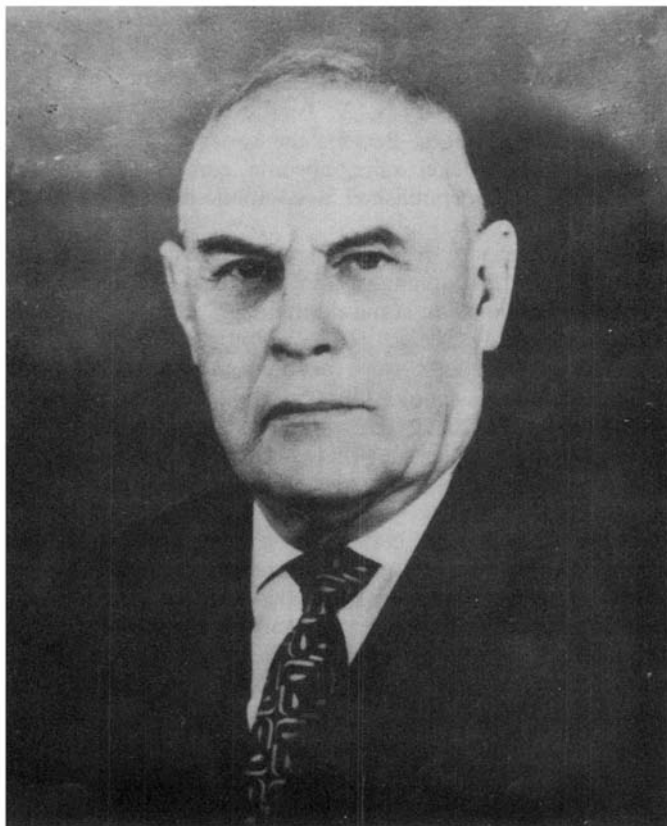


Obituaries

NICKOLAY ALEXANDROVICH TORSUEV
1902–1978



Professor Nickolay Alexandrovich Torsuev, one of the leading leprologists of the USSR, a member of WHO Expert Committee on Leprosy, died on 6 May 1978.

N. A. Torsuev was born on 13 December 1902, in Gorky (the former Nizhny Novgorod). He graduated in Medicine from Novgorod University in 1925 and first practised as a dermato-venerologist. Since 1932 he became a

teacher at the Department of Skin and Venereal Diseases of the Gorky Medical Institute. Thereafter he headed the Departments of Skin and Venereal Diseases of the Medical Institutes in Simferopol (1937–1944), Rostov-on-Don (1944–1961), Donetsk (1961–1976). Since September 1976, he was appointed a professor-consultant at the Department of Skin and Venereal Diseases of the Donetsk Medical Institute (the Ukraine).

N. A. Torsuev was a prominent clinician — dermatologist and leprologist, experienced teacher and eminent scientist.

His medical and scientific interests were many and varied.

He published over 700 scientific works including 24 monographs and a textbook of skin and venereal diseases for medical students. Under N. A. Torsuev's guidance 70 theses were done.

Early in his scientific activity N. A. Torsuev was much engaged in studies on occupational skin diseases. Besides the series of the articles devoted to dermatoses caused by nickel salts, chrome compounds, sodium cyanide, lubricators and so on, he published a comprehensive bibliography on this subject in 1934.

N. A. Torsuev achieved a deserved success in investigating the problems of innervation of normal and damaged skin. His thesis "The nerves of skin and histiocyte (barrier) response in some dermatoses" (1938) was awarded with a special prize from Moscow Society of Dermatologists.

A lot of Torsuev's articles were devoted to the questions of skin and venereal diseases control, aetiology and pathogenesis of various dermatoses and history of dermatology and venerology.

The first article by N. A. Torsuev on leprology appeared in 1931. Since that, during all his scientific life N. A. Torsuev was constantly investigating different problems of leprosy. In his studies N. A. Torsuev was dealing with epidemiology of leprosy, its classification and differential diagnosis, its treatment and prophylaxis. He studied different aspects of pathogenesis, early manifestations of the disease, interactions between murine and human leprosy. In all he published about 230 articles on leprosy, the most important of which were the following: a guide for medical practitioners *Leprosy* (1951, 1952), monographs *The History of Leprosy Classification* (1956), *Leprosy in the Former Russian Empire* (1958), *Brief Reference-book on Leprosy Control* (1958), *Recognition and Differential Diagnosis of Leprosy* (1971) and various articles on the problems of leprosy treatment, relapses in leprosy, differential diagnosis of leprosy and some tropical diseases.

Thanks to N. A. Torsuev's initiative and energy, in 1947 a clinico-experimental leprosarium was founded in Rostov-on-Don (closed in 1970) which he headed up to 1960. In this role he played a great part in the training of doctors and scientists. During this period under his guidance a great number of scientific researches were performed and 23 collections of the scientific works on leprology and dermatology were published.

Prof. N. A. Torsuev took part in preparing the 4th Report of WHO Expert Committee on Leprosy (1970).

He was an honoured member of 13 Societies of Dermatologists, a member of the International Association of Tropical Diseases and International Leprosy Association, and a member of the editorial boards of many medical

publications including *International Journal of Leprosy, Castellania, Vestnick dermatologii i venerologii* and others.

For his dedicated work in the field of medical sciences and health services. Prof. N. A. Torsuev was awarded with honorary titles “Meritorious Science Worker”, “Meritorious Physician” and some Government rewards.

N. A. Torsuev, specialist, scientist and teacher, will always be remembered by his students, friends and colleagues.

A. JUSCENKO, V. SHUBIN and V. LOGINOV