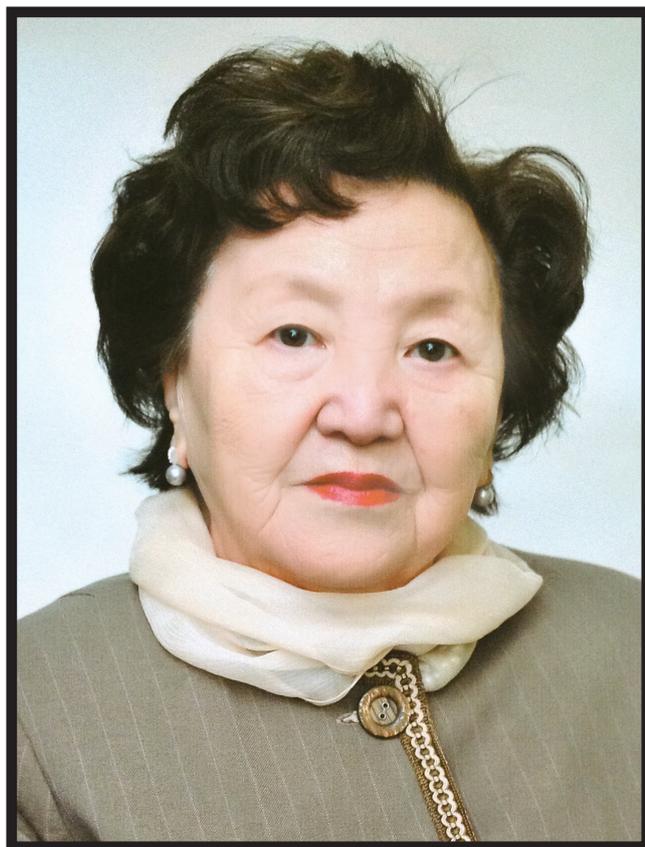


In memory of Azat Ilyasovna SHIBANOVA (05.08.1933 – 07.01.2021)



On January 07, 2021, domestic medicine suffered an irreparable loss. Azat Ilyasovna Shibanova, a veteran of the Kazakhstan Oncological Service, the founder of clinical cytology in the Republic of Kazakhstan, holder of a Habilitation degree in Medicine, Professor, Honorary President of the Association of Clinical Cytologists of Kazakhstan, a member of the International Academy of Cytology, passed away.

Azat Ilyasovna was born in 1933 in Tashkent in the family of Ilyas Akhmetov, a famous orientalist, diplomat, journalist, teacher, the political and public figure who contributed a lot to the development and preservation of the Kazakh language and culture.

Azat Ilyasovna continued the family tradition and devoted herself to science. In 1957, she graduated with honors from the medical faculty of the State Medical Institute

in Alma-Ata. She underwent postgraduate studies at the department of normal and pathological anatomy.

In 1960, A.I. Shibanova was invited to work at the Kazakh Research Institute of Oncology and Radiology, founded in the same year. Azat Ilyasovna began her career as a junior researcher at the tumor cytology laboratory. In 1969, she became the head of this laboratory, where she worked for more than half a century.

In 1978, A.I. Shibanova became the chief cytologist of the Ministry of Healthcare of Kazakhstan. She created a system of cytological services for the Republic of Kazakhstan. On her initiative, centralized cytological laboratories were organized in all regional oncological dispensaries that successfully operate till the present day.

In 1967, Azat Ilyasovna defended her candidate's thesis on "The Question of Arterial Duct Morphogenesis." In 1982, she defended her doctoral thesis in medicine on "Cytological Method in the Diagnostics and Assessment of Esophagus Precancer and Cancer Treatment Effectiveness" at N.N. Blokhin Russian Cancer Research Center of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences. In 1990, she was awarded a Professor's title in Oncology.

Scientific research guided by A.I. Shibanova was devoted to topical problems of cytomorphological diagnostics of tumors and precancerous diseases, automation of cytological studies, and cytological screening for dysplastic conditions and early forms of cancer in the system of mass preventive examinations of the population. The results of these studies are included in the International Cytological Classification of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) member countries for diseases of the esophagus and endometrium.

In the tumor cytology laboratory, Azat Ilyasovna constantly participated in scientific research using modern technologies, including immunocytochemical, DNA morphometric studies, and liquid cytology methods for cancer screening of the population of Kazakhstan. She has trained over 150 highly qualified specialists in the field of clinical cytology.

Azat Ilyasovna substantiated and drafted the order of the Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 509, 1993, in the specialty "clinical cytology" with all the standards and nominal characteristics that are still used today. She also conducted licensed courses in clinical cytology at the institute laboratory.

A.I. Shibanova supervised two doctoral and 16 candidate theses, over 200 scientific papers, and more than 30 methodological recommendations. She co-authored five patents on sampling methods for cytological diagnostics of esophagus and ENT organs diseases, evaluating the effectiveness of treatment for cervical cancer, and the author of the Methodological Guide for cervical cancer screening. Azat Ilyasovna is a co-author of the atlas "Cytological Diagnostics of the esophagus, stomach and intestines diseases," published in Moscow in 2012.

Thanks to A.I. Shibanova, the Association of Clinical Cytologists of the Republic of Kazakhstan was established in 1993 as a branch of the International Academy of Cytology. Azat Ilyasovna was a member of this academy; for many years, she has been the national and regional editor of the international journal "Acta Cytologica" on behalf of Kazakhstan, a member of the editorial board of the journal "Oncology and Radiology of Kazakhstan," as well as she was a member of the editorial board of the scientific journal "News of Clinical Cytology of Russia" and "Laboratory Science of Kazakhstan."

Azat Ilyasovna participated in the implementation of the State program for cervical cancer screening in the Republic of Kazakhstan; she announced the results of this program at the international congresses of cytologists in Paris (France) in 2013 and Yokohama (Japan) in 2016, as well as at the European congresses of cytologists in Geneva (Switzerland) in 2014 and Milan (Italy) in 2015.

Until December 2020, Professor A.I. Shibanova continued her active scientific and practical activities. She was the Deputy General Director for Diagnostics at Masimov's Health Center LLP. Azat Ilyasovna was engaged in cervical cancer screening of the female population, monitored the quality of cytological diagnostics during screening studies, and performed differential diagnostics of complex cases. She gladly shared her many years of experience teaching cytologists in postgraduate courses in clinical cytology and speaking at numerous scientific forums and congresses.

For her merits, A.I. Shibanova was awarded the Order of the "Badge of Honor" of the USSR, the Al-Farabi medal of the 1st degree, the diploma "Expert in Clinical Cytology" of the American Biographical Institute (2006), the medal "2000 Intellectuals of the 21st Century" of the International Biographical Center (Cambridge, Great Britain, 2007), the Sanofi Prize (2012), the Order of the Republic of Kazakhstan "Қырмет" (2019).

We will forever preserve the bright memory of Azat Ilyasovna Shibanova, a Human with a capital letter, a hereditary intellectual. Medicine was her true vocation and a life's work. Her versatile knowledge and experience, high awareness of her duty and selfless work, responsiveness, and indifference saved many people's lives, enriched Kazakhstan medicine, and brought it to the world level. Her scientific works will benefit all generations and form the basis for the progressive treatment of oncology in the future.