese medicine methods in local practice.

⁴ Central Archives of Nizhny Novgorod Region (TsANO). F. 2533. Op.3. D. Work plan of the department of inpatient therapy of the medical faculty with a course on acupuncture in the doctors’ improvement faculty for 1994–95.

Novgorod region, where we were able to find Professor V.G. Vogralik's personal file,⁵ reports from the inpatient therapy department and shorthand notes from academic council meetings.⁶ The beginning of the teaching, professional, research and medical work of V.G. Vogralik is reconstructed based on archive materials containing personal data sheets⁷ and the autobiography of the professor⁸ (Fig 1).

V.G. Vogralik was born in 1911 in Tomsk. He graduated nine-year school in 1928 and enrolled at the faculty of medicine at the V.M. Molotov Tomsk Medical Institute, where he graduated as a general physician.⁹ He continued his studies as a doctoral student in the department of pathological physiology under Professor (later Academy Fellow) A.D. Timofeevsky and in 1935 he defended his Ph.D. thesis ("On the Roles of the Neurotrophic Component in Blood Regulation"). At the same time, V.G. Vogralik continued his teaching work, mainly in the field of haematology. At the Tomsk Medical Institute, he first worked as an assistant in the department of pathological physiology (1935–1937). In 1937, V.G. Vogralik became an assistant in the faculty of therapeutic clinical practice and in 1939–1940 he was assistant professor. In 1940–1942, he was professor and head of the department of therapy. From 1942 to mid-1945, he was elected head of the department of inpatient therapeutic clinical practice of the medical faculty and in 1941–1942 he was mobilised to head the evacuation hospital based at the Western Siberia Institute of Physiotherapy.¹⁰

⁵ TsANO. F. 2533. Op. 3a. D. 936. Personal file of Vadim Gabrieleovich Vogralik. Born 1911, Doctor of Medicine, Professor, opened 21 August 1947, closed 3 August 1997.

⁶ TsANO. F. 253. Op. 3. Kirov Gorky State Medical Institute for 1945–1976.

⁷ TsANO. F. 2533. Op. 3a. D. 936. L. 3.

⁸ There are several of these autobiographies. They were written as a result of change of place of work, another bid (for election or re-election) to become head of the department, etc. Such autobiographies tend to differ by volume of text (primarily typewritten, but there are also shorter, handwritten ones). Ref: TsANO, F. 2533. Op. 3a. D. 936. L. 5–6, 143

⁹ According to the personal data sheet from GMI // TsANO. F. 2533. Op. 3a. D. 936. L. 3

¹⁰ Western Siberia Institute of Physiotherapy (Tomsk).

