OBITUARY

Ugai Yakov Aleksandrovich (1921–2007)

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Yakov Aleksandrovich Ugai, an outstanding scientist in the field of inorganic, solid-state, and semiconductor chemistry, Doctor of Chemistry, member of the editorial board of the journal *Neorganicheskie Materialy* (*Inorganic Materials*), RF State Prize winner, Distinguished Worker of RF Science, member of the International Higher Education Academy of Sciences, and Distinguished Citizen of Voronezh, passed away on May 4, 2007, at age 85.

Ugai was born in 1921 in a school teacher's family. In 1944, after successfully graduating from the Faculty of Chemistry of Kazakh State University in Almaty, he moved to Voronezh. All the scientific and pedagogical life of Ugai was connected with Voronezh State University (VSU), where he worked as an assistant lecturer and an assistant of associate professor at the Department of Inorganic Chemistry (1948) and head of the Departments of Semiconductor Chemistry (1962–1966), Inorganic Chemistry (1966–1970), and General and Inorganic Chemistry (1970–1990). From 1975 through 1984, Ugai was Prorector of science at VSU. In those years, his talent of a researcher, teacher, and science manager was realized in full measure. He combined a wide range of scientific views with the ability to envision future possibilities and to take a responsibility for his decisions—important qualities for a leader.

At the beginning of his carrier, Ugai took part in the restoration of the Faculty of Chemistry, which returned to devastated Voronezh in 1943, after evacuation to Elabuga. In 1950, the students that had been the first to enter VSU after World War II graduated from it. Among their lecturers had been Ugai, who had defended by that time his candidate of science dissertation devoted to physicochemical analysis of salt systems.

In the late 1950s, Ugai began studies in a new area of chemistry—semiconductor chemistry. His initiative, energy, persistence, and dedication enabled him to build a team of like-minded experts with great creative potential.

In 1966, Ugai defended his doctoral dissertation.

His manuals and textbooks *Introduction to Semiconductor Chemistry*, *General Chemistry*, *Inorganic Chemistry*, and *General and Inorganic Chemistry*, each reissued several times, are widely known in Russia.

For many years, Ugai was a member of the Inorganic Chemistry Expert Council at the USSR (RF) Higher Attestation Commission (1980s–1990s) and a member of the Scientific Council of the Russian Academy of Sciences for Physicochemical Foundations of Semiconductor Materials Research.

The scientific school founded by Ugai, including 70 candidates of sciences and 10 doctors, holds a leading place in the field of solid-state and semiconductor chemistry and related bulk and surface processes. He is the author or coauthor of more than 500 scientific publications and 10 books.

For his scientific and pedagogical achievements, Ugai was awarded the Order of Peoples' Friendship and many medals and honorary signs.

To his colleagues and friends, Yakov Aleksandrovich Ugai will always remain an example of honest service to his country and to science.

We express our deepest regret to Ugai's relatives and friends.

*Editorial Board and Editorial Staff
of Neorganicheskie materialy*