**Bogdanova E.Yu., Kuklin N.S., Artyushin D.V., Makarova S.S., Dolgov G.V., Borisova L.I.,
Fadina J.P.**

Founder of Russian gynecology professor Vladimir Fedorovich Snegirev

*North-Western State Medical University named after I.I. Mechnikov
(Russia, St.Peterburg)*

doi: 10.18411/gqws-01-2022-05

Abstract

This article presents biographical information about Vladimir Fedorovich Snegirev (1847-1916) - the founder of Russian gynecology, an outstanding surgeon, clinician, exceptionally talented scientist and teacher.

Keywords: Vladimir Fedorovich Snegirev, obstetrics, gynecology.

Figure 1. Professor Vladimir Fedorovich Snegirev

Vladimir Fedorovich Snegirev was born on June 27, 1847 in the family of the secretary of the Orphan's Court in Moscow. At the age of 5, he lost his father, who died from cholera. At the age of 7, Vladimir lost his mother, finally becoming an orphan. Fortunately, little Vladimir was not left alone. He was taken in by a distant relative, whom he remembered with warmth in the future. It was thanks to her that he studied within the walls of the Moscow Orphanage - the department of minors. Then V. F. Snegirev was educated at the first Moscow gymnasium. Without graduating from an educational institution, he was transferred to the Kronstadt Navigation School, which played an important role in the later life of Vladimir Fedorovich. In 1864, as a sailor, he was in practice on the frigate "Brave", where he met with the then state councilor, an outstanding national figure and benefactor P.G. Shelaputin, who, having learned about the young man's childhood but serious dream of becoming a doctor, paid for his education outside of Russia [1,2,5].

V. F. Snegirev, having successfully passed the entrance exams, in 1865 became a student of the medical faculty of Moscow University. From the first courses, Vladimir plunged into science, he was especially attracted by anatomy. During his studies, he had no equal in diligence and diligence. It was during this period that he found a mentor dear to him, and later a life friend - Professor AI Babukhin, who lectured on histology [1,2].

Vladimir Fedorovich graduated from the medical faculty and was awarded the title of "doctor with honors" on June 9, 1870. From the beginning of his career he worked at the Maternity Hospital of the Orphanage as a supernumerary junior doctor, and at the Yauzskaya hospital he was an assistant dissector. V. F. Snegirev even then asked questions not only about individual women's

diseases, but also about the interaction of the female body with the environment, the influence of working and living conditions on women's health [1].

In 1873, Vladimir Fedorovich became a doctor of medical sciences, having defended his thesis "On the question of the definition and treatment of posterior hemorrhage." The aim of this work was to prove the importance and necessity of surgical intervention for ectopic pregnancy [1,2].

In the same year, after visiting clinics in England, Scotland, France, Germany, he returned to his native Moscow University, where he was elected assistant professor of the Department of Women's Diseases [2,5].

One of the most significant events in the career of Vladimir Fedorovich is the publication in 1884 of his fundamental guide to gynecology "Uterine bleeding" data as well as personal research. This manual has become famous and in demand all over the world and has been translated into French and English, in addition, in our time it is also of considerable value, being an "encyclopedia of gynecology" [1,6,7].

Figure 2. Guidance on gynecology "Matochnie krvotechenia" V.F. Snegirev

V. F. Snegirev received the post of professor in 1885, and in 1886 he initiated the opening of a gynecological department and an operating room in the Basmany hospital. The following year, Vladimir Fedorovich formed the Moscow Obstetric and Gynecological Society. In 1889, he became an associate of the opening of a gynecological clinic, which to this day bears his name. In addition, V. F. Snegirev was the founder and director of the Gynecological Institute for Advanced Training of Physicians, which later played a huge role in the training of physicians in gynecology [2,5].

It is no exaggeration to say that V. F. Snegirev is one of the founders of Russian gynecology, which is confirmed by his numerous scientific works, including: "On a new method of surgical treatment of uterine fibroids" (1875), "Three cases of ovariectomy" (1876), "On the current state of treatment of uterine cancer" (1881), "Two cases of removal of intrauterine polyps" (1882), "Operation of artificial infertility" (1882), "Uterine bleeding, their etiology, diagnosis, therapy" (1884), "New hemostatic the medium is steam" (1894). Under the leadership of Vladimir

Fedorovich, his students and colleagues defended more than twenty dissertations. Moreover, V. F. Snegirev is the founder of the first Moscow gynecological school, the so-called "Snegirevskaya school", from which such outstanding professors as Boris Aleksandrovich Arkhangel'skiy, Fedor Aleksandrovich Aleksandrov, Aleksandr Petrovich Gubarev and many others have become. One of their merits is the development of a method for a thorough analysis of the course of the disease, which relies on the study of anamnesis, anatomical and functional characteristics of the patient's reproductive apparatus [1,2,5].

