

Bartolomew Gizis (1866-1941): First Professor of Urology at Athens University

Introduction and Objective: To present the life and works of the first professor of Urology in Athens University, Bartholomew Gizis, as well as the first steps of the pioneers of the specialty, most of whom had been educated in Paris.

Materials and Methods: The study of the Archives of Athens University and the review of the relevant literature for the history of Urology in Greece.

Results: Bartholomew Gizis was born in the Island of Mykonos, was educated in the neighboring Island of Syros and studied medicine in Paris. He was specialized in Urology at Necker Hospital (1884-1886) with Professor Felix Guyon. After returning to Athens, he began teaching Urology at the University until 1915, when the First Chair of Urology was inaugurated and Gizis was elected as its first Professor. He remained in this position until 1923 and was succeeded by the also French-educated Spyridon Oeconomou, who kept the Chair from 1926 until 1957. The Urologic Department functioned initially in "Hippocrateion" Hospital during the periods 1943-1957 and 1963-1970, and since 1970 has been transferred in "Laikon" Hospital. The Greek Urological Association was founded in 1931 and Bartolomew Gizis was elected as its first President, followed in 1949 by his successor to the University Chair, Spyridon Oeconomou.

Conclusions: The life and career of Bartolomew Gizis are strongly connected with the first steps of Urology in Greece, showing significant influence from French Urology, as almost all the pioneers of the urological specialty had been educated in Paris.