

# THE HISTORY OF THE STUDY OF INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASES

S. G. Opimakh

*Abstract*

Interstitial lung diseases (ILDs) are a heterogeneous group of pathological conditions that share several common clinical and pathophysiological features and are associated with significant morbidity, mortality, and a high burden on patients and the healthcare system.

The aim was to research the formation of the theory of interstitial lung diseases according to literature data.

The first descriptions of ILD-like conditions date back to 16th century, and initial knowledge of some of the nearly 200 rare diseases emerged in the second half of the 19th century and accumulated over decades of discovery and debate. In 1932, British physician Munro Campbell described the clinical picture of hypersensitivity pneumonitis. American physician Louis Hamman and pathologist Arnold Rich reported fulminant diffuse interstitial pulmonary fibrosis in 1933 and 1935 and coined the term "Hamman-Rich syndrome." Pulmonary alveolar proteinosis was first described in 1958 by Rosen and Castleman. In 1968–1969, Averill Liebow and Carrington proposed the first pathological classification of chronic ILD. Until recently, the diagnosis of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) was verified by lung biopsy. The 2011 guidelines first introduced the concept of a multidisciplinary approach to the diagnosis of IPF in patients without surgical lung biopsy if the patient had a characteristic clinical features and high-resolution computed tomography findings that met the radiological criteria for usual interstitial pneumonia. The treatment of IPF has evolved from glucocorticosteroid and cytostatic therapy to antifibrotic agents, the range of which is currently being expanded and investigated. The history of IPF is marked by a shift from recognizing fatal fibrosis at the end stage to the current focus on early detection, disease classification, and personalized therapeutic interventions.

**Key words:** interstitial lung disease, classification, terminology, pathomorphology, pulmonary fibrosis, history of pulmonology.

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*Svitlana G. Opimakh*

*SO "National scientific center of phthiology, pulmonology and allergology named after F. G. Yanovskii National Academy of medical sciences of Ukraine"*

*Department of diagnostics, therapy and clinical pharmacology of lung diseases*

*Senior research associate*

*MD, PhD*

*10, M. Amosova str., Kyiv, 03038, Ukraine*

*Tel./fax: 380 44 270 27 33, opimakh@ifp.kiev.ua*

*ORCID 0000-0002-4631-2048*