

MARKING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF ACADEMICIAN A.I. VOROBYEV

Andrey Ivanovich Vorobyev was born in Moscow, on November 1, 1928. His father was a doctor, his mother was a biologist, and both were members of the so-called Trotskyist opposition. Therefore, in 1936, his father was executed, and his mother was sentenced to 10 years of deprivation of freedom. First, it was a prison, then Kolyma exile, and she was absent for 18 years in total. The son of “enemies of the people” was saved by his nanny, grandmother, and gentle people who were still capable of humane attitude. And when the Great Patriotic War began, the orphanage organized evacuation. There, Andrey earned his first piece of bread when he had cleaned the toilet in the orphanage school. When Andrey was 14, he started working as a house painter (he was given a labor card, however, as a tall boy he still was always hungry). He went to an evening school, and in 1947, he graduated from a day school with honors. Against all odds, he entered the 1st Moscow Medical Institute and in 1953 graduated with honors from the department of A.L. Myasnikov. After graduation, he was assigned to work in the Volokolamsk District Hospital where he simultaneously worked as a general practitioner (local physician), anatomical pathologist, headed an outpatient clinic, was responsible for the district's pediatric service and maternity hospital mother-and-children room.

In 1956, A.I. Vorobyev entered the residency to Professor I.A. Kassirsky at the Central Medical Refresher Institute's department where he began instructing right away. In 1971, he was selected as the hematology and transfusion medicine department head, and he continues in office till present. In 1966-1974, A.I. Vorobyev headed the USSR Ministry of Healthcare Biophysics Institute's clinical unit. Since 1987 to 2011 he was a Director of the Hematological Research Center of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences. A.I. Vorobyev has developed a number of new scientific areas in the Research Center, significantly expanded its clinic, and achieved a high level

of therapy of the critical conditions that were previously considered incurable. He directed the work for foundation of the Russia's resuscitation and transfusion hematological service that became a basis for high-dose chemotherapy for oncohematological patients. The service demonstrated its high efficiency in acute bleeding, especially in obstetric practice, and got widespread. The research center employees directed by A.I. Vorobyev rendered medical aid to the victims of almost all man-induced and natural disasters of the recent decades (Armenian (1988) and Sakhalin (1994) earthquakes, Chernobyl accident, railway explosions, terrorist attack in Beslan). A.I. Vorobyev has developed advanced DIC and crush syndrome treatment methods and formulated the principles for medical aid provision in disasters. The Hematology and Intensive Care Unit of the Hematological Research Center has achieved world's best results in the treatment of lymphatic sarcomas of various localizations.

Throughout his life, A.I. Vorobyev dealt with incurably ill patients. Indeed, in Volokolamsk he was responsible for everybody. There was also a doctor with huge experience who could save his young colleague in case of any failure. But from the first day of his work, A.I. Vorobyev knew that a patient from the district would wait for him till the end of reception hours, till the end of everything. “Why don't you said anything? If I had forgotten, what then?” – “Then I would have died,” the patient answered. Once and for all. “...Nobody but you can make live,” as his favorite poet, Nikolay Panchenko, said. It is like in the Buddhist parables on a disciple who pours a staff stuck into the ground: such diagnosis as “hopeless patient” is just a mantra for justifying one's own apathy. The enthusiastic hematologist Donald Pinkel once told: “In former times, doctors just grew gloomy and passed by when they saw a child with acute leukemia.” However, Pinkel and Vorobyev did not pass by, and green leaves appeared on the staff... In 1972, when Total Therapy

Programme for leukemia treatment had just been published, A.I. Vorobyev and M. D. Brilliant used the Programme to cure Soviet children from acute lymphoblastic leukemia. A.I. Vorobyev has proposed and successfully used, for the first time in the world, the Programme for neuroleukemia prevention by means of intrathecal administration of two cytostatic agents on the top of prednisolone. This was done in the Biophysics Institute clinical unit, i.e. in the adult clinic where Vorobyev cured children in violation of law. The Americans who for a long time relied upon central nervous system irradiation accompanied, as it turned out later, by severe development complications, in the end followed A.I. Vorobyev: several years later, they independently selected the same combinations and doses of cytostatic agents.

