

Obituary

Dr. K. A. Kolesov 1901-1971

Konstantin Andreevic Kolesov died on 13 May, 1971, in his 70th year. He was one of the leading leprologists of the Soviet Union, a member of the WHO Expert Advisory Panel on Leprosy, and a Candidate of Medical Sciences.

After graduating from the Astrakhan Medical Institute in 1928, Dr. Kolesov worked in 1929 and 1930 as a leprologist. He then headed the Clinical Diagnosis Laboratory at the State Institute for Health-Resort Treatment of Tuberculosis (1931-1934). From 1934-1941, he was a lecturer in the Department of Microbiology of the Astrakhan Medical Institute.

In 1941-1945, as a captain in the medical service, Dr. Kolesov took part in the Second World War as head of the laboratory department in hospitals and chief of a sanitation and epidemiological laboratory.

From January 1946 until his last days, Dr. Kolesov was a member of the staff of the Leprosy Department and since 1962, head of that department at the Central Institute for Research on Skin and Venereal Diseases of the Ministry of Health of the USSR, Moscow.

He published over 48 scientific works, mainly dealing with the epidemiology, microbiology and immunology of leprosy.

In the period 1946-1959, Dr. Kolesov took part in, or headed, expeditions to examine the population in places where leprosy had been found in the past, thus giving great assistance to the medical health authorities in the detection of cases and the organization of a leprosy control service.

He was the initiator of active immunoprophylaxis of leprosy in the USSR through the use of BCG vaccine, having confirmed experimentally that BCG vaccination has an inhibiting effect in rat leprosy. Together with A. K. Bulkin, Dr. Kolesov was the first

of Soviet research workers to draw attention to the prognostic significance of a negative Mitsuda reaction in household contacts of leprosy patients, having discovered that nonreactors acquired the disease eight to ten times more frequently than reactors.

Dr. Kolesov paid a great deal of attention to developing methods of cultivating *M. leprae* and *M. lepraemurium*, finding an antigen for the lepromin test and developing methods for infecting laboratory animals with leprosy.

In 1964 Dr. Kolesov was the first Soviet scientist to infect mice successfully in the foot pad by the method proposed by Shepard. The results of this work were published in 1967-1968. He was the first research worker to point out the possibility of using this method of infection to obtain a generalized multiplication of leprosy bacilli in mice, with involvement of the internal organs.

He reported on these findings in 1969 at the Second International Congress of Tropical Dermatology (Kyoto, Japan). In the same year he was sent to India by the Ministry of Health of the USSR to study the organization of leprosy control services.

With his fine knowledge of the literature on leprosy, Dr. Kolesov put a great deal of effort into popularizing among Soviet doctors the latest achievements in leprology throughout the world, and introducing the most modern methods of research for studying various problems of leprology. He devoted his whole life to the study of leprosy.

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