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Brief communications

Henryk Kadyi and the Formation of the Medical Faculty of the Lviv University (1894 - 1912) – A Short Introduction

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The article investigates the historical significance of Lviv, a longstanding intellectual center in Eastern Europe, particularly as the former capital of the Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria. Despite its academic prominence, especially in anatomical sciences, there is a notable gap in international research concerning the University of Lviv and figures like Henryk Karol Klemens Kadyi (1851–1912), a key anatomist and university rector (1898–1899). The study provides an overview of Lviv University's history and explores Kadyi's academic impact, emphasizing his crucial role in re-establishing the Medical Faculty in 1894. Kadyi's contributions to anatomical sciences and his role in shaping Lviv's medical education are highlighted. Despite his significance, Kadyi remains understudied in international historical research, prompting the authors to initiate a collaborative international project to delve into various aspects of his professional life and his influence on the medical field in the Habsburg Monarchy between the late 19th and early 20th century.

Keywords: Henryk Kadyi; medical faculty, medical universit, Lviv, Lviv University, Danylo Halytsky Lviv National Medical University, history of medicine, historical scientific networks, history of European science, knowledge transfer, European history, history of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, anatomical museum.

For centuries, Lviv, the capital of the Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria, has been an essential intellectual center for Eastern Europe. From 1784 onwards, according to Newman's idea, the city was home to a university that followed European standards in its structure, management, teaching, and scientific organization [1].

Until now, in international publications, there has been little research on the University of Lviv, the anatomical sciences in Lviv and especially one of their most crucial representatives, university rector and professor of anatomy Henryk Karol Klemens Kadyi (1851–1912). Thus, comparative, or even holistic, inquiries into various universities within the Habsburg Monarchy have been largely hindered from adequately considering Lviv's position, in particular when it comes to anatomical sciences.

With a growing research focus on international academic networks and the long-term aim of getting to a pan-Habsburg picture of medical history, also represented by the authors of this contribution, this shortcoming in the international research landscape becomes increasingly evident. The same can be stated regarding current research on knowledge circulation within the Habsburg monarchy and beyond. To briefly introduce Lviv's importance in these aspects, this short communication offers a concise overview of Lviv University's history before delving into Kadyi's particular academic impact and biography.

Lviv history as a modern intellectual center started in 1661 when the Jesuit Academy was established. In addition to law, theology, and philosophy, medicine was taught here. The next important step of the institutionalization of medical teaching in Lviv was the Austrian government's appointment of Andrzej Krupinski (1744–1783), a graduate of the medical faculty of the University of Vienna, as protophysician of Galicia in 1772. Krupinski headed the Medical Collegium, founded in 1773, and organized the training of barber surgeons and midwives according to the new Austrian legislation. From 1773–1784, sixty surgeons and midwives were trained at the Medical College [2].

In 1784, Austrian Emperor Joseph II founded Lviv University – Josephine University, with a medical faculty in it. However, during the Napoleonic Wars (1799–1815), in the period from 1805 to 1817, Lviv University was reorganized into Lviv Lyceum and was connected with Kraków University in 1805. Yet, the reorganization did not interrupt the university tradition of Lviv, as the representatives of the teaching staff, who followed general trends of European higher education, particularly the Habsburg monarchy, did not change. When the Lyceum was reconverted back to the University in 1817, the Medical Faculty was not re-established in its pre-Napoleonic form. It only offered limited surgical studies.

While Lviv University followed the traditions of Habsburg universities, it has some peculiarities due to national factors at play. During the early stage, after it was re-established in 1817, non-Galician professors dominated – at first, mostly Austrians and Czechs, which led to a dominance of Latin and German in the educational process (1784–1848), and later Germans (1848–1871). However, over the years, especially towards the end of the 19th century, the number of representatives from Galicia – Poles and Ukrainians – increased [2].

Finally, in 1894, the restoration and the establishment of the medical faculty of Lviv University was officially announced. Henryk Kadyi, Professor of Descriptive Anatomy and Pathology, and in 1898–1899, rector of Lviv University, is a key figure in this process as he was responsible for the reorganization of the re-established faculty. Up to that point, lecturers and support staff had been counted among the Faculty of Philosophy [3].

Despite Kadyi's importance, he has not received much attention in international historical research because much of the information is inaccessible in English. Although his biography and scientific achievements are quite well-known to researchers today, many pages from his life and research remain insufficiently studied. This article offers a first brief overview in English to open up a broader international interest in Kadyi's relevance for the development of Habsburg medical sciences. The authors of this paper have already taken the first step in this direction and are currently collaborating on an international project concerning Kadyi.

Henryk Kadyi (1851–1912), originally from Przemyśl (a city in Galicia), graduated from the Lviv Gymnasium and then studied and worked at the universities of Vienna, Kraków, Prague and Leipzig, with additional research trips throughout Europe. Among his teachers – both before and after his graduation as Doctor of Medicine – were important medical (especially anatomical) figures like Joseph Hyrtl (1810–1894), Carl Langer (1819–1887), Theodor Billroth (1829–1894) in Vienna, Carl Toldt (1840–1920) in Prague, and Ludwik Teichmann (1823–1895) in Kraków.

