



The birthday of Active Member of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR, Honored Scientist, Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR, and Doctor of Biological and Medical Sciences, Professor Nikolai Nikolaevich Sirotinin fell in November, 1976.

The medical community of the Soviet Union knows N. N. Sirotinin as a major specialist in many fields of pathological physiology, founder of a school of pathophysiologists studying aspects of reactivity, allergy, infection, and immunity, and a widely educated person and teacher. The works of N. N. Sirotinin are well known far beyond the boundaries of the USSR.

In 1915, while still a student, N. N. Sirotinin began to study bacteriology at the Veterinary Institute, and in 1917 at the Department of Microbiology of Saratov University.

In 1923, N. N. Sirotinin started to work in the Laboratory of General Pathology under Professor A. A. Bogomolets on problems in anaphylaxis, which subsequently formed the theme of his Doctoral Dissertation. He continued these investigations after moving, together with A. A. Bogomolets, to Moscow, working at the N. I. Pirogov Second Moscow Medical Institute. N. N. Sirotinin showed that the activity of elements of the reticuloendothelial system is inhibited and the blood complement level is lowered. This was later confirmed by many in-

Translated from *Byulleten' Eksperimental'noi Biologii i Meditsiny*, Vol. 83, No. 3, p. 380, March, 1977.

This material is protected by copyright registered in the name of Plenum Publishing Corporation, 227 West 17th Street, New York, N. Y. 10011. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, microfilming, recording or otherwise, without written permission of the publisher. A copy of this article is available from the publisher for \$7.50.

vestigators inside and outside the USSR.

N. N. Sirotinin's tremendous energy and enthusiasm helped him to organize his department in a short time in a new place, to form a unified group of young collaborators and to equip his laboratory with everything necessary for teaching and research. Sirotinin began to study the pathogenesis and prophylaxis of the state of hypoxia, and this was one of the most important fields of his scientific activity.

N. N. Sirotinin and his pupils rendered a great service by their study of the comparative pathology of reactivity, of allergy, immunity, and the infectious process. He showed that the phylogenetically oldest form of infection is simple multiplication of microorganisms in the host, accompanied by comparatively weak reactions of both cellular and humoral type. A phylogenetically newer form of infection is development of the lympho-histiocytic apparatus in the direction of antibody production and specification of the phagocytic process. Even more recent in the historical development of infection in the animal world is the addition of allergic reactions to the definition of the picture of infection.

Sirotinin showed the connection between the phenomena of allergy and primary reactivity of the organism in each individual species of animal in his work on many species of both invertebrates and vertebrates, and that this connection determines the level of its development both in phylogeny and in ontogeny. Sirotinin attaches great importance to the nervous system in the determination of this level. He showed that as the primary reactivity of the higher vertebrates develops, their sensitivity to bacterial products increases, immunological reactivity in the form of antibody production then appears, and later still they become susceptible to allergy.

Sirotinin paid great attention to infectious allergy and, in particular, to allergy in tuberculosis. New and important data on heteroallergic reactions in tuberculosis, of the Bordet phenomenon type, were obtained in his laboratory. Sirotinin and his pupils studied the Schwartzmann and Arthus phenomena, and also the effect of the endocrine glands and of various parts of the nervous system on the development and course of these allergic reactions. Sirotinin founded a school of pathophysiologist-allergologists in the Soviet Union and conducted extensive research into various aspects of the experimental study of allergy as a whole. He introduced an original classification of allergic reactions, which did much to bring order into the complex and confused field of allergologic terminology.

Nor can Nikolai Nikolaevich's exceptional modesty and high-principledness be forgotten. His simplicity and accessibility inevitably drew young people to him, and he was always prepared to share his knowledge, experience, and skill in scientific work with them unreservedly.

The Editorial Board congratulates Nikolai Nikolaevich Sirotinin on his birthday and wishes him good health and strength and fresh success for the good of Soviet medical science.