

95th anniversary of Dr Sergey Oganosovich Movsesyan



On December 20, 2023, Dr Movsesyan Sergey Oganosovich celebrated his 95th anniversary. Sergei Oganosovich Movsesyan is a Soviet and Russian zoologist and parasitologist. Currently, he is an Academician of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia (NAS RA) and Scientific Director of the Centers: Scientific Center of Zoology and Hydroecology (SCZH NAS RA) and the Joint Scientific Experimental Center of Zoology and Parasitology of the NAS RA and Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Dr Sergei Movsesyan is the head of two laboratories: Experimental Parasitology (in the IEE RAS) and General Helminthology and Parasitology (in the SCZH NAS RA).

Dr Sergei Movsesyan was born on December 20, 1928 in the village of Mets-shen, Mardakert region, Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. From an early age he showed curiosity and diligence in acquiring new knowledge. He was a conscientious and hard-working student. After graduating from the Veterinary faculty of the All-Union Zooveterinary Institute in Yerevan, Armenian SSR in 1951, according to the rules of that time, he worked as a practical veterinarian.

Interest in scientific research led Sergey Movsesyan to return to the Department of Parasitology at the Zooveterinary Institute in Yerevan, where he studied the life cycles of the causative agents of fascioliasis - *Fasciola hepatica* and *Fasciola gigantica*. In carrying out these studies, Sergey Movsesyan was guided and inspired by a world-famous scientist - Eduard Ambartsumovich Davtyan. Another fateful meeting took place here: the acquaintance with a fifth-year grade student at the veterinary faculty, Nedda Minaevna Gevorkyan, who later became his faithful life partner.

The path of Sergey Movsesyan from a student to an academician and a world-renowned parasitologist was not easy. In 1959, he started his post-graduate course at the All-Union Institute of Helminthology named after Academician Skryabin (VIGIS) in Moscow. After more than ten years of fruitful work at VIGIS, in 1971 Sergey Movsesyan defended his doctoral dissertation under the title “Morphological-systematic, biological, zoogeographical characteristics of cestodes of the suborder Davaineata Skryabin, 1940 and the experience of establishing their phylogenetic relationships”. As a result of research in the field of morphology, ecology, biology, zoogeography and phylogeny of parasitic flatworms, Dr Sergei Movsesyan presented more advanced systems for individual groups of cestodes, and also described a number of species new to science, and erected new generic and higher taxa. After defending his doctoral dissertation, Sergei Movsesyan continued to work at VIGIS as the head of the Laboratory of Fauna and Systematics of Helminths and the Central Helminthological Museum.

In 1976, Dr Sergey Movsesyan was invited by the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences of Armenia and personally by the President of the Academy to take up the post of director of the Institute of Zoology of the Academy of Sciences of Armenia, which he headed for more than 30 years (from 1976 to 2007). The scientific and scientific-organisational activities of Sergey Movsesyan were widely recognised and highly appreciated by the Academy of Sciences of the Armenian SSR, and he was granted Corresponding Member (since 1982), Academician (since 1990) and Honored Scientist of Armenia (since 2013).

In 1994, Dr. Sergei Movsesyan was invited by the Department of Biological Sciences of the Russian Academy of Sciences to take up the post of Deputy Director for Scientific Work of the Institute of Parasitology of the Russian Academy of Sciences (formerly the Helminthological

Laboratory of the Russian Academy of Sciences) to Moscow. During this period, he established a new Laboratory of Experimental Parasitology. In addition to leading the laboratory, Dr Sergei Movsesyan served as Director of the Institute of Parasitology of the Russian Academy of Sciences from 2004 to 2007 (before the institute was merged with the IEE RAS and renamed the Center for Parasitology). During the leadership of the institute, Dr Sergei Movsesyan contributed to the training of numerous candidates and doctors of science in the field of zoology. During these years, in all available ways, he actively promoted the latest knowledge and achievements in the field of parasitology; he frequently organised international and local scientific conferences, actively participated in the editorial boards of scientific journals, and successfully developed international cooperation with the academies of sciences of Armenia, Bulgaria, Poland, Finland and other countries.

Dr Sergei Movsesyan's range of scientific research covers various aspects of general helminthology and parasitology, including studying the biological diversity of helminth fauna in various taxonomic groups of vertebrates, deciphering parasite-host relationships, hosts and zoogeographical distribution of parasitic organisms, and neurobiological and molecular genetic aspects of their life. The results of Movsesyan's research have been published in more than 500 papers, including 10 fundamental monographs, two of which were published in the "*Fundamentals of Cestodology*" series. Dr Sergei Movsesyan trained seven doctoral students and 16 candidates of sciences in helminthology and parasitology.

Dr Sergei Movsesyan was awarded the Prize named after Academician K. I. Skryabin of the RAS; he was awarded commemorative medals of Academician K. I. Skryabin, E. N. Pavlovsky and G. Mendel; and was frequently awarded certificates of honour from the Presidiums of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia. He is the chairman of the Scientific Council on Parasitology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the chairman of the dissertation council for the defence of doctoral and master's theses in the specialty "Parasitology" at the IEE named after A. N. Severtsov (RAS), vice-president of the All-Russian Society of Helminthologists named after K.I. Skryabin (RAS), chairman of the commission for awarding the Prize named after Academician K.I. Skryabin (RAS), president of the Society of Parasitologists of Armenia, and honorary member of the Society of Parasitologists of Bulgaria.

We, colleagues of Sergei Oganosovich Movsesyan, cordially congratulate him on his glorious anniversary - the 95th anniversary of his birth and the 72nd anniversary of scientific and scientific-organisational activity and we wish him happiness, good health, and many years of productive work.

Teams of Center of Parasitology of the Institute of Ecology and Evolution, All-Russian Research Institute of Fundamental and Applied Parasitology of Animals and Plants (formerly VIGIS) - branch of the Federal Scientific Center All-Russian Research Institute of Experimental Veterinary Medicine, Scientific Center of Zoology and Hydroecology NAS RA, and the Russian Society of Nematologists