OBITUARIES

ACADEMICIAN ABID SADYKOVICH SADYKOV (1913-1987)

The life of a scientist is made up of those tasks and problems that he has dealt with and has succeeded in solving. An undisputed and brilliant example of this is the pathway through life of one of the greatest organic chemists of our country, Abid Sadykovich Sadykov — Academician of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Member of the CPSU since 1946, Hero of Socialist Labor, Director of the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry of the Uzbek SSR Academy of Sciences. From his early years and to his last days he was interested in the nature of the "corpuscles of life" — the structure and properties of the substances organizing living systems and enabling them to develop and function. It is just for this reason that the spectrum of chemical compounds that were isolated and studied in many ways by Abid Sadykovich himself and his pupils was extremely broad but was limited to structures arising from substrates of various polyenzyme systems of plant and animal cells. All organic chemists and, all the more, those working in the field of bioorganic chemistry, know the work of A. S. Sadykov in the field of the chemistry of the alkaloids, organic acids, polyphenols, nuclear proteins, peptides, proteins, toxins, glycoproteins, hormones, antitumoral drugs, pheromones, and physiologically active organometallic substances.

Academician A. S. Sadykov was one of the founders of the Soviet school of bioorganic chemistry the work of which has entered the classical pool of Soviet and world science and he was awarded the D. M. Mendeleev Gold Medal.

He showed that many of the unique chemical features of the reactivity of compounds produced by the secondary metabolism are necessary for the realization of the biological functions of macromolecular intracellular structures.

A deep understanding of the interrelationship between the structure and function of biomolecules and the specific chemical actions of the surrounding medium led A. S. Sadykov to set up a system of investigations on the use of the enzymatic, transporting, and depositing properties of living systems in the industrial processing of mineral raw material with the aim of creating environment-protecting technologies for isolating a number of valuable elements and a waste-free technology of cotton production.

Surprising features of the creative activity of Academician A. S. Sadykov were always an acute feeling for the new, a deep intuition in the selection of promising directions, and skill in combining fundamental scientific investigations with the solution of the most important applied problems. With his name is connected the practical introduction into Central Asia of investigations of natural compounds and the bioorganic chemistry of many new approaches and views based on such modern physicochemical and theoretical methods as spectroscopy and radiospectroscopy, quantum chemistry, conformational analysis, and the mathematical modeling of chemical structures and processes.

Translated from Khimiya Prirodnykh Soedinenii, No. 5, pp. 774-75, September-October, 1987.

0009-3130/87/2305-0649$12.50

A. S. Sadykov played a similar role in the organization in the Republic of genetic engineering studies and hybridoma investigations directed to the creation of cell systems with new properties.

A. S. Sadykov's merits were recognized by Government awards.

His pupils and coworkers mourn the loss of Abid Sadykovich Sadykov and they are making every effort to bring his ideas and undertakings to fruition.

Institute of Biolorganic Chemistry
of the Uzbek SSR Academy of Sciences
Editorial Board