

PROFESSOR PETKO E. PETKOV
(1924–2018)

THE GREAT SCIENTIST, BELOVED TEACHER
AND NOBLE MAN WHO USED TO WORK MORE
THAN 50 YEARS IN THE ISLETS OF LANGERHANS



Professor Petko Emanouilov Petkov, MD, DSc, suddenly passed away at the age of 94 years on 2 September 2018 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

He was born on 24 May 1924 in the village of Pordim, Pleven district, Bulgaria. There was a symbol in the date of his birthday – 24 May is the most respectful and beloved day of all Bulgarians – the National Day of the Cyrillic alphabet, Education, Science and Culture (also known as the Day of St. Cyril and St. Methodius – the creators of our alphabet). Since 1851-now all the schools and universities students and teachers in Bulgaria have been singing the national science and culture anthem:

*Forward! Science is a sun,
which in our souls shines!...*

1943 – graduated from Classical High School in the city of Shumen; Bulgaria

1945–1951 – student at the Medical Faculty, Sofia

1957–1989 – Assistant Professor (1964), Professor (1969) and Head of Department of Histology and Embryology, Medical Faculty, Sofia

1969–1972 – Deputy Rector, Medical Faculty, Sofia

1960–1961, 1964–1965 – Research Fellow at the Institute of Medical Histology, Paris, France

1974–1975 – Guest Professor at the Medical Faculty, Hershey, Pennsylvania, USA

1984–1985 – Guest Professor at the Department of Physiology, Limoges, France

1986 – awarded Officier des Palmes Academiques for his contributions to culture and science.

The biomedical science and education were indeed a sun, which has shined in his soul. The belief in his work was *In via est in medicina via sine Histologia e Biologia cellular* (In medicine the road is impassable without Histology and Cell Biology). Thus Professor Petkov became one of the most renowned Bulgarian scholars and teachers in the field. He devoted his life to both the teaching medical students and the study on the ultra-structure of pancreatic islets of Langerhans. His name could undoubtedly be listed along with the names of the praiseworthy modern scientists in that research field. His strong willing was to set the organization of Bulgarian science and education in accordance with that of the advanced laboratories and universities worldwide.

Professor Petkov devoted to science several generations of young people. He was one of the most beloved teachers of many students including the Editor-in-Chief of *Biomedical Reviews*. Professor Petkov will long be remembered for his noble character and for his creative enthusiasm for the excellence of biomedical education and science in Bulgaria.

We would like to express our heartfelt condolences to his family. We lost a beloved teacher, scientist and brain-and-heart friend (BHF). The vivid impression he made on all of us will always live in our memory.

RIP, Professor Petko E. Petkov!

George N. Chaldakov and BHF's