

RUSSIAN CENTRE OF PATHOLOGY AS A BASIS OF PROGRESS OF RUSSIAN PATHOLOGY IN THE FUTURE*

Alexander N. Zubritsky

Department of Pathology, Municipal Institution "Taldom Central Regional Hospital", Taldom, Russian Federation

Summary. Nowadays in Russian Federation the necessary conditions seem ripe for the creation of a Russian Centre for Pathology which could function as a "brain" centre and at the same time be an office of the Russian Society of Pathology. The process of organizing the Russian Centre for Pathology is proposed in the form of brief outlines and considerations for scrutiny and analysis to be followed by a thorough discussion. The creation of such a Russian Centre for Pathology having no counterpart in the world pathoanatomical practice will undoubtedly be a powerful breakthrough in Russian Pathology.

Key words: *Russian Centre for Pathology, Russian Pathoanatomical Service, Russian pathology*

INTRODUCTION

The structural organization of the Russian Pathoanatomical Service (RPS) has currently achieved such a level of development that there seems to have arisen a need for creation in Russian Federation of a united, up-to-date, organizational, methodical, consultative and statistical centre on studying human pathology at a qualitatively new level – the Russian Centre of Pathology (RCP) [9]. Otherwise, the RPS, being a system of measures aimed at improving diagnosis, treatment and research, will sooner or later be drowned

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in the already available and currently increasing flood of information. In its turn, creation of the RCP, which would have no counterpart in the world patho-anatomical practice, would undoubtedly be a powerful breakthrough in Russian Pathology.

The aim of creating the RCP is to unite all national pathologists on the basis of their state residence, to establish at the state level common standards and requirements imposed upon anatomical pathology (standardization), as well as to unify the knowledge on pathology (unification). In other words, pathologists must think and express themselves in one professional language [1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12].

What are the problems facing the RCP?

In my opinion, below is a list of problems facing the RCP:

1. Development of scientific trends and plans of improving the activities of RPS.
2. Elaboration of guidelines, instructions, common forms for cytological and biopsy studies, death certificates, common forms of postmortem examination protocols and annual reports.
3. Analysis of intravital diagnosis of the character of pathological processes, especially in the field of oncology, on evidence of cytological, biopsy and autopsy banks, using modern computers.
4. Timely detection and prevention of acute infections and epidemical diseases.
5. Study and scientific development of specific problems based on the data from various divisions of pathology.
6. Study of problems of etiology, pathogenesis and morphogenesis of diseases, as well as causes and mechanisms of death, by data obtained from the autopsy bank.
7. Scientific and practical control by means of a comparison of clinical and pathoanatomical diagnoses, study, generalization, analysis and investigation of clinical and pathoanatomical data.
8. Analysis of death certificates and annual reports, scientific control over therapeutico-diagnostic activities in order to eliminate the detected defects of diagnosis and treatment, as well as a study of the demands by RPS for equipment and chemical reagents.
9. Study and analysis of auxiliary methods of study (virological, biochemical, bacteriological etc.) on cytological, operative, biopsy and autopsy materials.
10. Training of personnel (specialists in pathology) according to the common curriculum.
11. Rendering permanent consultative help concerning problems of pathology and joint discussion of obscure cases.
12. Planning and organization of congresses, conferences, symposia, workshops and other forms.

13. Exercising control over publishing of books, journals, booklets, newsletters on pathology and other pathoanatomical documentation.

14. Establishing relations among pathologists of the RCP, between the RCP and medical societies, associations, the World Health Organization and other organizations by means of the best telecommunication services.

What are the structural subdivisions of the RCP going to be like?

In my opinion, the RCP should comprise various special departments of pathology organized on the principle of the pathology of systems of organs, for example: departments of pathology of respiratory organs, circulatory organs, digestive organs, urinary organs, department of endocrine pathology, central nervous system pathology department and so on; with each department being subdivided into subdivisions, such as subdivision of autopsy, biopsy subdivision, cytology subdivision and the like with formation of a data bank therein. Depending on particular conditions, planning of other subdivisions within those established would be possible.

Furthermore, it seems necessary to take into consideration general departments of autopsy, biopsy and cytology to be equipped in accordance with the name and to carry out processing of the respective material. These three departments should embrace local clinical hospitals and medical institutes. The general department of autopsy, which should be situated on the ground floor and have underground premises for refrigerating chambers and for storage of archive material, will receive all death certificates from all regions of the Russian Pathology, followed by further distribution thereof along the divisions of special pathology for statistical analysis.

It is also indispensable to create a cine-photographic department for carrying out macro-, microphotography and shooting film. An increasingly important part will be played by the newly organized departments of informatics and telematics, with due selection of personnel, and which will be equipped with up-to-date computers containing all the information of Russian Pathology. In addition, the department of informatics will collect and analyze all the world information on pathology. Prompt and accurate retrieval of information should be carried out by means of a computer-assisted database, which will contain bibliographical and referative descriptions of world publications. Orders for the reprints could be processed here. The use of high-performance personal computers equipped with high-capacity disk units will lead Russian Pathology to progress.

There is no question that, based on computer-assisted results, the program on improvement and development of the RPS will be accomplished. It is also unquestionable that each department must be headed by an erudite first-class specialist with a long practical record of service in the field directly related to the department concerned. It is reasonable that all of the aforementioned departments

must, from time to time, be improved and equipped with up-to-date technologies and methods.

The problems of financing the RCP should be settled with due regard to the interests of the country concerned.

I am sure that a centre like the RCP will sooner or later be founded.

CONCLUSION

The creation of the RCP would make it possible to improve both accounting and accountability, standardize pathoanatomical documentation, and unify the methods of study and the process of education. An annual report, which would be prepared by the Centre, would make it possible at the Russian scale of pathology to compare such parameters as the proportion of cover with autopsies, the proportion of discrepancies between clinical and pathoanatomical diagnoses, 24 h and infant mortality, and other indices. This would allow RCP management to make proper conclusions and take appropriate measures aimed at improving the quality of therapeutic and diagnostic activities and research work.

The creation of such a centre is not somebody's whim but the dictates of the time and, in spite of the fact that the centre will cost a pretty penny, it is urgently needed and this need is already reflected now. Therefore, maximum effort has to be made in order to create the RCP with each pathologist of Russian Federation having to make as big a contribution as possible to the development and strengthening of Russian Pathology. We need a centre where the best pathologists could gather in order to stir up the enthusiasm of younger pathologists, to lead them and to set professional examples for them. The creation of the RCP as the grounds of progress of Russian Pathology will undoubtedly be appreciated at its true value and will be accepted with thanks by our descendants.

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 *Address for correspondence:*

A. N. Zubritski, MD
Department of Pathology
Municipal Institution
Taldom Central Regional Hospital
ul. Pobedy 19
Taldom 141900
Russian Federation
e-mail: zubr5taldom@mail.ru