

Oleg Aleksandrovich Molchanov (1940–2011)

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On June 27, 2011, the death occurred of an outstanding scientist, State Prize Winner, Doctor of Physics and Mathematics, and Professor Oleg Aleksandrovich Molchanov at the age of 72 following a serious illness.

After graduating from the physics department of the Leningrad State University, Oleg Aleksandrovich worked at the Institute of Terrestrial Magnetism, Ionosphere, and Radiowave Propagation, moving from a post-graduate student to the head of one of the leading laboratories. He laid the foundation for a new field of research—active experiments on the effects of low-frequency electromagnetic radiation on cosmic plasma. The theoretical models that enabled not only the explanation of already obtained results, but also the prediction of new ones, were constructed based on land-based experiments on the nonlinear interaction of low-frequency radiation in space plasma and experiments on the ARCAD-3 and Active satellites organized by him. The pioneering research by Molchanov on the demodulation of low-frequency radiation stimulated by charged particle precipitation, generation of low-frequency radiation in the magnetosphere by a surface acoustic source, etc., were summarized in his monograph that is still relevant today.

After moving from the Institute of Terrestrial Magnetism, Ionosphere, and Radiowave Propagation to the Institute of Physics of the Earth, Molchanov actively worked in the field of experimental set-up and theory of earthquake precursors. This field of research was also developed by him in Japan, where he worked for many years as a professor at the Chofu University. Molchanov's works on the theory of electromagnetic precursors have been proved in experimental studies organized by him. A wide range of scientists from other countries, including Russia, Ukraine, Japan, Italy, and France, had gathered around him, enabling world research in this field to be coordinated.

Enthusiasm (on the verge of adventure) and a hard working ethic were the distinguishing features in the scientific activity of Molchanov. These qualities attracted young researchers to him. Numerous students and professional followers continue with his work both in our country and abroad.

The death of Oleg Aleksandrovich is a huge loss for domestic science.

The cherished memory of Oleg Aleksandrovich Molchanov will forever remain in the hearts of his relatives, friends, and colleagues.

Colleagues