

In Memoriam

Inesa B. Kozlovskaya

2 June 1927 – 19 February 2020.

Inesa Kozlovskaya, a brilliant scientist and an extraordinary person and mentor left us on February 19, 2020 after a serious illness. She was 92 years old.

Inesa Kozlovskaya was an acknowledged authority in the field of gravitational physiology. She headed the Department of Sensorimotor Physiology and Countermeasures at the Institute of Biomedical Problems of the Russian Academy of Sciences for many years. From her early years, along with an aptitude for science, she demonstrated exceptional leadership and academic abilities. Her scientific career began at the First Moscow Medical Institute, from which she graduated in 1951. In 1954, Inesa Kozlovskaya received a Ph.D. in Physiology and began lecturing there. She joined the Institute of Higher Nervous Activity in Moscow in 1960. From 1966 to 1971, Dr. Kozlovskaya conducted research in the laboratory of Dr. Neal Miller at Rockefeller University (New York, USA) and also at the New York Medical College under the guidance of Professor W. Brooks. After returning to Moscow in 1971, she moved to the Institute for Information Transmission Problems of the Russian Academy of Sciences. In 1976, Inesa Kozlovskaya successfully defended her doctoral thesis and was recognized as an expert in physiology of the cerebellum.

Dr. Kozlovskaya embarked upon her journey in gravitational physiology in 1977 when she accepted the invitation of academician Oleg Gazenko to join the Institute of Biomedical Problems. Soon she felt at home in the domain of gravitational physiology and rose quickly to prominence in the field. Dr. Kozlovskaya and her team conducted comprehensive studies on the effects of microgravity on the motor system using rhesus monkeys flown on biosatellites of the “Cosmos” series as well as Russian crewmembers who took part in the Salyut, Mir and ISS missions. With her team, Dr. Kozlovskaya designed and implemented many ground-based studies using different microgravity analogs (such as bed rest or dry immersion). These studies both identified patterns of sensory and sensorimotor function and were used to develop effective countermeasures against the adverse effects of microgravity. Many of these countermeasures are widely used in current long-duration space missions. Inesa Kozlovskaya and her research team made significant contributions to understanding of gravitational mechanisms in the motor system and to the ability to perform manned spaceflight. Inesa Kozlovskaya is recognized for developing methods for preventing motor disorders induced by exposure to weightlessness which have been used translationally in clinical, aviation and sports medicine.

Over the course of her more than 60 year career, Inesa Kozlovskaya received many well-deserved accolades. These included the title of corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the “Honored Worker of Science of the Russian Federation” award, the Orbeli award from the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Nelo Pace award from the International Society for Gravitational Physiology, the International Academy of Astronautics Life Sciences prize, and the J. Sutton award “For scientific achievements that have advanced the field of space medicine”.

Aside from her fundamental contributions to the advancement of science, Inesa Kozlovskaya will be fondly remembered for her kindness, fairness and justice, optimistic outlook and openness to new ideas. Her students and colleagues, and all scientists of the Institute will always have fond memories of Inesa Kozlovskaya, an eminent scientist and most amazing person.