

## ALEXEY MIKHAILOVICH NIKIFOROV



**1956-2006**

On May 11, 2006, at the age of 50 suddenly passed away the founder and the first leader of the All-Russian Centre of Emergency and Radiation Medicine, Ministry of Russian Federation for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters, WHO Collaborating Centre on the issues of emergency care in accidents and disasters, corresponding member of Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, Honorary Physician of Russian Federation, Doctor of Medical Sciences, Professor Alexey Mikhailovich NIKIFIROV.

A.M. Nikiforov was born on April 8, 1956, in Leningrad in the family of military doctor. After graduation from school he entered the Military Medical Academy. Since his first year at the Academy he conducted studies in radiobiology and researched issues of radiation injury. In 1979 he graduated from the Military Medical Academy with honours.

In 1979–1984 A.M. Nikiforov served in Armed Forces. In 1987 he completed postgraduate work at the Military Medical Academy. During education period the main direction of his research was pathogenesis and clinical features of acute radiation sickness in humans. After postgraduate work he got a position of senior registrar at radiology department of the Field Military Therapy clinic, then became a head of research laboratory.

1988 — defence of PhD and 1994 — Doctorate dissertation.

1998 — professor academic rank.

In 1986-1987 with an expert team A.M. Nikiforov took part in mitigation of consequences of Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident. From the very first days he organized and provided medical care to victims.

Professor A.M. Nikiforov was a coauthor of more than 220 research publications.

The main direction of experimental, clinical and epidemiological studies was a development of internal body organ and system pathology after an exposure to factors of radiation accident. A role of excess formation of pro-inflammatory cytokines and free radicals (with a lack of in-cell antioxidants) was assessed in occurrence of genome instability, endothelium injury, endocrine and immune imbalance, and metabolic osteopathy. A rationale for research of health status of clean-up workers of Chernobyl aftermath as one of the main risk groups was provided. An influence of social psychological factors on occurrence of mental disorders, somatic pathology and "disease image" in victims was assessed. Due to results of the study, novel concepts and methods of prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation were introduced. There were developed new cytology assays to identify consequences of mutagenic, predominantly radiation factors on human body.

Under leadership and with research counseling of A.M. Nikiforov there were conducted and defended 7 Doctorate and 22 PhD theses. He was a member of many national and international professional societies, including Association "Physicians of Chernobyl", editorial board of the International Journal of Radiation Medicine.

According to the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation the Centre he led became the head organization responsible for providing medical aid to the liquidators of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant catastrophe and those who were resettled from areas contaminated by radioactivity in Russia.

In 1990 with an active participation of A.M. Nikiforov there was organized St. Petersburg interdepartmental expert council on the establishment of causative links for disabilities, diseases and death of those affected by radiation.

As an expert in radiation medicine A.M. Nikiforov in 1993-1994 participated in development of international WHO IPHECA program and the international WHO "Liquidator" program.

From 1995 he was a head of the WHO collaborating centre on the issues of management and rehabilitation of those participating in the liquidation of nuclear and other catastrophes.

A.M. Nikiforov was a well-known researcher in the field of internal pathology and radiation medicine, qualified clinician with higher management abilities.

In 1997 for the purpose of long-term monitoring of rescuer health status, enhancement of efficiency of their medical and psychological support at the base of ARCERM he founded the Medical Registry of EMERCOM of Russia.

On initiative and under the leadership of A.M. Nikiforov in Moscow there was established the Centre for Emergency Psychological Aid of EMERCOM of

Russia (at present State Institute Centre for Emergency Psychological Aid [CEPA] of EMERCOM of Russia) as an ARCERM chapter. ARCERM and CEPA specialists provided psychological support at liquidation of consequences of federal and international emergencies: terrorism in Moscow (explosions of houses, "Nord-Ost", etc.), an accident with nuclear submarine "Kursk", activities at Northern Caucuses, earthquake aftermath in Sakhalin island, Central America, Turkey, etc., providing aid in Serbia.

Since 1998 A.M. Nikiforov was a head of the Centre of Radiation Emergency Medical Preparedness and Assistance Network (REMPAN).

From 1998 A.M. Nikiforov was a member of Research Technical Council and Expert Council of Higher Certifying Commission of the Russian Ministry of Education and Science.

In order to assess impact of different emergency factors on the body, A.M. Nikiforov established a scientific school, which has been working successfully. A.M. Nikiforov was a chair of special dissertation council at the ARCERM of EMERCOM of Russia.

For merit in establishment and successful development of medical care and prevention and practical implementation of breakthrough achievements in health research and techniques and unexceptionable performance A.M. Nikiforov was awarded with a breastplate of EMERCOM of Russia "For merit", "Reward of honour of EMERCOM of Russia" and a medal "For unexceptionable service" of EMERCOM of Russia.

According to the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation of August 21, 2006, No. 1155-p ARCERM of EMERCOM of Russia was named after A.M. Nikiforov. Remarkable doctor and scientist, he provided his breakthrough vision, inspiration, and leadership, and strived a lot to make this vision a reality.

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