

THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION
OF THE USSR AND NEW FRONTIERS
IN MEDICAL SCIENCE

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The entire Soviet population and all progressive mankind has noted the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. As L. I. Brezhnev, Secretary General of the Central Committee of the CPSU, stated in his address to a combined session of the Central Committee of the CPSU, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of the USSR, on December 21, 1972: "The 50 years of history of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is the history of the forging of the unbreakable unity and friendship of all the peoples confined within the framework of the Soviet Socialist State. It is the history of the unprecedented growth and all-pervading development of the State born by the Socialist revolution and now become a leading world power. It is the history of the maturing and flowering, economic, political, and cultural, of all the republics, all the nations and nationalities inhabiting the country, and rallying under its banner" [1].

The formation of the USSR is the culmination of Lenin's politics of nationalities. "I want a voluntary union of nations — a union," Lenin stated, "which would not permit any domination of one nation by another, a union which would be based on complete confidence, on the clear recognition of brotherly unity, on absolutely voluntary agreement" [2].

In a comparatively short period of history remarkable changes have taken place in the economic, political, and cultural life of all the peoples inhabiting the Soviet Union. With the aid of the great Russian people the previously backward national provinces of Czarist Russia have been converted into industrially and culturally developed republics. A new historical community of peoples has been formed — the Soviet people. The abolition of exploitation of man by man and of national differences has led to radical changes in the field of social relationship and in the world outlook of our people. The unity of all the peoples linked together into the Soviet Union, unprecedented in history, is expressed by their rallying around the Communist party of the Soviet Union, the supreme aim of which is to build a communist society, whose activity is directed towards realization of the principle "everything in the name of mankind for the good of mankind."

Throughout the vast territory of the Soviet Union industry, agriculture, culture, and science are developing rapidly. In all Union republics highly qualified scientists are working, and higher educational establishments and scientific research institutes have been built. With the aid of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR the Union republics now have their own Academies of Sciences, composed of scientists of different nationalities, deservedly enjoying a nation-wide and world-wide reputation. It is easy to see how in a very short time scientific disciplines have grown up in the republics, staffed by highly trained scientists and college teachers guiding the talented younger generation. Papers written by authors working in departments of higher educational establishments and scientific research institutions in the various republics are constantly being published in this journal. In issue No. 12 of this journal for 1972 alone, which was devoted to the 50th Anniversary of foundation of the Soviet Union, articles were published describing the results of research carried out in the scientific institutions of the Russian Federation, the Ukraine, Belorussia, Georgia, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Moldavia, Lithuania, the Chuvash ASSR, the Tatar ASSR, the Komi ASSR, and the Karelian ASSR. In many of these republics 50 years ago there were neither research institutions nor higher educational establishments, and illiteracy was predominant. Now a wide network of scientific research institutes, laboratories, and higher educational establishments is in existence and is developing.

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This vast multinational group of Soviet scientists is working toward the solution of modern scientific problems, especially in biology and medicine. Their efforts are concentrated on the investigation of fundamental problems in the theory and practice of medical science, on the solution of such problems as the control of cardiovascular diseases, malignant neoplasms, hereditary diseases, and virus diseases on a basis of prophylaxis, diagnosis, and effective methods of treatment; the search for new physiologically active substances, and the solution of problems in hygiene. These tasks were defined as top priority by the 24th Congress of the CPSU. Their solution is of the greatest importance for the whole of mankind, and already concrete forms of international scientific collaboration for the study of these problems have been planned and are developing. Scientists from the different Union republics are taking an increasing part in this collaboration. Faithful to their international obligations, Soviet medical scientists, belonging to different nationalities, are providing considerable assistance to their colleagues and to the public health services in various countries of the world.

The scientific and technical revolution has led to the creation of problems of a global character, such as the conquest of space and of the oceans of the world, preservation of the biosphere, and the optimal use of natural resources essential to man. The solution of these problems has become an international task. It calls for combined study on a broad front, for the joint participation of specialists in different fields, and the use of achievements made in various scientific disciplines. The union of philosophers and scientists is of great importance under these conditions. The solution of these problems is closely bound up with social changes. Now, as never before, success in science depends on long-term planning. The planned character of the organization of scientific measures is the first step toward the successful solution of these problems. Clearly it is only in a socialist state that the undesirable effects of the development of energy production and industry, which may lead to pollution of the environment, can be most successfully prevented. It is well known that the supreme Soviet of the USSR has passed the decree "On further improvement of the protection of nature and the rational use of natural resources."

Soviet science has entered on a period of planned investigation of ecological problems. With the rapidly increasing scale of human interference with nature it is only by the planned control of the development of industry and agriculture that the way to further technical progress can be assured while at the same time preventing possible catastrophic changes in external environmental conditions. It is not by chance that the diminution of natural resources and contamination of the environment, which in some capitalist countries has reached alarming proportions, have led scientists and philosophers to make pessimistic predictions regarding the fate of mankind. Soviet science takes an optimistic view of the future of mankind in a world of rapid scientific and technical progress. This view is based on successful experience of the building of communism in the USSR and on the inexhaustible opportunities for the planned development of the national economy under the conditions of socialism while avoiding possible adverse effects of unplanned and irresponsible attitudes to nature.

The peaceful policies of the Soviet Union, which put into practice Lenin's thesis of the existence of states with different social structures, has led to important achievements of the greatest significance to the development of science. Friendship between the Soviet Union and the other socialist states has now become a powerful factor for peace and progress. The struggle of the socialist countries to establish lasting peace on earth has led to a reduction in international tension and to an increase in contacts, not only economic, but also cultural and scientific. As an example of promising scientific links mention can be made of the agreement concluded recently between the USSR and USA on the scientific study of such problems as cosmic research, protection of the environment, and the control of cardiovascular diseases and cancer. Collaboration is continually developing with scientists and research institutions of France and other countries. It must be emphasized in particular that for a successful solution to current problems in clinical medicine research in fundamental problems must be developed beforehand. In this respect experimental biology and experimental medicine are particularly important. Molecular biology, biochemistry, biophysics, physiology, general pathology, genetics, pharmacology, and morphology are all sciences now making an important contribution to the foundations of the prevention and control of disease.

Under these conditions an increasingly important role is being played by medical and biological journals, designed to give scientists and physicians up-to-date scientific information of high quality and thus able to exert an active influence on the development of medicine and biology. Clarity, ideology of views, scientific depth and principles, and constant attention to urgent problems in modern medicine and biology are the main features of activity of medical and biological journals which will ensure success in the solutions of the problems facing them.

Soviet medical scientists and biologists, supported on all sides by the Party and the government, are aware of their duties to their Motherland and will make their necessary contribution to the development of Soviet science, to the building of a communist society, and to the solution of problems of the utmost importance for the whole of mankind.