It is impossible not to mention the impeccable surgical skills of V. F. Snegirev, among which are outstanding courage, and the beauty of technology, and a high speed of orientation. His success in surgery is reflected in the fact that already in 1898 he performed his thousandth anniversary laparotomy, and by the end of his life their number had grown to over five thousand. All of Russia knew about Vladimir Fedorovich and even secular people turned for his help. So, for example, one of his patients was the wife of Lev Nikolaevich Tolstoy - Sofya Andreevna Tolstaya. Although the patient's husband was against the operation, it still took place. The cyst, which was the size of a child's head, was successfully removed [1,8].

The professor introduced and consolidated the method of hemostasis by using steam, which was called vaporization. In addition, Vladimir Fedorovich was the author of a number of symptoms that were used to diagnose gynecological diseases. He described a probable sign of pregnancy, which was later named after him. V. F. Snegirev's sign is based on a change in the consistency of the uterus, as well as on its compaction and contraction during mechanical stimulation (bimanual study), and then returning to its original (soft) state [2].

V. F. Snegirev in 1909 was elected an honorary member of the St. Petersburg, and in 1912 - the Moscow society of obstetricians and gynecologists. Moreover, he was awarded the same honor in European cities: Paris, London, Edinburgh, Romania, Constantinople. In honor of this outstanding scientist in 1909, the Moscow University minted a special medal [1,5].

V. F. Snegirev died on December 19, 1916 from heart failure on the background of pneumonia. He was buried according to his will in Moscow at the cemetery of St. Danilov Monastery next to the grave of his mentor and best friend - Professor A.I. Babukhina [1,2].

After the death of Professor Vladimir Fedorovich, the Presidium of the Academy of Medical Sciences established a prize that received his name, which was awarded to the best authors of works in the field of obstetrics and gynecology. V.F.Snegirev's prizes were awarded to such outstanding Russian professors as V.I. Grishchenko, A.P. Gubarev, A. Ya.Krassovsky, M.A. I. S. Sidorova, M. V. Fedorova, E. A. Chernukha [1].

For the centenary of the professor (in 1947), a monument was erected in his honor on the territory of the obstetric and gynecological clinic of the 1st Moscow Medical Institute [1,2].

In St. Petersburg in honor of this great obstetrician-gynecologist in 1924 was named one of the oldest maternity hospitals in Russia (currently maternity hospital No. 6), founded in 1771 on the basis of the Orphanage [5].

1. Link of times. Obstetricians-gynecologists of Russia for three centuries. Biographical reference / Yu. V. Tsvelev, E. K. Ailamazyan, V. F. Bezhenar. - SPb.: "Publishing house of NL", LLC, 2010. - 576 p.
2. Serdyukov M.G., Snegirev V.F. Life and scientific activity. Academician of Medical Sciences of the USSR. M.: Publishing house and printing house of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR. 1950.- 266 p.
3. Obstetrics [Electronic resource]: textbook / EK Ailamazyan [and others]. - 10th ed., Rev. and add. - M.: GEOTARMedia, 2019.- 707 p.
4. Gubarev A.B., Snegirev V.F. Obituary. Snegirev's Moscow Printing House; 1917.S. -103.
5. Alexandrova M.O., Olkhovskaya I.V., Kulagina A.I., Bezhenar V.F. Professor Vladimir Fedorovich Snegirev. On the occasion of the 170th birthday anniversary. Obstetrics and gynecology of St. Petersburg. 2017.S. - 4.
6. Tsvelev Yu.V., Ailamazyan E.K., Bezhenar V.F. Unfading stars. Essays on the scientists who created the science of women. Biographical reference book. St. Petersburg: 2011. - 343 p.
7. Obstetrics. National leadership. Short edition / ed. E. K. Ailamazyan, V. N. Serov, V. E. Radzinsky, G. M. Savelyeva. - Moscow: GEOTAR-Media, 2021. - 608 p.
8. International Tolstoy Almanac, P. A. Sergeenko, ed. "Book", 1909. - 648 p.