

To the memory of Professor Andrey Antonov

Professor Andrey Sergeevich Antonov (1936–2008) is a bright representative of the elder generation of molecular biologists whose scientific prime began right after the discovery of the DNA double helix. His growth concurred with the rise of molecular biology in the country, and, as many of his age, he found himself in the heart of changes. He early became a leader and, with time, headed a prolific school of thought. The talent and charisma of him and his peers in many respects shaped the development of molecular biology on the national scale.

Andrey Antonov was born on June 6, 1936 in Moscow. He graduated from the Faculty of Biology and Soil Science of Moscow State University in 1959 with the degree in plant biochemistry. His student supervisors were Andrey N. Belozersky and Alexander S. Spirin, the future leaders and decision-makers in national molecular research. Deep respect and gratitude to them he carried through the years. Shortly after graduation, he defends a Ph.D., becomes an assistant lecturer and associate professor at the Department of Plant Biochemistry (the today's Chair of Molecular Biology). It was the time when A. N. Belozersky launched a research program on comparative analyses of DNA to establish natural relationships of organisms, with the perspective of uncovering the natural history of life. A brilliantly educated biochemist, passionate naturalist, and talented scientist able to discern the essence in every subject or work, Andrey Antonov became one of his closest colleagues, an ally, and a true follower. In the 1950s and 1960s, the ideas of A. N. Belozersky were ahead of time. Andrey Antonov devoted his scientific life to their innovative development and defended the new knowledge in hot arguments with traditionally thinking members of the classic school. It was a prolific and happy way of a scientist having witnessed the first attempts to approach DNA structure and the emergence of modern state-of-the-art techniques of bioinformatics, phylogenetics, and genomics.

The 2nd Moscow International Conference “Molecular Phylogenetics” (MolPhy-2) is dedicated to the blessed memory of Professor Andrey S. Antonov.

MolPhy-2 Organizing Committee