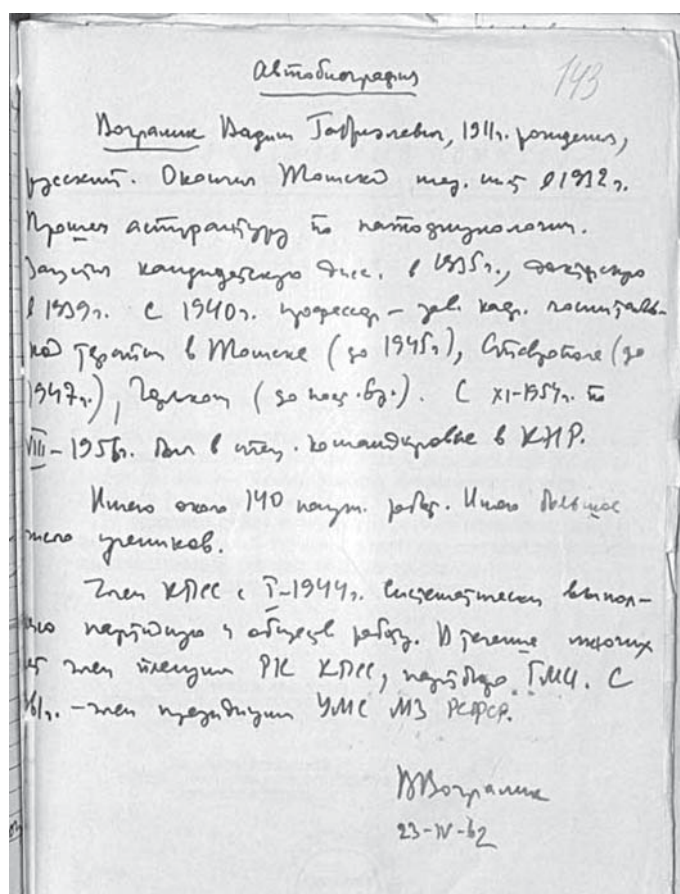


Fig 1. Autobiography of V.G. Vogralik.¹¹
 Central Archives of Nizhny Novgorod Region
 F. 2533. Op. 3a. D. 936. L. 143.

He continued his research work, studying methods for physiotherapy of traumatic injuries suffered during war. His wife's (Tamara Mikhailovna Deulina, born 1912) health problems forced him

¹¹ Text on the picture:

Autobiography

Vogralik Vadim Gabrieleovich, born 1911, Russian. Graduated from Tomsk Medical Institute in 1932. Passed fellowship in pathologic physiology. Defended Ph.D. thesis in 1935, doctoral thesis in 1939. From 1940 professor and head of the department of inpatient therapy in Tomsk (until 1945), Stavropol (until 1947), Gorky (until now). On a special assignment in China from Nov 1954 to Aug 1956.

I have published about 140 papers. I have a large number of students.

Member of the Communist Party since Jan 1944. Regularly conduct party and community work. For many years I have been a member of the plenary assembly of the steering committee of the Communist Party, the party bureau of GMI. From 1961 – a presidium member of the education board of the Ministry of Health of RSFSR.



Fig 2. Staff of the department of inpatient therapy in 1967. In the centre is the department head V.G. Vogralik.
Educational and Historical Centre of the Nizhny Novgorod State Medical Academy. F. 79. Op. L. 2.

to swap the northern climate for a warmer climate for two years. From autumn 1945 to spring 1947, V.G. Vogralik was both head of the department of propaedeutics of internal diseases and head of the department of intermediate level therapy at the Stavropol Medical Institute. He recalled how difficult it was to work in the Caucasus: “In difficult conditions for conducting research work in Stavropol... (lack of the necessary base and proper equipment), the research was primarily on functional pathology of the injured....”¹²

A new phase in the research and professional work of Professor V.G. Vogralik began in 1947: after the death of Professor I.M. Rybakov,¹³ he was invited to take over as head of the department of inpatient therapy at GMI.¹⁴ The professor explains the reason behind his transfer in one of his autobiographies in 1953: “In 1947 (in light of the death of I.M. Rybakov) I was made an offer to move to Gorky. I agreed since my wife’s health had significantly improved by that time. I was elected head of the department of inpatient

therapy at GMI and I have been serving in this capacity since then. I am also the chief physician in the field”.¹⁵

In the 1940–1950s, V.G. Vogralik continued to actively study functional pathology, clinical practice and therapy of hypertensive disease, while also serving as chief physician in the field. After his first years of working at GMI, V.G. Vogralik was viewed as a competent doctor and talented scientist [8, p. 5]. Archives in Nizhny Novgorod have several reference letters about Professor V.G. Vogralik, containing reviews of his work from the leadership and his colleagues.¹⁶ The teaching and procedural achievements of V.G. Vogralik were noted on numerous occasions.¹⁷ V.G. Vogralik successfully combined his research work with his organisational skills. His experience as a department head in various institutions helped hone special leadership skills. Indeed, the results of his work as head of the department were also determined by the team he headed. Assistant Professor N.N. Mizinov,¹⁸

¹² Educational and Historical Centre of the Nizhny Novgorod State Medical Academy. F. 79. Op. 3. D. 34. Autobiography of Professor, Doctor of Medicine, V.G. Vogralik. L. 42.

