Good fame on earth — in memory of Zhanalyk Niyazovich Abdrakhmanov

The article is devoted to the memory of Zhanalyk Niyazovich Abdrakhmanov, an outstanding Kazakhstani medical scientist, oncologist, Doctor of Medical Sciences, professor, Academician of the National Academy of Sciences. Together with his colleagues, Prof. Abdrakhmanov paid much attention to the study of drugs that can protect the body from the damaging effects of radiation, contributed to the approbation of new drugs, involved the scientists of the Kazakh Institute of Oncology and Radiology in the study of the latest results of international research. He supervised the preparation and defense of 23 doctoral and 27 candidate theses. He authored 223 scientific works, including 12 monographs, four textbooks for medical students, and 11 inventions.

Keywords: Outstanding scientist, radiation dose fractionation, new drugs.
position till 2001, being also the Head of the Radiology and Roentgenology Department of the Almaty State Medical Institute. Those years coincided with the period of restructuring, a decrease in funding, and a reorganization of the regions of the republic, which affected regional oncologic dispensaries: there was a reduction in 3 dispensaries, oncology departments at city hospitals in Temirtau, Petropavlovsk, Arkalyk, the number of oncology rooms decreased by 52 from 1993 to 1997. The number of examination rooms decreased by 72.7%, the number of oncolgical beds in the country decreased by 720, there was a lack of staffing with oncologists and radiologists. The quality indicators of the oncological service have significantly decreased. Despite insufficient funding, Zh.N. Abdrahmanov managed to consolidate the team and preserve all the scientific activity directions at the Institute. In May 1994, he was elected a Corresponding Member of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan (RK) in Medicine. In November 2002, he became a full member of the NAS RK.

It should be noted that the nineties were difficult for both Kazakhstan and other republics of the former Soviet Union. Each of them introduced its currency, performed reforms in the economic and social spheres, overcoming the consequences of the collapse of the USSR. Zhanalyk Niya- zovich tried to keep scientific contacts with fellow oncologists from the Soviet republics, especially with leading scientists from Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Zh.N. Abdrahmanov supported close cooperation with fellow oncologists from the former Soviet countries, Europe, Asia, the USA, and Canada to keep up with modern technologies in diagnostics and treatment of oncological diseases.

Zhanalyk Niyazovich was a supporter of the introduction of new high-quality drugs and technologies. The Institute was always glad and ready to cooperate with well-known scientists, manufacturers of medicines, medical devices, and medical equipment. In the early 90s, there was an acute problem of providing medicines, medical products, and medical equipment in Kazakhstan. Previously, Moscow authorities supervised the procurement of those items; now, each country of the former USSR was to act independently. Foreign companies and distributors offering medical devices, medical equipment, drugs used in chemotherapy protocols for oncological diseases have opened their representative offices in the RK. Zh.N. Abdrahmanov contributed to testing new drugs and involved the Institute’s scientists in studying the latest scientific publications and international research results. The Institute staff reported their research results at seminars and conferences.

In total, Zh.N. Abdrahmanov supervised the preparation and defense of 23 doctoral and 27 candidate’s theses. He published 223 scientific works, including 12 monographs, four textbooks for medical students. He authored 11 inventions. In 1994, Zhanalyk Niyazovich was elected a corresponding member of the NAS RK. He was involved in many social activities, being the chairman of the Republican Society of Oncologists, the President of the Anticancer Foundation of the RK, the Vice-President of the Committee of Doctors of Kazakhstan for the Prevention of Nuclear War, a member of the editorial board of the “Health of Kazakhstan” journal and the Member of the Board of the International Council “Almaty (Kazakhstan) - Rennes (France).”

His hard work, scientific and social activities were acknowledged by the title “Honorized Scientist of the RK.” He was awarded the badge “Excellence in Healthcare of the RK” and many diplomas of the RK Ministry of Healthcare. Academician Zh.N. Abdrahmanov was highly responsible and demanding to himself, sensitive and attentive to people, possessed exceptional modesty and high principles. Despite his regalia, Zhanalyk Niyazovich was a very friendly person, always ready to help colleagues, family, and friends.

The family members of Zhanalyk Niyazovich are closely related to medicine. His wife, Asiya Kaztaevna, the Candidate of Medical Sciences, has worked for more than 40 years at KazIOR in the Experimental Tumor Chemotherapy Laboratory. The Laboratory focused on the search and experimental study of plant and synthetic origin anticancer drugs, their pharmacodynamics. They also studied the occurrence of tumor resistance to chemotherapeutic drugs and the ways to eliminate it, the somatic hybridization of cancerous and normal cells resistant to chemotherapy, the methods of cultivating human cancerous tissues of various localizations to determine the sensitivity to chemotherapy drugs, and searched for radio-modifying agents. The study of the effect of the body’s daily biological rhythms on the tumor allowed determining the periods of increased radiochemical sensitivity of the tumor during the day.

In 1987, the Laboratory of Biomedical Models and Tumor Genetics was established. They explored the clonal-selection concept of tumor growth and developed a clonal-structural approach to investigating the fundamental properties of malignant tumors such as hereditary heterogeneity, radio- and chemoresistance, metastasis.

Zhanalyk Niyazovich and Asiya Kaztaevna (Figure 2) brought up wonderful children – Malik and Aliya, who followed their parents’ path and received higher medical education.

Figure 2 - Zh.N. Abdrahmanov with his wife, 2003

Malik Zhanalykovich Abdrahmanov is the Candidate of Medical Sciences, anesthesiologist-resuscitator. In the 1990s, he headed the Kazakhstani office of a large Swiss company, producer of a wide range of high-quality drugs. M.Zh. Abdrahmanov did a lot to introduce new medical technologies, protocols, and treatment standards while combining his daily business with the medical practice at a maternity hospital operating room and intensive care unit. Today, Malik Zhanalykovich heads the Pharmacovigilance, Monitoring, Safety, Efficiency, and Quality of Medical Devices Department of the National Center for Expertise of Medi-
icines and Medical Devices (NCEDM). Colleagues describe him as a top-class anesthesiologist and resuscitation specialist. He took part in many operations that saved the lives of many mothers and newborns.

Aliya Zhanalykovna Abdakhmanova is the Head of the Breast Tumor Center of KazIOR, Doctor of Medical Sciences, Professor. She is a clinician, surgeon, scientist, mentor of the younger generation of doctors, who has brought up more than one generation of oncologists who work in all regions of the republic (Figure 3).

His students, colleagues, grateful patients, relatives, and friends remember Zhanalyk Niyazovich Abdakhmanov, a remarkable scientist, oncologist, and public figure. In the Kyzyl-Orda region, they are proud of their fellow countryman and remember him. In 2012, one of the central streets of Kyzyl-Orda next to the diagnostic center was named in honor of Zh.N. Abdakhmanov. A memorial tablet with his image reminds the city residents and guests about a regular country guy who became a famous doctor, scientist, oncologist (Figures 4-10).
HISTORY

Figure 9 – Prof. Zh.N. Abdrakhmanov and Prof. S. B. Balmukanov with colleagues from Japan, 1996

Figure 10 – KazIOR Scientists – D.K. Savkhatov, Zh.S. Mustafin, Zh.N. Abdrakhmanov, V.I. Fillipenko, T.Zh. Turmukhanov, and A.A. Dzhardenov, 2000

References:
4. Documents from the Abdrakhmanov’s family archive.