

Celebration of the 80th Anniversary of Prof. Vassil Vassilev

Dear Prof. Vassilev,
Dear guests,

I have the honour and pleasure of opening our meeting relevant to the 80th anniversary of Prof. Dr Vassil Assenov Vassilev – Honorary Chairman of the Bulgarian Anatomical Society and Honorary member of the Bulgarian Anthropological Society.

The name and activities of Prof. Dr Vassilev are widely and well known in our medical community being lecturer of long in human anatomy teaching many generations medical and dental doctors and pharmacists, Head of the Department of Anatomy, Chancellor of the Medical University in Sofia, socially active person, awarded many honorary titles, he is a figure in the Bulgarian Scientists Union and the Union of the medical Scientific Societies, as well as a good Bulgarian.

The wide administrative experience of Prof. V. Vassilev is of good benefit for his participation in the High Testimonial Committee – a support concerning his objectivity and impartiality as reviewer, speaker and consultant for the Committee.

His scientific production is noteworthy not being only numerous, but being a very good model for high quality, exactness and honesty in the scientific work. An example for the connection between generations and guarantee about traditions' confirmation is the fact that Prof. V. Vassilev is disciple of the great anatomists Dimitar Kadanov, Milko Balan, George Galabov and Teodor Schibler. Prof. Vassilev himself writes: "For a young man everyone could be a teacher by whom he could learn anything." Let us remember this!

Everything begins from the point to which it stands. Prof. V. Vassilev has continued and confirmed his predecessors' work and gave new directions to the scientific investigations. He is one of the few very active popularizers of the morphological science.

The development of Prof. V. Vassilev as teacher and scientist followed its normal progress – from a long service as demonstrator up to professor degree; PhD, DSc, Head of the Department of anatomy and so on. This more than forty years activity is a result of many years of enormous labor, constancy and perseverance. It looks like easy to get it, but only at first sight. Only a wish could not be enough, skillfulness is needed too and Prof. Vassilev's makings prove it.

What are the few things that we know or not about the man – Prof. V. Vassilev?

Vassil Assenov Vassilev is a holistic worker – not only concerning his profession but also in life. Being very active, he is also extremely exact person in everything he does.

Vassil Assenov Vassilev is married to Dr Margaret Vassileva, the only wife for him till now. The pride of the parents is both their children – Dr Ekaterina Vassileva and Dr Ivan Vassilev. I shall omit the grandchildren meaning not that they are persons of no importance, but because of the fact that the Family Vassilev is proud of five great-grandchildren also. Let them be happy, healthy and smart!

As a man coming from Boyana district, Prof. Vassilev is enthusiastic skier. Nowadays, he is playing basketball ambitiously and passionately. A good example to be followed!

The constant endeavors of Prof. Vassilev are extraordinary for the consolidation and development of the Bulgarian Anatomical Society that he has done during the past years and has carried on till now. The tradition enjoins him and undertakes him to do it being connected with the names of Asen Hadjiolov, Dimitar Kadanov, Milko Balan, George Galabov. For Prof. Vassilev the professional, alive consolidation of the Bulgarian morphologists is a precondition about contemporary, high-grade development of the morphological science in Bulgaria, it could support and stabilize the international contacts and could confirm our science.

The high professionalism of Prof. Vassilev as anatomist is well known and universally accepted – excellent dissector, brilliant lecturer, objective examiner, organizer of the teaching process.

In support of my words I shall give some data.

Vassil Assenov Vassilev was born on August 15, 1928 in Sofia. He graduated from the Medical Faculty in Sofia in 1952. Since 1953 he occupied the position of an assistant professor in the Chair of Anatomy in Sofia and passing over all scientific stages he attained the academic rank Professor in 1975.

In 1959 he gets the clinical specialty in orthopedics and traumatology. Prof. Vassilev worked and made specializations in several Universities in Bulgaria and abroad – Wurzburg, Berlin, Lubek, Leipzig, Munich. He is author and co-author of 12 textbooks and high school appliances, as well as of over 200 scientific works published in authoritative foreign journals and books; he participated with papers in more than 180 Congresses – International and National with international participation.

His scientific work and publications cover a wide frame of reference:

Macroscopic anatomical investigations;

Neuromuscular investigations of sense innervations of different organs;

Spinal column studies

Investigations of the joints' structure;

Investigations of connective tissue in the skeletal muscles;

Ultrastructure and histo-chemistry of the serous membranes;

Ultrastructure of the meninges.

Summarizing the scientific contributions of Prof. Vassilev one might say he is the best authority on the connective tissue. He contrived to build up a good scientific group that successfully applies the new morphological methods (transmission and scanning electronic microscopy, histo- and cytochemistry, immunohistochemistry and experiments with markers – peroxidase, Ruthenium red). The problems are markedly related to practice being result of his clinical specialty in orthopedics and traumatology. That's why Prof. Vassilev could be thought a pioneer of the clinical anatomy at microscopic and submicroscopic level. Considerably are the international scientific contacts of Prof. Vassilev thanks to the possibility of him to work in authoritative German Institutes, as well as to his participations in many international congresses. He has contacted with our clinical doctors taking part in lot of the orthopedic and surgeon conferences.

The short presentation of the entire and abundant activity of Prof. Vassilev could outline clearly his image of a thorough and knowledgeable scientist, a perfect organizer of science and education, an active public figure.

Please, let me congratulate and wish him on yours behalf and myself longevity and creative activity, healthy and happy days.

Happy anniversary, honoured Prof. Vassilev!

Many happy returns!

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