
CHRONICLE

To Irina Borisovna Naumova's Memory



Professor Irina Borisovna Naumova, who died on August 18, 2003, was a leading researcher at the Department of Microbiology of Moscow State University and had a title of Honorary Scientist of Russia. Her death is a grave loss for the Russian scientific community.

Naumova graduated from the Department of Plant Biochemistry at Moscow State University in 1954, successfully defended her Candidate dissertation in 1965, and received a Doctoral degree in 1980. A student of

academician A.N. Belozerskii, she was involved in the pioneering investigation of teichoic acids, the vitally important cell wall polymers of gram-positive bacteria, and directed this research line for more than 40 years. The studies performed during this period provided a great deal of information on the occurrence and structure of teichoic acids in actinomycetes and showed the possibility of using the fine structure of these polymers to establish the taxonomic status of bacteria. The scientific achievements of Naumova were recognized around the world, and the results of her studies of teichoic acids in actinomycetes were included into almost all contemporary textbooks on the biochemistry of microorganisms. Naumova's contribution to scientific literature included about 200 scientific publications. Two of her review papers were published in highly prestigious international journals.

As a professor at the Department of Microbiology, Naumova supervised students who did their undergraduate and postgraduate works. She advised 10 researchers in the preparation of their candidate dissertations. Many of her former students are now working not only in Russia but also abroad. Her extensive knowledge of the subject enabled her to guide, counsel, and assist on many topical problems of chemical microbiology. For many years, Naumova was a member of dissertation councils on biochemistry, microbiology, and biotechnology at Moscow State University.

Honesty, kindness, delicacy, and consideration were part of Naumova's nature and attracted all of her colleagues. A remarkable Woman, Friend, Colleague, Teacher, and Scientist, as Naumova was, she will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

The Editorial Board