

TO AUTHORS, EDITORS, AND READERS OF THE GREAT MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

We, participants at the Plenum celebrating the 50th anniversary of Soviet medical encyclopedias, are writing to you now with the aim of further improving the scientific and ideological level of Soviet medical encyclopedic publications.

For half a century Soviet medical encyclopedias have contributed to the noble task of development of Soviet medical science and the national health service of the Motherland. They not only generalize and systemize accumulated knowledge, but also analyze it from the standpoint of the task facing Soviet health care at a particular stage of development, they assist with the dissemination of new information and the introduction of progress in medical science into medical practice, they contribute to the formation of the physician's outlook, they act as a conductor of the policies of our party into the field of national health care, and they are active participants in the struggle for the triumph of Marxist-Leninist ideology.

The decisions of the 25th Congress of the CPSU, the adoption of the bases of legislation of the USSR and Union Republics on health care, the constitutions of the USSR, and the decrees of the Central Committee of the CPSU and Council of Ministers of the USSR "On measures for the further improvement of the national health service" present the team of authors and editors of the Great Medical Encyclopedia (GME) with new tasks. This necessitates the even more active use of the GME for the introduction of the latest advances in modern science into medical practice making them available to a wide range of physicians, striving in every way to establish the interlinking and interdependence of individual problems and disciplines so that, side by side with the maximal development of specialized types of medical care, physicians will be constantly helped to deepen their knowledge in the fields of theoretical, clinical, and prevention medicine as a whole. Finally, we must insist even more strongly that the information contained in GME will be reliable, up to date, objective, intelligible to physicians in all specialties.

Considering the great importance and authoritativeness of medical encyclopedias, we appeal to the scientific and medical community, scientific medical societies, learned committees of research institutes and medical colleges of the country, and the staff of hospitals, prophylactic, hygiene, and epidemiological stations throughout the country to participate more widely in the preparation and discussion of articles in GME.

Working as an author or editor of material in the medical encyclopedia is a great honor for a scientist and evidence of his high competence and scientific maturity. Every author and editor of an article in the encyclopedia must be aware of his high responsibility to the vast army of thousands of Soviet physicians for whom there is no more authoritative source of systemized and reliable information than the medical encyclopedia.

In the decree of the Central Committee of the CPSU and Council of Ministers of the USSR dated July 5, 1968, a third edition of the GME is envisaged as one of the measures for the further improvement of health care and the development of medical science in the country. It is the duty of every medical scientist, every Soviet medical worker, to make whatever contribution he can to the fulfilment of this honorable and responsible task for the Party and Soviet Government.

April 10, 1978

Participants to the 3rd Plenum of the Great
Medical Encyclopedia, Academy of Medical
Sciences of the USSR

Translated from Byulleten' Éksperimental'noi Biologii i Meditsiny, Vol. 86, No. 10, pp. 506-507, October, 1978.