¹³ Professor I.M. Rybakov headed the department of inpatient therapy at GMI from 1930 to 1945.

¹⁴ TsANO. F. 2533. Op. 3a. D. 936. L. 2.

¹⁵ TsANO. F. 2533. Op. 3a. D. 936. L. 42.

¹⁶ TsANO. F. 2533. Op. 3a. D. 936. L. 13, 21.

¹⁷ TsANO. F. 2533. Op. 3a. D. 936. L. 24.

¹⁸ Assistant Professor N.N. Mizinov was director of GMI from 1952 to 1960.

director of GMI, in 1954 noted: “Thanks to his organisational skills, Vogralik was able to lead the department team, involving all staff in research work”.¹⁹ The department at GMI became the clinical and research base for its head (Fig 2). The research and academic interests of Professor V.G. Vogralik were broad. Besides clinical practice, in collaboration with GMI Professor V.D. Troshin,²⁰ he tackled the problem of spiritual and ethical education [8, p. 7].

Professor V.G. Vogralik’s assignment to China in 1954–1956 as an example cooperation between the Soviet Union and China in the field of medicine

From 1940 to 1950, the Foreign Liaison Directorate of the Soviet Union’s Ministry of Health sent Soviet experts, including doctors, to various countries (Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, North Korea, Mongolian People’s Republic, France, etc) in an effort to establish professional contacts. China was a particularly special case.²¹ Plans for cultural and scientific cooperation between the Soviet Union and China emerged in 1958, but their implementation was halted after 1960.²² The last materials on scientific cooperation in the healthcare sector between the Soviet Union and China were dated January-October 1960.²³ The Soviet Union’s assistance to China was broad and trips by Soviet experts to China were frequent. Materials on these assignments enable to identify several tasks as part of medical and technical assistance offered to China. Firstly, this pertains to the construction of numerous factories and enterprises in China by Soviet experts (for example, factories for manufacturing antibiotics²⁴ and sulpha drugs²⁵ in 1955). A contract was signed in 1955 for the construction of a medical city in the Chinese city of Urumqi.²⁶ Secondly, the process of handing over to the

Chinese technical documentation, bacterial and viral preparations, as well as healthcare system organisation programmes²⁷ began in 1956. Thirdly, reports on assignments of Soviet experts and scientists suggest the diversity of objectives of assignments in the medical field. For example, in June 1956, a trip was organised with the purpose of studying Zhen-Jiu therapy²⁸ in China. After the trip, under the leadership of V.G. Vogralik, local doctors started using acupuncture as a supplementary method in their clinical practice. The technique was initially introduced at GMI. Besides studying moxibustion and acupuncture methods, in May-August 1957 the Soviet Union’s Ministry of Health organised a mission to study Chinese medicinal herbs and their use in herbal medicine.²⁹ In 1958 Soviet scientists participated at the All-China Congress on Parasitic Diseases as contributors and audience members (November),³⁰ as well as the first All-China Conference on Trachoma (July).³¹

Assignments of local experts to China became regular and laid the groundwork for closer ties in the field of medicine. The domestic school of acupuncture, the establishment of which is directly tied to the work of participants of these assignments, has a special place in the history of Soviet medicine in the 20th century. The key role played by Professor V.G. Vogralik in the establishment of acupuncture in our country was noted by A.I. Falev, who called the professor a “luminary of acupuncture” [9].

A Soviet medical mission was sent to the department of therapy of the Beijing Government Hospital, where doctors (among them Professor V.G. Vogralik) conducted medical check-ups on high-ranking military and party officials and introduced principles of the structure and the foundation of a higher medical education system based on the Soviet model. Soviet doctors also introduced their Beijing counterparts to the basic principles on which the Soviet medical service was built. According to a report³² on Professor V.G. Vogralik’s two-year work in this department, doctors held consultations and regular scientific

¹⁹ TsANO. F. 2533. Op. 3a. D. 936. L. 57.

