

In Memory of Gennadii Alekseevich Kirillov (25 July 1933 – 22 September 2013)



On 22 September 2013, Gennadii Alekseevich Kirillov – doctor of physical and mathematical sciences, professor, prominent scientist, first director of the Institute of Laser Physics Research, deputy scientific director of the Russian Federal Nuclear Center ‘All-Russian Research Institute of Experimental Physics’ (RFNC-VNIIEF) – died at the age of 80.

As a native inhabitant of Nizhnii Novgorod, in 1956 Gennadii Alekseevich graduated from the Faculty of Radiophysics at the Gorky University as a research physicist and began working in Sector 3 at the VNIIEF. In the first few years he carried out research on the development of nuclear weapons and obtained unique results that were of fundamental importance.

Gennadii Alekseevich together with Samuil Borisovich Kormer were among the founders of the laser direction at the VNIIEF. Since 1963, under their supervision and with the participation of leading industrial research institutes and institutes of the USSR Academy of Sciences, research was conducted on the development of high-power explosive photodissociation lasers with emission parameters, unsurpassed to this day. A series of high-power laser devices was devel-

oped, which have found application in complexes of special equipment.

In 1970, Sector 13 was established that was headed by S.B. Kormer and Gennadii Alekseevich became his deputy for scientific work. From 1982 to 2003, he was the head of the laser department at the VNIIEF.

Successful research in the field of photodissociation lasers allowed the development of high-power lasers for laser fusion. Under G.A. Kirillov’s guidance and direct participation, a number of physical facilities were designed and a wide range of basic and applied studies were performed. In particular, participation of many national scientific and industrial organisations made it possible to create a unique, Europe’s largest facility ‘Iskra-5’, which became one of the VNIIEF symbols. The continuation of this work is currently the national mega-project on creation of the UFL-2M facility.

Scientific activity brought G.A. Kirillov fame and prestige among foreign physicists in laser science: He was decorated with the international Edward Teller Medal for his great contribution in laser physics research.

Gennadii Alekseevich Kirillov is a representative of the constellation of scholars and leaders who are responsible for the modern look of the RFNC-VNIIEF. He was awarded the honorary title of Honoured Scientist of Russia, was the USSR State Prize Laureate and was decorated with the Order of the Red Banner and the ‘Badge of Honour’ as well as several other medals.

Under G.A. Kirillov’s leadership, a generation of laser physicists and scientists was brought up. Under his initiative the Department of Quantum Electronics was founded at the Sarov State Physical-Technical Institute. For two decades, Gennadii Alekseevich was first a member of the Editorial Board, and then of the Editorial Council of ‘Quantum Electronics’.

Gennadii Alekseevich loved sports and was the champion of Russia in rowing. A wonderful husband and father, he and his wife Iraida Ivanovna brought up a son and a daughter.

The bright memory of Gennadii Alekseevich Kirillov, an outstanding scientist and a real Russian intellectual, will always remain in our hearts.

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