

**140 YEARS FROM THE BIRTH OF SOLOVIEV ZINOVY PETROVICH**  
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**Abstract:** *the article examines the life and work of one of the greatest Soviet-Russian physician, prominent organizers and theoreticians of civil and military health care system, Soloviev Zinovy Petrovich (1876 - 1928.). He served as Secretary of the Medical and sanitary Department of the Chief Committee of the All-Russian Zemstvo Union of Aid to the Injured and Sick soldiers; was responsible for the evacuation of the wounded and sick soldiers, established sanitary-epidemiological institutions. He was Chairman of Executive Committee of the RSFSR Red Cross, and later appointed Head of the Main Military Medical Directorate of the Red Army. Soloviev made an invaluable contribution to the development of military medicine.*

**Keywords:** *Soloviev Zinovy Petrovich, military health care, military physician, tuberculosis control, sanitary-epidemiological institutions.*

**СОЛОВЬЕВ ЗИНОВИЙ ПЕТРОВИЧ - 140 ЛЕТ СО ДНЯ РОЖДЕНИЯ**  
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**Аннотация:** *в статье исследована жизнь и деятельность крупнейшего организатора и теоретика гражданского и военного здравоохранения Соловьева Зиновия Петровича (10.11.1876 - 06.11.1928 г.). Он работал секретарем Врачебно-санитарного отдела Главного комитета Всероссийского земского союза помощи раненым и больным воинам; отвечал за эвакуацию раненых и больных солдат, создавал санитарно-эпидемиологические учреждения. Был избран председателем исполкома Красного Креста РСФСР, а позже назначен начальником Главного военно-санитарного управления Красной Армии. З.П. Соловьев внес неоценимый вклад в развитие военной медицины.*

**Ключевые слова:** *Соловьев Зиновий Петрович, военное здравоохранение, военный врач, борьба с туберкулезом, санитарно-эпидемиологические учреждения.*



*Fig. 1. Portrait of Soloviev Z.P.*

Soloviev Zinovy Petrovich (1876 - 1928) was one of the greatest Soviet-Russian physician, prominent organizers and theoreticians of civil and military health care system. He was the Head of Red Army Military Medical Service, Chairman of Russian Red Cross Society, professor and head of Social Hygiene Department of the Second Moscow State University. He was a zemstvo (rural) physician who later went on to occupy key positions in the People's Commissariat of Public Health, where he played a role in founding system for health care, which became powerful force in developing Russian Medicine.

Soloviev spent his childhood in Simbirsk (Ulyanovsk, Russia in the present). He attended school at Simbirsk Gymnasium, where the famous Russian communist revolutionary, Vladimir Lenin previously studied. After he graduated, he entered Faculty of Medicine at Kazan University. In 1898, Soloviev joined the Russian Social Democratic Labor Party (RSDLP), but soon after due to engagement in revolutionary activities, he was arrested and banished in 1899. Nevertheless, he managed to graduate from the University in 1904 [10, 11, 15].

Immediately after graduation, he went to Manchuria, along with the crews of Russian Red Cross, where he helped the sick and wounded in the Russo-Japanese War. In 1905, Soloviev worked as a sanitary doctor in the Simbirsk province, and then later was promoted to Head of provincial Health Care Bureau. In 1906, resulting from police persecution, Soloviev was forced to move to Saratov province, where he initially worked at a medical station, and then at provincial Health Care Bureau [20]. In 1909, Soloviev was again arrested for revolutionary activity. After an eight-month prison sentence, he was exiled for 3 years to Ust-Sysolsk, Vologda province (Syktyvkar in the present), where he actively engaged in literature, since he was forbidden to work in his specialty.

After the end of the exile, he moved to Moscow in 1912. At the invitation of acquainted rural physicians, Soloviev began to work as secretary of the Russian National League Against Tuberculosis [3, 12]. He became a board member of Society of Russian Physicians founded in memory of Pirogov N. I. (Pirogov congresses), as one of the editors in journal "Public Doctor" and the editor of the journal "Medical Life" [5, 8].

In the First World War Soloviev worked as a secretary of the Medical and Sanitary Department of the Main Committee of the All-Russian Zemstvo Union of Aid to the Injured and Sick soldiers that organized field hospitals. He was responsible for evacuation of wounded and sick soldiers. He established sanitary-epidemiological institutions. On the day before October Revolution in 1917, as a member of Military Revolutionary Committee of Khamovniki district in Moscow, he participated in organizing armed insurrection.

In 1918 Soloviev was appointed Head of the medical unit and Member of the collegium of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs, and he joined the Council of Medical Colleges. He participated in developing structures and management goals of public health system, including organizing People's Commissariat for Public Health of RSFSR (aka Ministry of Health of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), of which he later became deputy in July 1918. In 1919, Soloviev was elected Chairman of Executive Committee of the RSFSR Red Cross and appointed Head of the Main Military Medical Directorate of the Red Army in January 1920.

From 1920 to 1928 he headed the Military Medical Service of the Red Army and the Executive Committee of the Russian Red Cross Society.

At his initiative and with active participation in the Crimea, in 1925 a Young Pioneer camp-sanatorium «Artek» and a few children's health-improving institutions were established [1, 2].

