

On April 26, 1978, Vasili Vasil'evich Zakusov, eminent Soviet pharmacologist, Academician of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR, Honored Scientist, Lenin Prizewinner, Director of the Institute of Pharmacology, Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR, and Chairman of the Council of the All-Union and Moscow Scientific Societies of Pharmacologists, celebrates his 75th birthday and the culmination of 50 years of scientific, teaching, and public activity.

V. V. Zakusov, while a student at the Military Medical Academy, began his scientific work under the immediate direction of Academician N. P. Kravkov, the founder of Soviet pharmacology.

The circle of V. V. Zakusov's scientific interests is very wide, but the most urgent problems in pharmacology have always been at the center of his attention. Most of his investigations have been in two main directions: the pharmacology of the nervous system and of the cardiovascular system. Within this short article it is impossible to give an adequate picture of all of Zakusov's publications, the number of which now exceeds 160, including a number of monographs: "The pharmacology of endocrine preparations" (1939-1940), "Experimental data on the pharmacology of the central nervous system" (1947), "The pharmacology of the nervous system" (1953), "A textbook of pharmacology" (1960, 1966), and "The pharmacology of central synapses" (1973). Zakusov's work on the pharmacology of the heart and circulation has been widely recognized, and he was awarded the N. P. Kravkov Prize for it.

The most important field of V. V. Zakusov's research is undoubtedly neuropharmacology and, in particular, psychopharmacology.

He has undertaken a comprehensive study of the mechanism of action of neurotropic drugs, and he has also taken part in extensive combined studies aimed at producing new and original neurotropic and psychotropic drugs.

Zakusov's services to the development of Soviet pharmacology will be difficult to overestimate. His synaptic theory of action of pharmacological agents, which has been successfully developed by the work of his many pupils and colleagues, is the foundation of modern views in this field of science and has gained worldwide acceptance. For his series of researches into the pharmacology of synaptic transmission, generalized in the monograph "The pharmacology of central synapses," V. V. Zakusov (jointly with S. V. Anichkov) was awarded the Lenin Prize in 1976.



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Translated from *Byulleten' Éksperimental'noi Biologii i Meditsiny*, Vol. 85, No. 4, pp. 507-508, April, 1978.

V. V. Zakusov is an excellent teacher. Many generations of physicians trained at the Military Medical Academy in Kuibyshev, the 1st and 3rd Medical Institutes in Leningrad, and the 1st Moscow Medical Institute, where he has successively been Head of the Department of Pharmacology, can look upon him as their teacher. In 1954, Zakusov organized the Institute of Pharmacology of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR, which has a world-wide reputation, and founded his own scientific school. Many leading scientists are numbered among Zakusov's pupils.

Zakusov's public activity is widely known. He is Permanent President of the All-Union and Moscow Scientific Societies of Pharmacologists Chairman of the All-Union Problem Commission on Pharmacology, Member of the Lenin Prize Committee, and was elected Vice-President of the International Union of Pharmacology (IUPHAR). V. V. Zakusov is Deputy Chief Editor of the journal "Bulletin of Experimental Biology and Medicine," a member of the Editorial Board of International Journals, and a World Health Organization expert.

V. V. Zakusov's services have been recognized by many government awards: Orders of Lenin, the Red Banner, and the Red Banner of Labor, the "Badge of Honor," and medals. He is Corresponding Member of the Académie de Pharmacie, France, Doctor of the Semmelweis University (Budapest), Honorary Member of the Hungarian Society of Pharmacologists, and has been awarded the Gold Medal of the Mario Negri Institute (Milan). From all that has been written above it will be clear that V. V. Zakusov is a talented scientist, outstanding teacher, eminent organizer and public worker, who has founded a new and promising direction in pharmacology and has created his own scientific school. On the occasion of his jubilee he still abounds in energy and in new creative plans.

The Editorial Board of the Bulletin of Experimental Biology and Medicine warmly congratulates Vasili Vasil'evich Zakusov and wishes him good health and success in his noble activity for the sake of science, health, and the Soviet people.