²⁰ Professor at GMI (Nizhny Novgorod State Medical Academy), where he headed the department of neurology, neurosurgery and medical genetics, was Prorector.

²¹ TsANO. F. 2533. Op. 3a. D. 178. (part I), D 179 (part II)

²² TsANO. F. 2533. Op. 3a. D. 435. D. 557.

²³ TsANO. F. 2533. Op. 3a. D. 675.

²⁴ TsANO. F. 2533. Op. 3a. D. 175.

²⁵ TsANO. F. 2533. Op. 3a. D. 174.

²⁶ TsANO. F. 2533. Op. 3a. D. 176, 177.

²⁷ TsANO. F. 2533. Op. 3a. D. 173, D. 266, D. 394, D. 525.

²⁸ TsANO. F. 2533. Op. 3a. D. 247.

²⁹ TsANO. F. 2533. Op. 3a. D. 416.

³⁰ TsANO. F. 2533. Op. 3a. D. 485

³¹ TsANO. F. 2533. Op. 3a. D. 484.

³² TsANO. F. 2533. Op. 3a. D. 936. L. 67–81.

conferences, where they shared their experience and conducted case studies.

Following his two-year stay in China, V.G. Vogralik wrote not only scientific papers on the rational application of acupuncture in various clinical cases, but also his memoirs. In his book titled “A Word on Chinese Medicine”, he summarised his impressions from the trip [10]. V.G. Vogralik dissected the historical and theoretical aspects of Chinese medicine, and systematised methods of diagnosis, as well as methods and means of treatment. He noted the results of the work of Soviet experts in China: “The China of old had a very weak healthcare delivery system and there was almost no prophylactic work. In 1947 the country had only 65 760 hospital beds... 7 special-purpose early treatment centres. And that was meant for 600 million people! By the end of 1957, the country had 5 014 hospitals and sanatoriums with 363 thousand beds...” [10, p. 52–53]. The professor revealed interesting facts about China and Chinese medicine in his other book titled “Two Years in China”.

V.G. Vogralik on numerous occasions noted the importance of this trip to his subsequent work: “...This was a golden era for our service. Then, a group of Soviet scientists, doctors and I, at that time a young professor, were sent to China. We helped Chinese comrades organise a healthcare system, gave lectures, simply gave medical treatment. In China, I was introduced to Oriental medicine and that introduction defined all of my subsequent creative work. I “caught” acupuncture, adopted the methods of Chinese doctors” [12, p. 5]. The contribution of Soviet doctors, particularly Professor V.G. Vogralik, was highly appreciated by colleagues and the leadership in China. This was reflected in extensive correspondence between GMI staff and their Chinese counterparts.³³ For instance, one report on Professor V.G. Vogralik’s work presents the results of his two-year stay in China and two-year collaborative work with Chinese experts. It notes an advanced approach and working procedure, an improvement in working conditions in the department, high academic training and practical

qualification of doctors, research work, 34 papers written and case studies conducted. The report ends with acknowledgment from Professor U. Dye: “Professor Vogralik possesses a wealth of knowledge, high political training, the spirit of internationalism and inexhaustible energy to help others. Throughout this time, he has been incessantly, sincerely educating us, putting us on the right path. Thanks to all this, work in our department has taken a step ahead. The staff in our department has raised its level in different respects. We are therefore eternally grateful to him, we guarantee that we will move forward on this path”.³⁴ The Chinese Minister of Health, Li De Qian, expressed his gratitude on 21 July 1956 (for contribution to Chinese healthcare): “With your advanced medical theory and rich clinical experience in therapy, you gave the Beijing hospital great assistance in improving the work of the hospital and clinical care. You also helped train teachers and carry out educational reforms in higher medical institutions of China, which has helped develop public health”.³⁵ The scientific contribution of Soviet experts was also recognised by the Chinese: “...The Chinese intelligentsia, particularly educated youths, has actively adopted Soviet and Russian culture” [1, p. 83].