In 1923, Soloviev organized and headed the Department of Social Hygiene of the Medical Faculty at the Second Moscow State University.

After the Great October Socialist Revolution, Soloviev devoted efforts and all his experiences to build Soviet health care system. During the initial period of Soviet power formation, Soloviev, together with Nikolai Semashko (Commissar of Public Health of RSFSR), carried out an enormous amount of work on uniting uncoordinated pre-revolutionary organizations and healthcare institutions – into one. At the same time, he worked out many problems concerning the fundamental principles of Soviet health care [8, 13].

As secretary of Russian National League Against Tuberculosis, Soloviev paid great attention to health education and prevention of tuberculosis in Russia. In his publications, he distinctly called for mass campaigns, especially in rural areas, to address this serious illness [20]. During the Russian Civil War, he focused on work against Typhus and Cholera epidemics, health education and prevention of diseases in military units, in hospitals, and among civilians. In subsequent years Soloviev and the Red Cross Society focused their efforts to different directions, such as health care service to children, medical and nutritional help to starving population of the Volga region, controlling social diseases (tuberculosis, venereal and eye diseases, malaria), maternity and child welfare service, developing theoretical bases of Soviet public health, a preventive trend in Soviet medicine, organizing military medical service, etc. [13, 14].

Directing the military medical service with broad experience in constructing Soviet public health, Soloviev made invaluable contribution to the development of military medicine, including providing medical support for the combat training of the Red Army in peacetime and training staffs for medical service. In the article «Preventive principles of the military medical service» (1924) Soloviev well distributed preventive principles of civilian health care to military medical service. He considered that “the preventive principles which were guided

by civilian medical institutions, in general can be introduced into the practice of military medical institutions, considering all those features that inherited in them, and are determined by orders and spirit of the Red Army, the Navy and the Military Medical Service". Soloviev emphasized that the common principle of preventive work in the army was tested and passed with honor in combat conditions in the fight against Typhus and Relapsing fever during the Civil War [4, 12, 19].

In 1925, Soloviev spoke at the plenary meeting of the Medical Department of the Military-Scientific Society with report about "Scientific fundamentals of the military medical service," the crucial importance of which is: 1) to improve recruitment methods into the Red Army; 2) to develop organizational and science policies aiming to create powerful and harmoniously serving soldiers in the Red Army; 3) to organize curative care associated with common system of preventive and health-improving strategies. Soloviev recommended serious amendments to curative care, including various methods and techniques. He drew attention to the prospects of physical therapy methods, especially climatic and balneological, in functional therapy of injuries.

In the article «The Next Tasks of the Army Physician» (1926) Soloviev mentioned the following objectives: 1) to study injurious and healthy moments of military collective in combat training; 2) to develop strategic and action plans for health promotion of individuals and entire units; 3) to execute the plans. Soloviev requested the senior doctors to participate not only in therapeutic part, but also primarily in organizational action. To pursue that goal, Soloviev considered that it's necessary to change senior doctors' working style. At the same time, he noted that senior doctors should pay great attention to outpatient care, not entrusting the matter to physician's assistants only and not being distracted by answer to small and dubious questions, such as, numerous psychotechnical studies. Moreover, military doctors need to be fond of Statistics. Soloviev placed immense value to clinical care, especially in the army, in terms of therapeutic and preventive strategies. Soloviev thereby paid special attention to equipping military medical institutions with medical supplies and devices.

In the article devoted to the tenth anniversary of the Red Army «On the Boundary of a New Decade» (1928) Soloviev again noted that main goal for the coming years is to comprehensively improve performances and standards of medical care in the military medical institutions [17, 18].

Soloviev paid close attention to military medical education. He believed that sophistication of military affairs, army mechanization and equipping army with new types of weapons "...promote high-level competence of soldier in the field...". Professional military doctor must therefore have comprehensive both military and medical knowledge to take the lead in training physicians during their transition into military [18, 47].

Works of Soloviev have shown his perspective on leadership of military medical service. He positively is regarded by gathering leading military medical center together with center of the entire medical and sanitary affairs of the country - as a manifestation of the unity of Soviet medicine. As a result, the People's Commissariat of Public Health actively involved: in supplying medical services to the Red Army; in health improvement of recruited contingents, in screening strong reinforcements, and in organizing medical service for military personnel in civilian hospitals in absence of nearby military hospitals [6, 16]. Soloviev Z. P. as head of the Russian National Red Cross Society and his closest coworker of the People's Commissar of Public Health, Semashko N. A. put a lot of effort into the medical and sanitary-chemical defense, which Soloviev repeatedly spoke about in public and to the press [13, 14].

Bolshevik principledness and thorough Marxist preparation have major impact on Soloviev's life. He was an outstanding propagandist of Marxism-Leninism, an irreconcilable and shrewd critic of capitalist system and bourgeois medicine, a talented organizer and the greatest theorist of Soviet military and public health. Soloviev perseveringly implemented Leninist welfare principles on the health of labors in world's first socialist state. Soloviev was known for his cheerfulness, optimism, selfless dedication and groundbreaking will, that tremendously contributed to versatile activities and his success. Soloviev made an invaluable contribution to the development of Russian Military and Civilian Medicine.

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