

Professor Salezijus Pavilionis as the founder of contemporary Lithuanian anthropology

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Prof. S. Pavilionis is a prominent personality in the history of Lithuanian medical science. He was a gifted researcher, noble-minded teacher and a public man. On 1 May 2004 he would have been celebrating his 85th birthday. Unfortunately, on 13 July 1998 Professor found his last repose at Antakalnis Cemetery in Vilnius.

S. Pavilionis continued founding the Lithuanian anthropological school initiated by his teacher J. Pilinskas, contributing to it by studies on physical development, which were not frequent in his time. His major works, to begin with his doctoral thesis "Facial, oral and dental morphology", deal with anthropological subjects and human biology. Most of them are devoted to age-related peculiarities of the child's body norm and pathology. His greatest work on the subject is his habilitated doctoral dissertation "Peculiarities of pubertal period in Lithuanian children". The dissertation provides summarized anthropometrical data on 16475 individuals aged 7-25 years. The work offered a comprehensive characteristic of the physical development, proportions and growth of Lithuanian children and youth from urban and rural districts, as well as the tendency of the physical development of Lithuanians over the last century and children's acceleration, with a special emphasis on the pubertal period. He elaborated and improved the method of pubertal diagnostics and statistics and applied it for detailed investigations of sexual signs, their chronology and development gradient, phases of the pubertal period, the impact of some of the social factors on pubertal development.

S. Pavilionis' goal was to examine and evaluate the anthropometric data on Lithuanian children and youth of all age groups, to present a broad characteristic of physical development to society, to elaborate the basic standards of children and youth populations for researchers and practitioners to base their studies upon. This goal was achieved under

his guidance by his colleagues who performed comprehensive studies of growth and physical development peculiarities in infants, school age children, student youth. These data later were approved as physical development standards and used not only by medical institutions, but also for developing some standards of industrial production such as clothes, shoes, school furniture, etc.

Prof. S. Pavilionis wrote (in co-authorship) several monographs ("Pubescence in Children", 1971; "Man's Growth and Pubescence Diagnostics", 1974; "Fundamentals of Lithuanian Anthropology", 1991; "Bibliography on Lithuanian Anthropology", 1974), prepared "Traits of the History of Lithuanian Anthropology", published numerous papers. He supervised the preparation and maintaining of ten doctoral dissertations.

Thanks to the efforts of Prof. S. Pavilionis the Laboratory of Anthropology at the Medical Faculty was reorganized. At present, it allows all most essential scientific studies in the fields of somatology and palaeanthropology.

Also, Professor and his colleagues investigated the impact of pathological factors (medicinal products, inborn heart diseases, natal traumas) and social environment on the physical development of children.

S. Pavilionis made a significant contribution to preparing manuals and textbooks on human anatomy in the Lithuanian language. As far back as 1945-1946 he published a series of synopses on anatomy: "Angiology", "The Lymphatic System", "The Sympathetic System", which were for a long time used by medical students. In 1957-1958, Professor with colleagues translated into Lithuanian the manual "The Anatomy of Man" by V. Tonkov and in 1972, in collaboration with colleagues from Kaunas, he prepared an original manual on the subject. A second, revised edition of this manual was published in 1984.

Prof. S. Pavilionis was one of those who coined and cherished Lithuanian medical terms. The source of the terms was manuals translated by him from other languages, not only in the field of anatomy, but also physiology, therapy and others, though his merits are highest in standardizing anatomical terms. Actually a new nomenclature of muscles, joints, vessels and nerves was created. Throughout a period of 25 years he with co-workers compiled the fundamental "Vocabulary of Medical Terms" in Latin, Lithuanian and Russian, which was published in 1980. As a member of editorial boards, consultant and author of numerous papers, he also contributed greatly to preparing various Lithuanian encyclopaedias.

Prof. S. Pavilionis was not a stranger in science popularization, either: he delivered public lectures in most of Lithuanian towns and districts, spoke on the radio and TV. The most frequent topic of his lectures was scientific world outlook.

