MÜNİR AHMET SARPYENER
1902 – 1982

1923 Graduated from the Istanbul University Medical School.
1924 Intern at Gülhane Clinical Practice Hospital.
1925-26 General surgery assistant at Haydarpaşa Military Hospital.
1927 Worked as a surgeon at the Gülhane Clinical Practice Hospital.
1927 Resident at the Pediatric Surgery and Orthopedics Department of the Lyon Medical School in France.
1928-1932 Worked in several Military Hospitals in Turkey.
1934 Appointed as an associate professor to the Pediatric and Orthopedic Surgery Clinic of Hamidiye Etfal, the Children’s Hospital.
1941 Became a professor.
1942-1958 Employed at the Haseki and Vakıf Gureba hospitals in Istanbul.
1958 Became the director of the Pediatric Surgery and Orthopedics Department of Istanbul University Medical School.

In 1934, the Pediatric Surgery and Orthopedics clinic of the Children’s Hospital was one of the educational hospitals of Istanbul University Medical School. Sarpyener was the head of the clinic which had only ten beds. There were no assistants and only one nurse.

Since pediatric and orthopedic surgery was not recognized as a separate medical specialty, this specific branch of medicine was regarded as unnecessary and the patients were referred from the general surgery outpatient clinic.

His doctorate thesis (1934) was on spina bifida. Following his studies on cadavers and examinations on his patients and their X-rays, in 1944 he described a specific congenital malformation, which he proposed to treat through surgery by expanding the spinal canal.

Sarpyener showed that this malformation, thereafter known as "canal stenosis" was a congenital stricture of the spinal canal, constricting the nerves, causing paresias, walking disorders, paresthesias, urinary and fecal incontinence, paralysis and inward bending of the feet.

He published his observations about "the congenital stricture of the spinal canal" in two articles, written in German and English ("Congenitile des Wirbelskanal", Wiener Medizinische Wochenchrift, 1944; "Congenital stricture of the spinal canal", Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery 1945), without being aware of the fact that these were the first articles on the subject.

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Sarpyener was also the first to inform that canal stenosis might also be encountered in adult population. With this contribution, many patients who had been misdiagnosed, or many cases which were thought to be untreatable till then, could successfully be diagnosed and treated.

He published the journal Acta Ortopedica Turcica. He was one of the founders of the Turkish Orthopedics and Traumatology Society, and the Turkish Sports Medicine Society. He wrote 6 books and more than 200 articles, 25 of which were in foreign languages.