



THREE SIGNIFICANT FIGURES IN THE ANKARA MEDICAL FACULTY 2: PROF. DERYA DİNÇER, M.D.

*ANKARA TIP FAKÜLTESİNDE ÜÇ DEV ÇINAR-2:
PROF. DR. DERYA DİNÇER*

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SUMMARY

The Department of Orthopedics and Traumatology of Ankara University's School of Medicine has employed and trained many academicians in almost every sub-branch of Orthopedics from the very first day it was established until today. Masters such as Professor Güngör Sami Çakırgil and Professor Rıdvan Ege played important roles in the development of spinal surgery in a certain manner, also known as the "Ankara Medical School Approach". After these two masters, three significant figures took over this task, and they were also pioneers and contributed to the development of Turkish Spinal Surgery nationwide. In this series of biographies, the life stories of these figures and their endeavors for the development of Turkish Spinal Surgery, are told in three chapters. This, the second chapter, discusses Professor Derya Dinçer, and the final chapter discusses Professor Tarık Yazar. On behalf of their students, we also aim to emphasize our appreciation and gratitude to them.

Key Words: Derya Dinçer, scoliosis, thoracolumbar spinal fractures, spinal surgery

Level of evidence: Biography, Level V

ÖZET

Ankara Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Ortopedi ve Travmatoloji Anabilim Dalı, kuruluşundan bu güne kadar aşağı yukarı Ortopedi ve Travmatolojinin her dalında çok kıymetli ve konusunda üst düzey bilgi ve deneyime sahip birçok öğretim üyesi yetiştirmiş ve bünyesinde bulundurmıştır. Ankara Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi Ortopedi ve Travmatoloji Anabilim Dalı'nda Güngör Sami Çakırgil ve Rıdvan Ege gibi ustalar çalışmış ve omurga cerrahisinde Ankara Tıp ekolünün gelişmesinde önemli rol oynamışlardır. Onları takip eden ve hâlihazırda çalışan Prof. Dr. Derya Dinçer, bir dönem Anabilim Dalı Başkanlığı da yapmış ve hocalarından aldığı misyonu, daha geniş bir vizyonla sürdürmüş, Türk Omurga Cerrahisi'ne önemli katkılar sağlamış, gerçek bir öncü olmuştur. Bu üç bölümden oluşan biyografi çalışmasında Türk Omurga Cerrahisine büyük katkıları olan üç dev çınarın hayat hikâyeleri ve Türk Omurga Cerrahisinin gelişmesi içi çabaları anlatılmıştır. Bu çalışmanın ikinci bölümü Prof. Dr. Derya Dinçer'e ayrılmıştır. Üçüncü ve son bölümde ise Prof. Dr. Tarık Yazar'a yer verilecektir. Bu vesile ile onlara yetiştirdikleri öğrenciler adına minnet ve şükran duygularımızın ifade edilmesi amaçlanmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Derya Dinçer, skolyoz, torakolomber vertebra kırıkları, omurga cerrahisi

Kant Düzeyi: Biyografi, Düzey V

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LIFE HISTORY OF PROF. DR. DERYA DİNÇER

Prof. Dr. Derya Dinçer was born on 5 June 1950 in Ankara, as the oldest child of an officer's family with three children. His mother was a housewife and his father was a bureaucrat for the Finance Ministry Undersecretary of the Treasury. Derya Dinçer completed his secondary and high school degrees at TED Ankara College. Derya Dinçer, who was hardworking, entered Ankara University Medical School in 1968. He finished Ankara University Medical School in 1974. He started his assistantship in Anatomy in the same year, and then his specialization in the Orthopedics and Traumatology Department in 1975. The time he spent in the Anatomy department allowed him to master anatomy during surgery.