Prof. S. Pavilionis was the many-year Dean of the Medical Faculty of Vilnius University. Almost three decades of his life were devoted to administrative work. In 1948–1950 S. Pavilionis was Vice-Dean and in 1956–1984 (with a short three-year break in 1965–1968) Dean of the faculty. Nobody else at the university has served for such a long period at this post. This was a period when the Medical Faculty was developing intensively and strengthened its positions. New doctors of science grew up, and a large group of young and promising workers served alongside the old experienced professors. The Medical Faculty held the leading position as regards the number of employees with scientific degrees and titles, and half of all habilitated doctors of the university were employed at the Medical Faculty. Only thanks to the efforts of Prof. S. Pavilionis the speciality of hygiene and sanitary was introduced at the faculty, together with an extramural paediatric department (which later grew into the day-time paediatric department) and the advanced-training board for doctors (which later developed into a separate department). Dean S. Pavilionis always favoured the young generation of medical professionals, was a willing participant of numerous events of students' life, took care of their needs, and therefore everybody respected and loved him.

Prof. S. Pavilionis developed particularly broad and active public activities. At the "Piniņa" ("Know-all") society, since the very day of its establishment, he was a member of the governing body of its medical sector; also, he was a member of the trade-union committees of the Medical Faculty and Vilnius University, headed the students' scientific society of the faculty. From 1952, Prof. S. Pavilionis was Managing Editor and Editor-in-Chief of the "Medicina" series of scientific works of the Vilnius University. As Dean, he headed the Council of the Medical Faculty and was a member of numerous

methodical and other boards and committees of the Ministry of Higher and Special Secondary Education, Ministry of Health, Physical Culture and Sports Committee of Lithuania. In 1959–1991, S. Pavilionis headed the Lithuanian Society of Anatomists, Histologists and Embryologists, took part in restoring the Medical Society of Vilnius, which he loved and cherished, and was its Chairman from 11 March 1977 till his death.

S. Pavilionis, an outstanding researcher and erudite, highly educated in all spheres of life, a talented teacher and enthusiastic labourer, is well known not only in Lithuania, but also beyond its borders. He developed a close collaboration with the Erfurt and Greifswald Universities (Germany), Polish, Canadian, American and Russian researchers; he had numerous followers and disciples who continue his works and develop his scientific ideas.

His scientific achievements and devoted service were highly appreciated by Government, Minister of Education and Rector of Vilnius University, who bestowed on Prof. S. Pavilionis numerous awards.

Thus, S. Pavilionis, Professor of the Medical Faculty of Vilnius University, habilitated doctor of medical sciences, Honoured Scientist, paved a particularly broad road of his honourable and virtuous life. Not numerous are people who could boast of having been employed at the university for 52 years, of them 40 years as Head of a Chair and 25 years as Dean of a faculty.

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Profesorius Salezijus Pavilionis – Lietuvos ūolaikinės antropologijos kūrėjas

Santrauka

S. Pavilionis tāsė savo mokytojo J. Pīlinsko pradėta lietuviškosios antropologijos mokyklos kūrimā. Svarbiausieji jo darbai, pradėdant 1948 m. medicinos mokslų daktaro disertacija „Veido, burnos ir dantų morfologija“, yra antropologinio pobūdžio ir nagrinėja žmogaus biologiją. Dauguma jō skirti vaiko organizmo normos ir patologijos amžiaus ypatumams. Didžiausias darbas ūia tema – habilituoto medicinos mokslų daktaro disertacija „Lietuvio vaikō lytinio brendimo periodo ypatybės“. Ūiame praktinei medicinai svarbiame darbe jis iđanalizavo visā lietuviō vaikō augimo periodā, sudarė augimo ir brendimo standartus, iđryđkino augimo ir brendimo ūvairovės priežastis praturindamas žmogaus biologijos suvokimā. Tokios su bendraautoriais parađytos knygos, kaip „Vaikō lytinis brendimas“ (1971), „Žmogaus augimo ir brendimo diagnostika“ (1974), „Lietuvio antropologijos metmenys“ (1991), iđliko medicinos mokslo aukso fonde. Profesorius buvo daugybės mokslo leidinio organizatorius, redaktorius, vertėjas, redakcinio kolegijō narys, aktyvus lietuviškosios enciklopedijō bendraautoris ir konsultantas. Iđ viso jo bibliografijoje yra per 500 publikacijō.