
EDITORIAL NOTES

Preface to the Special Issue “Amino Acid Metabolism in Human Health and Disease”: On the 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Academician Temirbolat T. Berezov

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Temirbolat Tembolatovich Berezov
(Photo provided by the family)

This year, on October 19, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Academician Temirbolat Tembolatovich Berezov, the founder of the Department of Biochemistry at the People's Friendship University (RUDN). He established a student laboratory at the RUDN, recruited the first team of teachers, and wrote a textbook that has remained a staple for all medical students in the Soviet Union for over 30 years. Berezov's areas of research had mainly been focused on the properties of amino acid and polyamine metabolism in cancer and other human diseases. This issue of *Biochemistry (Moscow)* continues to acquaint our readers with this research topic, with a special focus on amino acid metabolism in health and disease.

As a scientist, teacher, and public figure, Temirbolat Berezov had followed the best traditions of the Russian school of biochemistry founded by A. E. Braunstein, B. I. Zbarsky, S. R. Mardashev, and S. E. Severin. He had brought these traditions to a new generation of researchers and created his own scientific school. Berezov had devoted significant efforts to the creation of educational and tutorial literature. Together with Professor B. F. Korovkin, he wrote the fundamental textbook *Biological Chemistry*, that was recommended by the USSR Ministry of Health as a major textbook for medical students and had gone through three editions. The second edition was translated into English in 1992.

Berezov's scientific interests had included molecular basis of malignant cell growth, in particular, the

features of nitrogen metabolism in tumor cells, regulation of enzyme activity and synthesis in carcinogenesis, and application of enzymes in cancer treatment. His achievements also include deciphering the mechanisms involved in the regulation of synthesis and activity of important nitrogen metabolism enzymes in various types of human and animal tumors.

Temirbolat Berezov published more than 700 scientific papers, 4 monographs, 20 textbooks and teaching aids, and authored 34 patents and copyright certificates for original diagnostic and enzyme purification methods. For several decades, Berezov had been the Chairman of the Dissertation Council, Chairman of the RUDN Ethics Commission, Vice-president of the Biochemical Society of the USSR and the Russian Federation, and editorial board member of two international and five Russian journals. Twenty-seven Doctorate and 50 Ph. D. candidates defended their theses under his supervision.

People who personally knew Temirbolat Berezov – his friends, colleagues, and students – have always noted his discipline, diligence, tact, and attention to detail. The scientific school created by Temirbolat Berezov at the RUDN Department of Biochemistry has been awarded prestigious scientific prizes: 1987 – Gulevich Prize for a series of works in the field of tumor enzyme therapy; 1989 – USSR Ministry of Higher Education Award for the best research work; 1994 – Pirogov Prize; 2001 – Russian Federation Government Prize; 2002 – Presidium of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences Prize; 2023 – Moscow Government Prize. The experience accumulated by the veterans of the Biochemistry Department has been adopted by younger teachers, who preserve and continue tradition developed at this department, which since 2014, has been named after Temirbolat Tembolatovich Berezov.

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