
ANNIVERSARY

To the 90th Anniversary of Birth of Academician M.G. Voronkov

N. N. Vlasova

*Favorskii Irkutsk Institute of Chemistry, Siberian Branch, Russian Academy of Sciences,
ul. Favorskogo 1, Irkutsk, 664033 Russia*

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This month, a prominent scientist and an extraordinary person Mikhail Grigor'evich Voronkov, the Academician and the winner of the State Prizes of the Russian Federation and Ukraine, prize of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and A.N. Nesmeyanov, D.I. Mendeleev, A. Einstein and MAIK Nauka prizes, Cavalier of 5 orders and 30 medals, and Honorable Citizen of the city of Irkutsk and the Irkutsk Region will celebrate his 90th anniversary of birth.

M.G. Voronkov was born on December 6, 1921 in Orel. In 1938 he entered the Chemical Department of the Leningrad State University. In the beginning of July 1941 he joined the volunteer defenders of the Native land (102nd battalion of the Vasileostrovskaya Division of the Leningrad National Home Guard Army, 209th Destructive Battalion of the troops of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs). After concussion he was demobilized and joined, for some time, the laboratory staff of Leningrad Anti-Aircraft Defense Headquarters. In March, 1942 he was evacuated by the Road of Life from the besieged Leningrad to Sverdlovsk where he graduated ahead of schedule the local university. The same year he was accepted for postgraduate study at the Institute of Organic Chemistry of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, which was at that time evacuated to Kazan.

In 1944 M.G. Voronkov returned to Leningrad where he joined the staff of the Chemical Department of the Leningrad State University as an assistant and later as a senior researcher. Since 1959 he served as a head of the Laboratory of Inorganic Polymers of the Institute of Silicate Chemistry of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. In 1961, by the invitation of the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences of the Latvian SSR, he headed the Laboratory Organoelement

Compounds of Institute of Organic Synthesis in Riga, and in 1970 was appointed to the position of the Director of the Irkutsk Institute of Organic Chemistry, Siberian Branch, Academy of Sciences of the USSR and stayed at this position for more than a quarter-century. Having left in 1995 the Director's position, M.G. Voronkov has continued to work at the Irkutsk Institute as the adviser of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

At present M.G. Voronkov heads the Laboratory of Organosilicon Compounds and Materials of the Grebenshchikov Institute of Silicate Chemistry of the Russian Academy of Sciences (St. Petersburg), not breaking close contacts with the institute he headed for 25 years and heading, like all previous years, the Laboratory of Organoelement Compounds and his founded scientific school.

The width of scientific views and polyhistorical knowledge of Acad. Voronkov, which formed keystones of his successful scientific activity and basic nature of scientific research, were in many respects favored by the fact that he was a disciple of the three major chemical schools of Academicians A.E. Favorskii, N.D. Zelinskii, and V.N. Ipat'ev.

Later M.G. Voronkov in himself founded a prominent chemical school which strictly followed his basic credo in science: "Scientific research should be based on three whales: originality, fundamental nature, and orientation to practice."

The scientific work under Voronkov's supervision was done just in this way and resulted in the discovery of new classes of organic sulfur compounds and many new reactions of organosulfur compounds, one of which was named after Acad. Voronkov, development

of a new branch of silicon chemistry, specifically bio-organosilicon chemistry, development of the chemistry, physical chemistry, biology, and pharmacology of hypervalent silicon compounds: silatranes, hyposilatranes, dragonoids (derivatives of lactams, amides, azoles, and carboxylic acid hydrazides).

Such scientific directions as the chemistry of carbofunctional polyorganylsilsesquioxanes—effective organosilicon sorbents and ion-exchange and complex-forming agents, polyfunctional organosilicon compounds—precursors of thin-layer structures for modern micro- and optoelectronic devices and special and ultrahard coatings, and polyunsaturated macrolinear and macrocyclic hydrocarbons—perspective precursors silicon carbide fibers and ceramics were founded and developed under the supervision of M.G. Voronkov. The methods of low-temperature generation of hypovalent silicon compounds (silanones) developed under the leadership of M. G. Voronkov, have formed the basis for his new theory of formation and cleavage of the siloxane bond.

Under the supervision of M.G. Voronkov there have been created three new generations of biologically active compounds—silatranes, protatranes, and polymetal acrylates—have opened the way to unique, unprecedented in the world medical practice, adaptogens, immune modulators, and medicinals, such as Feracryl, Argakril, Citrimin, Acizol, Cobasol, Trecresan (Cresacin), Chlorocresacin, Mival, Silakast, Indacetamin, etc.

The above achievements by no means exhaust the list of scientific and practical contributions of Acad. Voronkov to the organosilicon chemistry. He is presently continuing devoted and fruitful, like over the

past seven decades, service to domestic science. The results of his fruitful research are reflected in more than in 3000 scientific papers in domestic and foreign journals, 45 monographs (15 of the which were translated and published in the USA, England, Germany, Japan, Romania, Poland, and Israel), as well as 60 reviews and chapters in books published in Russia and abroad. Mikhail Grigor'evich is a holder of more than 500 USSR inventor's certificates and Russian patents, as well as more than 50 foreign patents. M.G. Voronkov's research in the chemistry of organoelement compounds and, in particular, organic derivatives of hypervalent silicon have found followers in many countries all over the world (the USA, Germany, France, Japan, Hungary, Poland, China, Israel, Mongolia, etc.).

Among M.G. Voronkov's disciples there are 35 Doctors of Sciences and 140 Candidates of Sciences.

The uniqueness of Mikhail Grigor'evich Voronkov as the world-renown scientist also consists in that in 1981 he completely lost sight which, without that, had not been so good as a result of the contusion he suffered in 1941 during the Great Patriotic War. However, this circumstance changed anything neither in its intensive and fruitful scientific work nor in his amazing optimistic and positive attitude to people and life.

The editorial board, authors, and readers of the Journal of General Chemistry, colleagues and disciples warmly congratulate Mikhail Grigorevich Voronkov with his glorious jubilee and wish to him, from the bottom of the heart, health and new creative successes for the blessing of chemical science.