

## On the anniversary of Natalya S. Mudrak

February 8, 2026 is not only the Day of Russian Science, but also an anniversary date for Natalya S. Mudrak, Doctor of Science (Biology), Chief Researcher at the Reference Laboratory for Avian Viral Diseases at the Federal Centre for Animal Health.

Natalya S. Mudrak was born in Belebey town, Bashkir Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, in the family of an engineer and a teacher, who raised her to be a hardworking and determined person. In 1980, after graduating from the Faculty of Biology at the Bashkir State University, she began her career in science as a senior laboratory assistant at the All-Union Foot-and-Mouth Disease Research Institute. There she entered the postgraduate school and focused her research on the antigenic and immunogenic properties of synthetic FMDV peptides. In 1993, she successfully defended her Candidate of Science thesis and was soon appointed the Head of Laboratory for Avian Viral Disease Diagnosis. In 2010, Natalia S. Mudrak defended her Doctor of Science thesis.

The entire scientific career of Natalya S. Mudrak is dedicated to veterinary virology, development and improvement of tools and methods for diagnosing viral diseases of farm animals, based on advances in biotechnology and genetic engineering. The results of her research have made a significant contribution to the study of molecular epizootology of avian viral diseases, to the creation of a comprehensive serological monitoring system in poultry farming using domestic diagnostic kits, equipment, reagents and a computer software that ensures acquisition of reliable data on the immune status of the poultry population. Under the leadership of Dr. Mudrak and with her direct participation, enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay systems based on the indirect ELISA variant were developed and received state registration for the first time. These test systems are intended for the detection and quantification of specific antibodies to pathogens of the major economically significant infectious diseases of chickens. In order to introduce modern diagnostic methods into veterinary practice, Natalia S. Mudrak has taken much effort in equipping the workstations of regional, zonal and oblast (krai, republican) veterinary laboratories, diagnostic laboratories of business operators and veterinary institutions, providing them with ELISA and PCR-based diagnostic tools.

Dr. Mudrak has published over 300 scientific papers and has been granted 25 copyright certificates and patents for inventions of the Russian Federation.

A defining trait of Natalya S. Mudrak's character is her readiness to help everyone. Her sociability and communication skills command sincere respect from everyone she has worked with. She possesses vast experience and has the ability to identify new and promising trends



in science. Dr. Mudrak has supervised four Candidates and one Doctor of Science and continues to provide advisory, methodological, and often practical assistance to degree-seeking researchers.

Natalia S. Mudrak has been a member of the Federal Centre for Animal Health Council on the Thesis Defence for Doctor's and Candidate's Degrees since 2013 and Deputy Head of the Thesis Council since 2016.

Dr. Mudrak's scientific work in ensuring freedom from avian viral diseases has been highly appreciated. She was awarded a Certificate of Honor from the Ministry of Agriculture of Russia (2003); Federal Centre for Animal Health medal for contribution to the Centre's development (2013); Jubilee Medal "70 Years of Vladimir Oblast" (2014); Rosselkhoz nadzor Commemorative Medal for the contribution to veterinary science (2018) and other awards of various levels and statuses.

*The Federal Centre for Animal Health management and the entire team cordially congratulate Dr. Mudrak on her anniversary. We wish her robust health, new creative successes and achievements, happiness and well-being!*