

## To the memory of Nikolai Aleksandrovich Borisevich



Belarusian science has suffered a heavy loss. Nikolai Aleksandrovich Borisevich, a prominent scientist in the field of molecular spectroscopy, luminescence, laser physics and infrared technology, doctor of physical and mathematical sciences, professor, academician of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and of the Russian Academy of Sciences, foreign member of several foreign academies, prominent statesman and public figure, member of the Great Patriotic War, Hero of Socialist Labour, passed away at the age of 93 on 25 October 2015.

Nikolai Aleksandrovich was born in a peasant family on 21 September 1923 in the village of Luchnoi Most of the Berezinskii district of the Minsk region. From 1941 to 1944 he was a member of the underground Komsomol group and a fighter of the 152th partisan detachment, and since 1944 – an artillery soldier of the Red Army. He ended the war in Berlin. For his gallantry in battle, he was decorated two Orders of the Red Star, Orders of the Patriotic War of the first and second class, and many medals.

After graduating from the Belarusian State University in 1950, he passed a long way from the post-graduate student to the President of the Academy of Sciences of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic (BSSR), which he headed for 18 years, from 1969 to 1987. His name is associated with the rapid development of physics, mathematics, computer science, chemistry, Earth sciences, photobiology and other scientific fields in Belarus. He was an initiator of the establishment of design offices, pilot production, regional research centres, development works on defence projects of the BSSR Academy of Sciences.

Invaluable is the contribution of academician Borisevich to the development of optics, spectroscopy and their applications. He is the author of scientific discoveries and more than 600 scientific papers. For outstanding scientific achievements Nikolai Aleksandrovich was awarded the Lenin Prize, State Prize of the USSR and the Republic of Belarus. His scientific school gave a start in life to more than 30 candidates of science, 12 doctors, including 4 members of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.

For two decades, Nikolai Aleksandrovich headed the Scientific Council of Luminescence of the Russian Academy of Sciences and was in charge of the Laboratory of Molecular Photonics at Lebedev Physics Institute, created by his initiative.

Almost a quarter century Nikolai Aleksandrovich was a member of the editorial board and editorial council of *Quantum Electronics*.

The contribution of N.A. Borisevich to the development of science is noted by high government awards. He was awarded the Order of the Red Banner of Labour, Order of the October Revolution, three Orders of Lenin, Order of Friendship (Russian Federation), Order of Francysk Skaryna. In 1978 he was awarded the title of Hero of Socialist Labour.

People, with whom Nikolai Aleksandrovich worked for many years, will remember his great human qualities: kindness, readiness to help, absolute honesty, and most importantly an endless devotion to science to which he dedicated his long life.

**O.N. Krokhin**