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IN MEMORIAM: A HISTORICAL ESSAY COMMEMORATING THE 75TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF PROFESSOR CHAIKOVSKIY YU.B., CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE NAMS OF UKRAINE

On June 29, 2026, Yurii Bohdanovych Chaikovskiy – Head of the Department of Histology and Embryology at the Bogomolets National Medical University (1992–2022), Corresponding Member of the National Academy of Medical Sciences of Sciences of Ukraine, Doctor of Medical Sciences, and Professor – would have celebrated his 75th birthday, had his life journey not been prematurely cut short on March 3, 2022. Yurii Bohdanovych is remembered by many as a multifaceted role model: a scientist, a son, a father, a department chair, an author, a teacher, and a mentor. Above all, however, he was the epitome of humanity, intellect, nobility, and refinement. This is how he is loved and remembered by his colleagues, students, and friends.

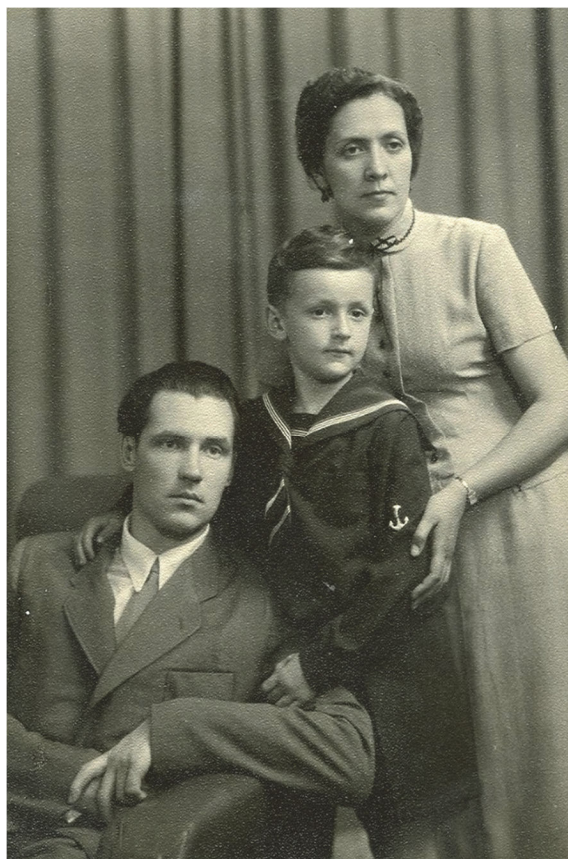


Fig. 1. Yurii Bohdanovych with his parents (his father was a well-known journalist, writer, and Shevchenko scholar, and his mother was a Candidate of Historical Sciences and a staff member at the Taras Shevchenko Museum).

The future Head of the Department of Histology and Embryology at the Bogomolets National Medical University, Honored Worker of Science and Technology of Ukraine, Doctor of Medical Sciences,

Professor, Laureate of the State Prize of Ukraine, Laureate of the Prize of the National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine, Laureate of the V.P. Komisarenko Prize of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Corresponding Member of the National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine and several international public academies, and President of the Scientific Society of Anatomists, Histologists, Embryologists and Topographic Anatomists of Ukraine, Yurii Bohdanovych Chaikovskiy, was born on June 29, 1951, in the city of Kyiv. His father, Bohdan Yosypovych Chaikovskiy, worked at that time as the executive secretary of the arts and public affairs magazine Vsesvit. His mother, Vira Yakivna, a Candidate of Historical Sciences, worked as a research fellow at the Taras Shevchenko Museum (Fig. 1).

The Chaikovskiy family, along with their children Yurii and his younger brother Volodymyr, lived in a house near the zoo, located opposite the Polytechnical Institute metro station (which had not yet been built at the time). Yurii Bohdanovych frequently recalled how he and his brother would slip through a gap in the fence to visit their favorite tiger. According to Yurii Bohdanovych, his brother Volodia studied "to follow in Chekhov's footsteps," because after qualifying as a physician, he went on to build a career as a writer and translator.

