Current Events

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The extended session of the Academic Council of the Gamaleya Scientific Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology and the Bureau of the Department of Prophylactic Medicine of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences devoted to the 150th anniversary of the birth of one of the founders of domestic microbiology and epidemiology, honored academician Nikolai Fedorovich Gamaleya (1859–1949) took place in March 2009. The mighty figure of Gamaleya appeared in Russian microbiology in the 1980s at almost the dawn of its development, and the subsequent more than 60-year development of this field of knowledge in our country progressed with his assistance. He is the author of more than 300 printed works devoted to the problems of prophylaxis of plague, cholera, smallpox, and tuberculosis, which include “Bases of Immunology,” “Doctrine of Infection” (1931), and “Infection and Immunity” (1939). Gamaleya was a founder and director of a private bacteriologic institute in Odessa (1896), the main task of which was to fight lyssa,

plague, and cholera, and was the first to prove the role of rats in spreading plague and the role of lice as carriers of epidemic typhus. The peak of Gamaleya’s scientific, pedagogic, and public activity was in the period of his life when he lived in Moscow, where he moved in 1930. In the 1930s–1940s, Gamaleya was the director of the Central Institute of Epidemiology and Bacteriology (known since 1949 as the Gamaleya Institute of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences), head of the microbiology department of the Second Moscow Medical Institute, and led the All-Union Community of Microbiologists, Epidemiologists, and Infectiologists. Gamaleya died in 1949. The Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences and the street on which it is located were named after him. In 1965, a bust of Gamaleya was installed near one of the buildings of the Second Moscow Medical Institute, where the department of microbiology is located.