Now A.I. Vorobyev is ill. A witty person refusing of unpleasant treatment once said: "Everybody wants to die in good health. And I agree to die in bad health." But A.I. Vorobyev always saw his personal pains as a precious medical experience. His own disorders helped him derive treatment formulae for many people. This includes heroic self-testing of new drug products, understanding of the disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC) syndrome, description of sensations in profound anemia, and many other observations "from inside". The lectures of A.I. Vorobyev demonstrate the work of a good doctor in the end of the 20th century, a doctor who respects the teachers' commandments and assumes responsibility for his patient. The lectures would be understandable and interesting not only for doctors of all specialties but also for any person who respects life.

Despite the serious condition, immobility, and apparent disability in the recent years, A.I. Vorobyev is still capable of thinking activity. Nowadays, he focuses on the principal issues of human existence:

science and religion should unite (for fair followers of either of them, there may be no irresistible conflicts, and the world's wisdom collected in religion should be mastered by science);

the principal task of medicine: prohibiting death penalty (unconditionally and everywhere; the right of human society to kill its members would kill medicine);

it is necessary to improve treatment of depressions (in line with the current trend of "telemedicine" that does not frighten A.I. Vorobyev at all: patients with suicidal risks

should be provided with 24/7 access to their physicians in charge. Remarkably, A.I. Vorobyev always made himself available to those suffering, and the first-year on-call resident would rather call A.I. Vorobyev at night than his immediate supervisor. It seems that the principal administrative prohibition in the Hematologic Research Center consisted in protecting the doctor on duty against any reproaches; it should be only understanding and learning lessons, there should be no slapping on the wrist. As a result, there was always straight discussion spirit in the clinic, with no lies);

hospice patients should be provided with the possibility of experimental therapy (very interesting coincidence with the US President D. Trump actions. When he was the Russian Federation Healthcare Minister, A.I. Vorobyev not only saved high-tech medicine from degradation by ensuring "a separate line" in the budget for expensive treatment methods but also legalized hospices as a new care type in the Russian Federation by signing the letter submitted to him by Vera Millionshchikova and Alexander Gnezdilov. A.I. Vorobyev himself could not accept capitulation in the face of a disease, but he did accept others' truth);

the upcoming radical success in cancer treatment, in A.I. Vorobyev's opinion, will be associated with the same approach as his own and his disciples' breakthrough in lymphatic sarcoma treatment (he associates combatting metastases with anti-tumor immunity stimulation by specific tumor breakdown products in the conditions of high-dose multi-component cytostatic therapy. A.I. Vorobyev believes that it is not the formal "personalized" therapy, but individual experimental therapy that will very soon enable to arrive at a precise combination of exposures. A.I. Vorobyev hopes that the victory will be "in our days, soon, in the nearest time," for all his patients were "hopeless" at a certain point, and he performed miraculous healing many times).

The article by A.I. Vorobyev "The Way" (Bulletin of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 2018) is a discussion of the environmental noosphere that is reconsidered so as to include forests and rivers. The humans' domination over the nature should manifest itself as responsibility for thorough understanding of existential issues and for reducing purposeless pain and suffering. This Project should give housing for the homeless, provide environment-friendly sources of energy and life outside of urban agglomerates,

contribute to the harmony of several-generation families, involvement of elderly people in their grandchildren education supported by web sources. A.I. Vorobyev discusses all these issues in the context of sorrowful reality of the present-day Russia and humankind as a whole. On December 7, 2012, when the Russian President's Human Rights Ombudsman gave him a medal, A.I. Vorobyev stood from his wheel-chair, leaned on the stage, and said to the audience consisting of officials and hierarchs: "...we will not be able to trust investigation results and we will have no justice, unless tortures are eradicated in Russia. The Magnitsky case occurred only because prison medicine is subject to prison regulations..." A.I. Vorobyev is a good loser: he fully realizes the problems he failed to solve despite directing his every effort at this.

He absolutely cannot stand tyranny and militarism as antipodes of humanity; however, hatred must not be directed even at such things. In 1938, ten-year old A.I. Vorobyev founded a secret organization called "Death to Stalin" that was joined by one his friend. The organization was never detected, despite the fact that A.I. Vorobyev had made and wore a sign with crossed Russian letter "С" resembling the contemporary emblem of Spartak football team. However, 90 year old A.I. Vorobyev says of impossibility of the retribution for evil, especially in our country where generations of people were killed off by Stalin and Hitler. Only good is allowable in the world with so much evil.

A.I. Vorobyev jokes very seldom but is always ready for a serious talk: "everything in the world depends on how you are working here", he says to us.

The editorial staff of the "Eurasian heart Journal" warmly congratulates Andrey Ivanovich on his 90th birthday and wishes him good health, optimism, more creative ideas and good luck in all his activities!