

AZAT SHIBANOVA – LIFE DEDICATED TO MEDICINE. DEVOTED TO THE 90th ANNIVERSARY

L.Zh. BELAMANOVA¹, T.Zh. TURMUKHANOV²

¹«City Pathological-Anatomical Bureau» MSE on REM, Department of Public Health of Almaty, Almaty, the Republic of Kazakhstan;

²«Kazakh Institute of Oncology and Radiology» JSC, Almaty, the Republic of Kazakhstan

ABSTRACT

Azat Shibanova is a veteran of the Kazakhstan Oncology Service, founder of the Clinical Cytology in the Republic of Kazakhstan, Doctor of Medical Sciences, Professor, Honorary President and founder of the Clinical Cytologists Association of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Honorary Member of the International Academy of Cytology. Professor Azat Shibanova, during her career, has trained a series of cytologists and cytotechnicians working successfully throughout Kazakhstan.



Figure 1 – Professor A.I. Shibanova

It is challenging to write about Professor Azat Shibanova in the past tense. Especially now, while perceiving that you will never again be able to listen to her lecture, discuss a new article or book, or talk about the next congress of the International Academy of Cytology. Prof. A.I. Shibanova marked an entire domestic oncology and medical science development era. Her devotion to science will always serve as an example for her students and followers.

On August 5, 2023, Azat Shibanova, a veteran of the oncology service of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the founder of the Clinical Cytology, Doctor of Medical Sciences, Professor, Honorary President of the Clinical Cytologists Association of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Honorary Member of the International Academy of Cytology, would have turned 90 years (Figure 1).

Azat Shibanova was born into the family of a famous orientalist, diplomat, journalist, teacher, and political and public figure, Ilyas Akhmetov, who significantly contributed to the Kazakh language and culture development and preservation. She continued the family tradition by devoting her life to science.

In 1957, Azat Shibanova graduated with honors from the Alma-Ata State Medical Institute and entered graduate school at the Departments of Normal and Pathological Anatomy.

In 1960, Azat Shibanova was invited, among other promising young scientists, to work at the Kazakh Institute of Oncology and Radiology. She began her career as a junior researcher at the Tumor Cytology Laboratory.

In 1967, Azat Ilyasovna successfully defended her Master's thesis on the topic, "On the issue of ductus arteriosus mor-

phogenesis." In 1969, she headed the Tumor Cytology Laboratory, where she worked for over half a century.

In 1978, Azat Shibanova was appointed a Chief Cytologist of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakh-

stan. She created the national cytological service system of the RK and initiated the establishment of centralized cytological laboratories at every regional oncology clinic. The laboratories still function successfully today (Figure 2).



Figure 2 – Master class on cytological diagnostics, Almaty, 2018

In 1982, Azat Shibanova became a Doctor of Medical Sciences having defended her doctoral thesis at Blokhin Russian Oncological Research Center of RAMS on the topic, "Cytological method in diagnosing and assessing the efficacy of treatment for esophageal precancer and cancer." In 1990, the Higher Attestation Commission under the Council of Ministers of the USSR awarded her the academic title of Professor in Oncology.

All scientific studies supervised by A.I. Shibanova were devoted to urging issues of cytomorphological diagnostics of tumors and pre-tumor diseases of the esophagus and uterine body, automation of cytological studies, using the cytological method to screen for dysplastic conditions and early forms of cervical cancer during mass preventive examinations of the population. The results of those studies were incorporated in the International Cytological Classifications of CMEA member countries for esophageal and endometrium diseases. The RK Government adopted the National Screening Program for Cervical Cancer Early Detection (2008).

Prof. Azat Shibanova substantiated and prepared an Order of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 509 of 1993 in Clinical Cytology, which incorporated all standards and staffing requirements currently used and observed in the industry.

Prof. Azat Shibanova focused on preserving the national medicine scientific traditions and training and retraining experts in oncomorphology. She organized licensed courses in clinical cytology at the institute's laboratory, where over 150 highly qualified clinical cytology specialists were trained. Azat Shibanova was the scientific supervisor of two doctoral and 16 candidate theses.

She authored over 200 scientific papers and more than 30 guidelines, including a methodological guide for cervical cancer screening. Co-authored 5 patents on methods of collecting material for cytological diagnostics of the esophagus and ENT organ diseases and assessing the cervical cancer treatment efficacy, and an atlas, "Cytological diagnosis of diseases of the esophagus, stomach, and intestines," published in Moscow in 2012.

Prof. A.I. Shibanova reported on the results of cervical cancer screening at the International Congresses of Cytologists in Paris (France) in 2013 and Yokohama (Japan) in 2016, and the European Congresses of Cytologists in Geneva (Switzerland) in 2014 and Milan (Italy) in 2015.

A.I. Shibanova helped to organize international conferences and master classes with the participation of scientists from the Netherlands, Germany, Japan, South Korea, and the USA (Figure 3).

The scientific and social activities of A.I. Shibanova were as multifaceted. She was on the editorial boards of several specialized Kazakhstani and foreign journals, was a corresponding member of the International Academy of Cytology, and represented Kazakhstan as a national and regional editor of the "Acta Cytologica" international journal.

This year, the Professional Association of Clinical Cytologists of the RK, founded by Azat Shibanova, has celebrated its 30th anniversary. Since its establishment on April 30, 1993, the Association's activities were supported by the enthusiasm of its participants. The Association is an affiliate member of the International Academy of Cytology. This allows its participants to publish in "Acta Cytologica," "Analytical and Quantitative Cytology and Histology," and "News of Clinical Cytology of Russia" journals.



