

Dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the birth: Dr. Vladislav P. Onufriev (1925–1998)

On April 16, 2025, we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Vladislav Petrovich Onufriev, an eminent virologist, distinguished coordinator in the field of veterinary medicine, Doctor of Science (Biology), Professor, Corresponding Member of the Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences (VASKhNIL), the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences (RAAS), Honored Scientist of Ukraine, veteran of the Great Patriotic War, and Director of the All-Union Foot-and-Mouth Disease Research Institute (AUFMDRI) for 18 years.

Vladislav P. Onufriev was born in the village of Alekseevka, the Kalanchak Raion, the Kherson Oblast. After completing junior high school in 1938–1941, he studied at the Tsyurupynsk Veterinary Technical School (the Kherson Oblast).

As the war broke out, he was mobilized to participate in the defence of the Crimea. From November 1943 to August 1946, he served in the Soviet Army, participated in the Great Patriotic War, fought for a year and a half as a scout and commander of a motorized reconnaissance company in the 33rd Guards Rifle Division, and was wounded. In late 1943, he was awarded the Medal "For Courage" for his bravery, followed by the Order of Glory 3rd Class in 1944 and the Order of Glory 2nd Class in 1945. The battles near Königsberg were particularly fierce, and as a participant of the events he received the Medal "For the Capture of Königsberg". He was also awarded the Order of the Patriotic War 2nd Class (1985) and numerous other medals.

After demobilization, from 1946 to 1951, he was a student at the Kharkiv Veterinary Institute, which he graduated with honors. From 1951 to 1955, he worked as the chief veterinarian of the Mglin District Agricultural Department (the Bryansk Oblast) and later on as a senior veterinarian at the Prosyana MTS (the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast).

From 1955 to 1958, he pursued postgraduate studies at the Leningrad Research Veterinary Institute. In 1960, he defended his dissertation on "The Toxic Effects of Certain Preparations on the Tick *Ixodes Ricinus*" for the Candidate of Science Degree. From 1959 onward, he engaged in research as a senior scientist at the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Laboratory of the Ukrainian Research Institute of Experimental Veterinary Medicine (Kharkiv), was head of the Epizootology Department at the Institute of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine of the Tajik SSR Academy of Sciences (1960), and director of the Tajik Research Veterinary Institute (Dushanbe, 1961–1963).

In March 1963, Vladislav Onufriev was appointed as a director of the newly founded AUFMDRI subordinated to the USSR Ministry of Agriculture. In this role, he proved



himself an excellent organizer and authoritative leader. He oversaw the construction of the modern, well-equipped institute, staffing it with scientific and technical personnel, and launching research on foot-and-mouth disease. Combining administrative duties with scientific work, he also headed the institute's Immunology Laboratory. In 1969, he successfully defended his dissertation on "Experimental Studies on the Immunology of Foot-and-Mouth Disease" for Doctor's Degree (Biology) and in March 1972 was awarded the title of Professor in Virology. The research work performed by Dr. Onufriev and his students was focused on foot-and-mouth disease, its prevention and eradication in the USSR. Considerable attention was paid to passive immunity in animals caused by anti-foot-and-mouth sera, immunolactone, and lactoglobulins, as well as to studying active immunity induced by inactivated mono- and polyvalent vaccines. His diagnostic and preventive methods significantly improved the animal health situation and helped eradicate the disease.

With the direct involvement of Vladislav Onufriev, justification was prepared for construction of the Transcaucasian (Yerevan) and Central Asian (Dushanbe) branches of the AUFMDRI. Since 1970 these branches had served as bases for scientific and practical work in the areas where

foot-and-mouth disease and other highly dangerous animal diseases could be introduced into our country.

For successful completion of the planned research and successful implementation of the obtained results into production, the institute headed by Vladislav P. Onufriev was repeatedly awarded with the Transferable Red Banner Prize from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), the USSR Council of Ministers, the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions (ACCTU), and the Central Committee of the Komsomol, diplomas from the Exhibition of Achievements of National Economy (VDNKh) and from the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR. For developing a set of measures that ensured elimination of foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks nationwide and established sustainable control over this infection, a group of veterinary specialists from the institute was awarded the State Prize of the Russian Federation in Science and Technology.

From 1968 to 1981, Vladislav P. Onufriev was a Chairman of the Coordination Council on Foot-and-Mouth Disease for CMEA Member Countries (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance). In this role, he did extensive work to improve scientific research in specialized laboratories across the USSR and in the CMEA Member Countries and to speed up implementation of the latest breakthroughs into veterinary practice. He undertook numerous international assignments and participated in congresses, symposia, and sessions of the OIE (now the WOA) and CMEA. His scholarly output includes over 300 scientific publi-

cations and 18 invention patents. Under his mentorship, 14 researchers earned Doctor of Science Degree and more than 40 obtained Candidate of Science degree. Professor Onufriev chaired the Academic and Dissertation Councils at AUFMDRI and served on the expert council of the USSR Higher Attestation Commission (VAK).

In 1975, Vladislav P. Onufriev was elected as a Corresponding Member of the VASKhNIL. By 1991, he became a Corresponding Member of the RAAS and the Ukrainian Academy of Agrarian Sciences, Honored Worker of Science and Technology of Ukraine. Concurrently, he engaged in extensive public work, i.e. since 1963 he had been annually elected to the institute's Communist Party Bureau and since 1964 he had been a Candidate Member to the Vladimir Regional Committee of the CPSU. From 1966 to 1980 he became its Full Member. His agricultural research breakthroughs earned him Order of Lenin, Two Orders of the Red Banner of Labor, Diplomas and Certificates of Honor from the USSR VDNKh.

In April 1981, he became head of the Epizootology Department and later the Microbiology and Virology Department at the All-Ukrainian Academy of Agricultural Sciences (Kyiv), where he worked until his passing on December 16, 1998.

Vladislav P. Onufriev was renowned for his scholarly erudition, dedication, and kindness. He is remembered as a man of great warmth and vision who advanced the frontiers of veterinary science and earned deep respect both in the USSR and abroad.