The results of the assignment were summed up upon returning to Gorky. At meetings of the Academic Council of GMI (21 September and 16 November 1956), V.G. Vogralik presented two reports – “On work during the assignment in the People’s Republic of China”³⁶ and “On Chinese traditional medicine”.³⁷ In the first report, V.G. Vogralik spoke on the operational aspects of the assignment. He placed emphasis on China’s need for advanced medical technologies, qualified doctors and the creation of a system for laying the foundation for public health. In both reports, he noted the importance of the Chinese themselves studying traditional medicine: “...Studying materials about Chinese traditional medicine shows that it is truly the rich heritage of the centuries-long culture of a great nation. This is the richest spring of medical knowledge, albeit a spring that requires scientifically formulated,

³³ The texts are kept in the Central Archives of Nizhny Novgorod Region, the Educational and Historical Centre of the Nizhny Novgorod State Medical Academy and the Archives of the Nizhny Novgorod State Medical Academy.

³⁴ TsANO. F. 2533. Op. 3a. D. 936. L. 81.

³⁵ TsANO. F. 2533. Op. 3a. D. 936. L. 83.

³⁶ TsANO. F. 2533. Op. 3. D. 152. L. 67–93.

³⁷ TsANO. F. 2533. Op. 3. D. 152. L. 192–210.



Fig 3. V.G. Vogralik among doctors at the Beijing Government Hospital.
Educational and Historical Centre of the Nizhny Novgorod State Medical Academy. F. 79. Op. 3. L. 22.

in-depth and systematic work”.³⁸ The same sentiment is echoed in the report by the staff at the Beijing hospital: “...Professor Vogralik attaches great importance to research work, particularly to scientific research of Chinese traditional medicine”.³⁹ Doctors at the Beijing hospital (Fig 3) highly appreciated the experience and knowledge of Professor Vogralik, his contribution to the improvement of working conditions in the department of therapy, the improvement of academic training and practical qualification of doctors, and the organisation and conducting of research work. Throughout the 1950–1960s, despite political differences between the two countries, GMI continued to receive letters of gratitude from Chinese counterparts addressed to Professor V.G. Vogralik for his work in Beijing.

In the 1950s, Soviet experts actively shared medical technologies and educational concepts with their Chinese counterparts. It is on this basis that the experience of organising Soviet healthcare was successfully implemented in China. According to records “there were about 11 thousand Soviet experts working in China from 1949 to 1959” [3, p. 89]. Soviet-Chinese cooperation was halted in 1960.

³⁸ TsANO. F. 2533. Op. 3. D. 152. L. 205 (ob.).

³⁹ Educational and Historical Centre of the Nizhny Novgorod State Medical Academy. F. 79. Op. 3. D. 241. L. 7.

New area of research at GMI in the late 1950s–1960s

Puncture reflexodiagnosis and therapy gradually became central areas in the work of V.G. Vogralik and his colleagues. These techniques were successfully implemented in clinical practice in the department and the clinic⁴⁰ as well. V.G. Vogralik was attracted by the innocuousness and effectiveness of Chen-Chiu therapy and the fact that in numerous cases, its use yielded better results than drug therapy. The professor sought to merge Oriental medical techniques with the capabilities of European medicine in accordance with achievements in basic science and technology.