Figure-1. Prof. Dr. Derya Dinçer



Figure-2. At his daughter's wedding

The faculty members during his orthopedics specialization were Prof. Dr. Avni Duraman, Prof. Dr. Rıdvan Ege, Prof. Dr. Güngör Sami Çakırgil, Prof. Dr. Zeki Korkusuz, and Doç. Dr. Erdoğan Altinel (Figure 1).

In 1976, he married Prof. Dr. Gülay Dinçer, who was a physical therapist who subsequently obtained her professorship in this department. To me, she was friendly and cheerful, and she was my favorite teacher during my specialization years. Currently, they have two children (Figure-2).

Prof. Dr. Derya Dinçer became an Orthopedics and Traumatology Specialist by completing his specialization in 1979. He went to Japan in 1980. He specialized in spinal surgery in Chiba University for two years, which was a milestone in his life. He turned to spinal surgery and he made great contributions to the Ankara Medical School Approach using what he learned in Japan (Figure-3).

He began work in the Faculty on his return to Turkey in 1982, and then he attended his military service after a short time. He was appointed an Associate Professor in 1986 and a Professor in 1992. Since then, he has been working in Ankara University Medical School. He was also the head of the Department for a period of time (Figure-4).



Figure-3. Prof. Dr. Derya Dinçer with his assistants.



Figure-4. Prof. Dr. Derya Dinçer was the head of the Department for a period of time.

His biggest passion is sports. Derya Dinçer was an athlete for a long time, and also played basketball for a while. He played for Mülkiye Spor and then the MTA team in the Amateur Basketball League during his university years. He worked for the Dumbbell Federation for years,

and also worked for the Turkey and World Boxing Federations. He is also a member of the Turkey Boxing Federation and the World Amateur Boxing Federation Health Committee.

His principle in his working life was that, as he said in an interview with a medical journal, “*an academician should primarily be the person who is a trainer and researcher, who enlightens the group he trains and shows them the right way*”, and he shares everything he knows with his students¹.

Again, in the same interview, he discussed the health system and social insurance applications: “*All the governments and politicians used the health system for their political aims until today. Now, we see that a huge portion of the government budget goes to social insurance expenses. In my opinion, to give a better service, those things should be completely changed. For this purpose, it is not necessary to reinvent the wheel. The systems used in developed countries in the world should be integrated to our country. However, new applications, such as whole-day application and SGK, have been introduced. I do not think that those will be solutions for the problems encountered. In the current health policy, the health system is searching for quantity, not quality.*”

CONTRIBUTIONS OF PROF. DR. DERYA DİNÇER TO TURKISH SPINAL SURGERY:

Prof. Dr. Derya Dinçer studied with the doyens of spinal surgery, Prof. Dr. Rıdvan Ege and Prof. Dr. Zeki Korkusuz, during his specialization training in Ankara Medical School. Derya Dinçer, who was wholly trained in the Ankara Medical School Approach, also made contributions to this approach.

He was a member of the Turkish Orthopedics and Traumatology Association Administrative Board, and he also was chosen as a member of Europe Spinal Surgery Association and of the spinal group of one of the largest foundations, AO-Spine (Figure-5).

He was among the first to use the ‘fixateur interne’ device, which is used as an internal fixation device for thoracic and lumbar vertebral fractures. He completed CD training in Berck-sur-Mer in France in the clinic of Prof. Dr. Chopin, ISOLA training in Kansas University, USA, in Prof. Dr. Marc Asher’s clinic, and U.S.S. system training in Nottingham University in John Webb’s clinic. As well as applying those systems to any kind of spinal disease, he also contributed to training in those systems, and the development of a number of spinal surgeons.

He worked as an educator in Davos, Switzerland, at AO spinal courses. He has a number of national and international articles in the spinal surgery field. He is currently a faculty member of Ankara University Medical School Orthopedics and Traumatology Department, and continues to train new spinal surgeons (Figure-6)^{2,3}.



Figure-5. With Prof. Dr. İlker Çetin and Prof. Dr Mehmet Demirtaş



Figure-6. At an Associate Professorship exam

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