After some years at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków during his early scientific career, Henryk Kadyi received the title of the Regular Professor of Descriptive Anatomy at the Veterinary School in Lviv on September 15, 1881 [4].

On September 27, 1887, Henryk Kadyi accepted the position of a Private Associate Professor (Docent) of Anatomy of the Human Body at the Faculty of Philosophy of Lviv University.

When the Medical Faculty in Lviv was founded in 1894, there were originally only two employees listed in the Medical Faculty: Henryk Kadyi, Doctor of Medicine, Ordinary Professor of Descriptive Anatomy, and Adolf Beck (1863–1942), Doctor of all Medical Sciences, Extraordinary Professor of Physiology [5]. Due to the lack of professors, it was officially announced that the full-time work of the faculty would only begin in 1896/1897. Gradually, new members were re-assigned from the Philosophical Faculty, where they had previously been employed. Other such notable members of the faculty and colleagues of Kadyi between its foundation and 1912 were, for example, Vladyslav Nemilovich (1863–1904), Gustaw Piotrowski (1863–1905), Adolf Beck, Ludwik Rydygier (1850–1920), Antoni Mars (1851–1918), Emanuel Machek (1852–1930), and Antoni Jurasz (1847–1923) [6] (Fig. 1).



Figure 1. Henryk Kady (red underline) and professors of Lviv University in 1912. Photo from the funds of the Museum of History of Ivan Franko National University of Lviv

With the re-establishment of the Medical Faculty, Kadyi, as head of the Institute of Anatomy, received a new edifice, which aligned with the contemporary modern standards for anatomical functional buildings [7]. Before establishing the Institute in August 1891, the Austrian Ministry of Religions and Education turned to Kadyi to request a specialized museum to facilitate the work of the Department of Descriptive Anatomy of the future Medical Faculty of Lviv University. In November of the same year, the anatomist received a definitive order from the Ministry to begin planning new buildings for theoretical institutions of the Medical Faculty, namely, Institutes of Descriptive Anatomy, Histology, and Physiology. The project developed by Henryk Kadyi was approved by the Ministry of Religions and Education on November 26, 1892. It is assumed that the plans for the anatomical building (Fig. 2) were strongly influenced by Kadyi's personal knowledge of the anatomical institute in Prague and potentially elsewhere in Europe.

Before founding the Medical Faculty, he established a substantial anatomical collection and a museum, which is still displayed and accessible today. With the foundation of a museum collection, Kadyi followed an already well-established international Habsburg tradition among anatomists, e.g., in Vienna, where Joseph Hyrtl had established a comparative anatomical collection in the 1850s. In 1891, the collection was converted into a full-scale anatomical institute, which was definitively named “Institute of Descriptive Anatomy” in 1896/97.¹



Figure 2. Building of morphological sciences. Extracted from the photo “Senate and professors of Lviv University in 1911,” funds of the Museum of History of Ivan Franko National University of Lviv. Fragment

That same year, Kadyi was appointed dean of the Medical Faculty. Furthermore, in 1898/99, he acted as rector of Lviv University. Additionally, during this time, he served as a member of the Sejm (the Galician Parliament), where he was particularly active in shaping medical policy, as archive sources show, such as an – ultimately not-approved – motion to increase the funding of a children’s hospital or the more successful introduction of the institution of school doctors. Kadyi’s career ended when he unexpectedly died in 1912, suffering from sepsis, which he had contracted due to an injury while working on the corpse of Kasimir Felix Badeni (1846–1909), former governor (k.k. Statthalter) of Galicia and Lodomeria (1888–1895) and later prime minister (Ministerpräsident) of Cisleithenia (1895–1897), the Austrian half of the Habsburg monarchy.

With Henryk Kadyi now preliminarily introduced, it is evident that he was a shaping factor in the development of medical sciences in late 19th century Lviv and a prime representative of Habsburg and European scientific networks and anatomical education at that time. Thus, our joint international project sets out to conduct further inquiry into various aspects of his professional life: (1) his medical education and upbringing, as well as his teacher-student connections, which we consider a formative basis; (2) the impact he had on research and teaching practices in Lviv and his role as a part of a tradition of practices acquired elsewhere (Vienna, Kraków, Prague); (3) his role in transferring architectural standards and knowledge for anatomical purposes from other scientific centers to Lviv; and (4) his personal academic networks and his contributions to the medical field at the turn of 19th and 20th centuries.

¹ Note: During the first year after its foundation, the institute had doctor of medicine Edward Pivl and doctor of medicine Tadeusz Wenzlewski as assistants; during the second semester, a new demonstrator position was introduced, which was held by Alfred Buzynski. (Skład personal I program wykładów w letnim polroczu 1895/96, 24).

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