Crucial factors that characterise the conditions in which the professor worked from then on were, on one hand, a complicated political situation following the dispute between the Soviet Union and China, and on the other hand, the peculiarities and the controversy surrounding Zhen-Jiu therapy. The Cold War, Iron Curtain and the policy of isolation were bound to influence internal politics, the educational system and science. In the 1950–1960s, scientists found themselves in uncertain waters: on one hand, the creative intelligentsia pinned great hopes on the Khrushchev Thaw, and on the other hand the illusion of freedom became apparent almost immediately. The regime maintained its party-ideological control in the field of culture, education and science. Despite the foreign policy shift after 1956 (“peaceful coexistence”, the Khrushchev Thaw), the situation remained tense. On 18 August 1960, the Soviet Union recalled all of its experts from China and cancelled trade agreements already signed. The policy of confrontation was also reflected in cultural life. In the late 1950s, V.G. Vogralik was confronted with two problems: the opportunity to become the unwelcome head of GMI following his introduction of traditional Oriental medicine in local medical practice and the high likelihood of criticism from the medical community of

⁴⁰ TsANO. F. 2533. Op. 3a. D. 936. L. 69.

Zhen-Jiu therapy, the effectiveness of which was deemed questionable.

Despite the challenges, Professor V.G. Vogralik began to actively introduce the medical community at GMI to his methods and to implement acupuncture principles in clinical practice. Intensive work in this area was carried out in the department of inpatient therapy, which he led for many years. Over time, more extensive study and application of acupuncture and moxibustion began in the Soviet Union. In December 1958 at the first All-Russia Congress of Physicians, V.G. Vogralik presented a paper on the clinical and physiological principles of Zhen-Jiu therapy in the clinical treatment of internal diseases.

The approval of this method required publicity and scientific evidence. In 1959, Medgiz published Chu Lian's "Guide to Modern-day Zhen-Jiu Therapy" [13] translated from Chinese to Russian and V.G. Vogralik's monograph titled "A Word on Chinese Medicine" (1959). In 1959, 1960, 1961 and 1962, Gorky hosted national research and practical conferences [12, p. 9]. In the 1960s, these conferences were held in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Kishinev, Kazan, Rostov-on-Don, Taganrog, and other cities. Considerable materials on the application of Chinese acupuncture in the treatment of various diseases were gathered in Kazan [14, 15]. Professor E.D. Tykochinskaya, who was also part of the mission in China and author of a detailed report and review on Chinese medicine, also wrote several papers relating to the study and application of the new method [16, 17]. Based on V.G. Vogralik's approach, several of his students and followers defended their theses and published monographs [18].

Work on studying potential capabilities of acupuncture continued throughout the 1960s. V.G. Vogralik widened the scope of his

activities and made the study of this method a supplementary subject. Professor V.G. Vogralik's contribution in providing medical assistance to China was also highly praised by the leadership at GMI. V.G. Vogralik was commended⁴¹ for his strong contribution in raising the level of Chinese doctors and organising clinical work.

Conclusion

Archive documents enabled to reconstruct the principal phases in the research and teaching work of V.G. Vogralik, one of which is his work as head of the department of inpatient therapy at GMI. Soon after moving to Gorky and assuming his new post, he proved himself as a highly qualified expert, distinguished scientist and talented administrator. Under his leadership, the department became the research base for the development and implementation of the acupuncture method. The assignment to China as a member of a delegation of doctors has a special value in the biography of V.G. Vogralik. This trip defined his subsequent research work. The scientific interests of V.G. Vogralik were focused on the Zhen-Jiu method. The effectiveness and relative innocuousness of this method, according to the professor, suggested it was better than drug therapy. Professor V.G. Vogralik's assignment is one of the phases of cooperation between the Soviet Union and China.

Based on archive materials, we reconstructed a crucial phase of the research and teaching work of V.G. Vogralik and determined factors that shaped the interest of local experts in traditional Chinese therapy techniques.

⁴¹ Order on the expression of gratitude to V.G. Vogralik for successful execution of the state task of organising and assisting the training of medical research and practical personnel. Central Archives of Nizhny Novgorod Region F. 2533. Op. 3a. D. 936. L. 76.

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