

YURII ANATOL'EVICH OVCHINNIKOV

Soviet science has suffered a severe loss. On February 17, 1988, Academician Yurii Anatol'evich Ovchinnikov, Vice-President of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and an outstanding scientist, died at age 54, after a severe, prolonged illness.

Yu. A. Ovchinnikov was born in Moscow on August 2, 1934. After graduation from the Chemistry Department of the M. V. Lomonosov Moscow State University in 1957, he became permanently associated with the M. M. Shemyakin Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR (the former Institute of Chemistry of Natural Compounds of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR), where he advanced from graduate student to Director of the Institute.

In 1970, Yu. A. Ovchinnikov was elected as an active member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, and from 1973 until his death he was Vice-President of the Academy of Sciences and Chairman of the Section of Chemicotechnological and Biological Sciences.

The establishment and development of physicochemical biology and biotechnology in the USSR is associated with the name of Yu. A. Ovchinnikov. His inexhaustible energy and enthusiasm made it possible to advance these fields of sciences quickly to the world's foremost levels and to assert the authority of the Soviet biological school. Yu. A. Ovchinnikov published fundamental works on the study of the molecular mechanism of active transport of ions through biological membranes and on the investigation of the interrelation between the structure and function of protein-peptide substances. He enriched with new ideas and basic results many specializations of physicochemical biology and created a major scientific school. His pioneering publications and his monograph "Membrane-Active Complexons" have attained world renown. His general monograph "Bioorganic Chemistry" is being published.

Yu. A. Ovchinnikov's scientific activity received wide international recognition: he was a foreign member and honorary doctor of sciences of a number of Academies of Sciences and universities of the world and a winner of many international prizes and honors.

Yu. A. Ovchinnikov paid much attention to problems of the practical utilization of the achievements of chemistry and biology and to the development of biotechnology. At his initiative and under his guidance, research was carried out on the preparation of Soviet genetically engineered interferons, insulin, tumor necrosis factors, and other medicinal preparations.

Yu. A. Ovchinnikov gave much effort to the training of young scientists. He organized chairs of bioorganic chemistry in the Biological Department of Moscow University and physicochemical biology in the Moscow Physicotechnical Institute and a scientific-educational center in the M. M. Shemyakin Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

Yu. A. Ovchinnikov was the editor-in-chief and a member of the editorial boards of a number of Soviet and international scientific journals. In particular, he was a member of the editorial board of the journal *Izvestiya Akademii Nauk SSSR, Seriya Khimicheskaya* (Bulletin of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Division of Chemical Science).

Yu. A. Ovchinnikov devoted much effort and energy to scientific-organizational, social, and Party work. In particular, he headed the Biogen Association and the Interdepartmental Scientific and Technical Committee, was the leader of a number of councils and specializations, and Chairman of the Federation of European Biochemical Societies.

Yu. A. Ovchinnikov was a candidate for membership in the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and a member of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Soviet Federal SR. He was awarded the title Hero of Socialist Labor, three Orders of

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Presidium of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. Branch of Biochemistry, Biophysics, and Chemistry of Physiologically Active Compounds. M. M. Shemyakin Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, Academy of Sciences of the USSR. Editorial Board and Editorial Staff of the Journal "Izvestiya Akademii Nauk SSSR, Seriya Khimicheskaya". Translated from *Izvestiya Akademii Nauk SSSR, Seriya Khimicheskaya*, No. 5, pp. 951-952, May, 1988.

Lenin, the Lenin and State Prizes of the USSR, and prizes of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

The respectful memory of Yurii Anatol'evich Ovchinnikov will always remain in the hearts of his colleagues, students, and comrades - all those who knew him and worked with him.