Figure 3 – At the VII International Congress of the Kazakhstani Association of Medical Laboratory Diagnostics, 2019

Till December 2020, Prof. A.I. Shibanova continued active practice, screening the female population for early detection of cervical pathologies, monitoring the quality of cytological diagnostics, participating in differential diag-

nostics of complex cases, sharing her many years of experience and training oncologists in advanced courses, delivering reports and lectures at numerous scientific forums, congresses, and seminars (Figures 4-5).



Figure 4 – At the VI Congress of Oncologists and Radiologists of Kazakhstan, 2017

Everyone was amazed by her breadth of vision, adherence to principles, original approach to the problems she studied, and ability to formulate her thoughts clearly and imaginatively and convey the most important information to the listener. Her scientific reports served as an excellent school for the young staff of the institute, regardless of their field of activity.

For her merits, A.I. Shibanova was awarded the Order of the Badge of Honor of the USSR (1981), the Al-Farabi Medal of the 1st degree (1983), the medals of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR "Veteran of Labor" (1988) and "For Valiant Labor" (1970), "Expert in Clinical Cytology" certificate from the American Biographical Institute (2006),

"2000 Intellectuals of the 21st Century" medal from the International Biographical Center (Cambridge, UK, 2007), "Sanofi" award (2012), "Densaulyk saktau isinin uzdigi" [Excellence in Health care] (2000, 2010, 2015) badge, "Enbek ardageri" [Veteran of Labour] (2016) medal, and medal of the Republic of Kazakhstan "Kurmet" (2019).

Azat Shibanova made a tremendous contribution to the development of medicine. She left a mark in the hearts of her students, colleagues, friends, and those who collaborated with her in the country and abroad. She supported those stranded, helped those in whom she saw great potential for scientific and professional growth and helped realize it, determining their further successful activities

and life path, gave others helpful advice, smiled in the morning at the start of the working day or asked about recent results, praised the others for their first scientific arti-

cles or reports, congratulated on successfully passing the candidate exams. Others were just fascinated by her brilliant performances at seminars.



Figure 5 – Speech at the cytology section, 2017

Her students continue Azat Shibanova's life work. Over time, we see what determined the depth and uniqueness of Prof. Azat Shibanova's personality. Every single story

and detail associated with her will remain in the overall picture of the kind and bright memories of Azat Shibanova. Blessed memory, **Teacher!**

АНДАТПА

АЗАТ ИЛЯСҚЫЗЫ ШИБАНОВА – МЕДИЦИНАҒА АРНАЛҒАН ӨМІР. ТУҒАНЫНЫҢ 90 ЖЫЛДЫҒЫНА

Л.Ж. Беламанова¹, Т.Ж. Турмұханов²

¹Алматы қаласы Қоғамдық денсаулық сақтау департаментінің «Қалалық патологиялық бюросы» РЭК жанындағы КМК, Алматы, Қазақстан Республикасы;

²«Қазақ онкология және радиология ғылыми-зерттеу институты» АҚ, Алматы, Қазақстан Республикасы

Азат Илясқызы Шибанова – Қазақстан онкологиялық қызметінің ардагері, Қазақстан Республикасындағы «Клиникалық цитология» пәнінің негізін қалаушы, медицина ғылымдарының докторы, профессор, Қазақстан Республикасы Клиникалық цитологтар қауымдастығының құрметті президенті, «ҚР клиникалық цитологтар қауымдастығының құрметті мүшесі. Халықаралық цитология академиясы. Қазақстан Республикасы Клиникалық цитологтар қауымдастығының негізін қалаушы ол өзінің еңбек жолында қазіргі уақытта бүкіл Қазақстан бойынша жұмыс істейтін цитологтар мен цитотехниктердің тұтас галактикасын дайындады.

АННОТАЦИЯ

АЗАТ ИЛЬЯСОВНА ШИБАНОВА – ЖИЗНЬ, ПОСВЯЩЕННАЯ МЕДИЦИНЕ. К 90-летию СО ДНЯ РОЖДЕНИЯ

Л.Ж. Беламанова¹, Т.Ж. Турмұханов²

¹ГКП на ПВХ «Городское патологоанатомическое бюро» Управления общественного здравоохранения города Алматы, г. Алматы, Республика Казахстан;

²АО «Казахский Научно-исследовательский институт онкологии и радиологии», г. Алматы, Республика Казахстан

Азат Ильясовна Шибанова – ветеран Казахстанской онкологической службы, основатель дисциплины «Клиническая цитология» в Республике Казахстан, доктор медицинских наук, профессор, почетный Президент Ассоциации клинических цитологов РК, почетный член Международной академии цитологии. В ходе своей трудовой деятельности А.И. Шибанова вырастила целую плеяду врачей-цитологов и цитотехников, которые в настоящее время успешно работают по всему Казахстану.

Transparency of the study: Authors are solely responsible for the content of this article.

Conflict of interest: Authors declare no conflict of interest.

Funding: The authors declare no funding or financing of the study.

Authors' contributions: The authors contributed equally to the research and preparation of the article.

Authors' details:

Lyazzat Zhumanovna Belamanova (corresponding author) – Cand. Med. Sci., cytologist at the MSE on PVC “City Pathological-Anatomical Bureau” of the Department of Public Health of Almaty city, Almaty, the Republic of Kazakhstan, tel: +7775856214, e-mail: aral_1964@mail.ru, ORCID ID: 0009-0005-1044-3934;

Timur Zhuragatovich Turmukhanov – doctor-cytologist at the Center for Morphological Research of the Kazakh Institute of Oncology and Radiology, Almaty, the Republic of Kazakhstan, tel: +77058302227.

Address for correspondence: Belamanova L.Zh., Abish Kekilbayuly St. 129/8, apt. 62, Almaty 050060, the Republic of Kazakhstan.