In 1958, at the age of seven, Yurii entered the first grade of Kyiv Secondary School No. 87, graduating with a gold medal in 1968 (Fig. 2).

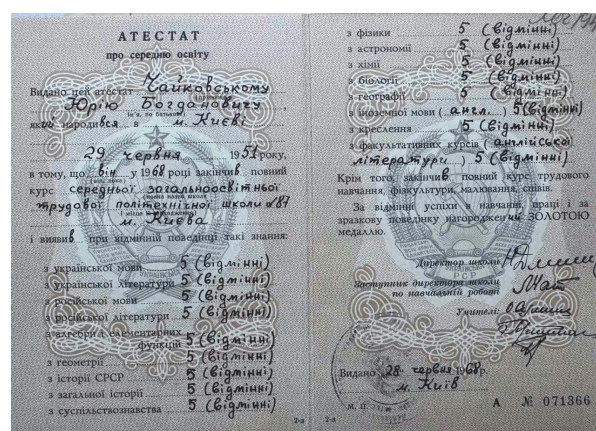


Fig. 2. Secondary education certificate of Yu.B. Chaikovskiy.

Having successfully passed the core examination in chemistry, he enrolled that same year in the Faculty of Medicine at the Bogomolets Kyiv Medical Institute (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3. KMI student Yu.B. Chaikovskiy.

He integrated quickly into student life, actively participating in various university events. Yuri Chaikovskiy studied diligently and passionately, earning top marks in all his examinations, which ultimately earned him the prestigious Lenin Scholarship (Fig. 4).

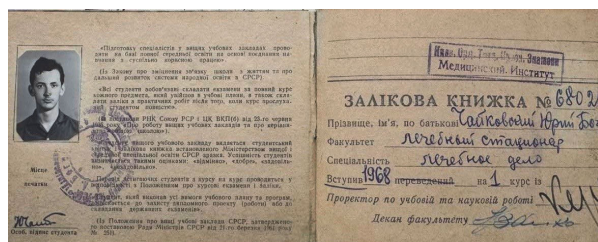
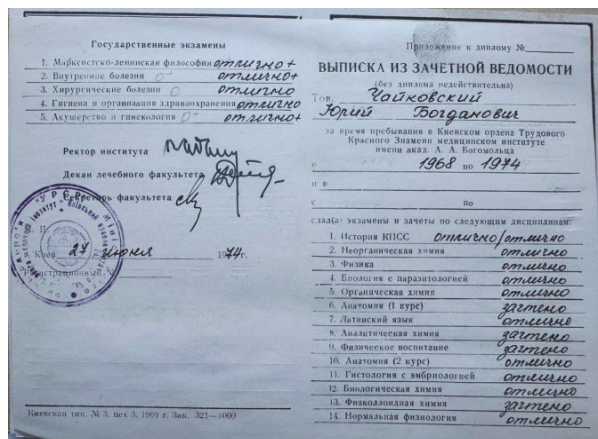


Fig. 4. Gradebook of student Yu.B. Chaikovskiy.

During his third year, fascinated by pathomorphology, Yuri Chaikovskiy began attending meetings of the student research society, conducting undergraduate research, and aspiring to join the Department of Pathological Anatomy. His undergraduate studies culminated in graduating with honors (Fig. 5).



15. Иностранный язык	отлично	36. Социальная гигиена и организация здравоохранения с историей медицины	отлично
16. Политэкономика капитализма социализма	отлично	37. Кожные и венерические болезни	отлично
17. Дидактика, материализм	отлично	38. Медицинская радиология	хорошо
18. История, материализм	отлично	39. Производственная практика после IV курса	отлично
19. Макробиология	отлично	40. Глазные болезни	отлично
20. Патологическая анатомия	отлично	41. Нервные болезни	отлично
21. Патологическая физиология	отлично	42. Болезни уха, горла и носа	отлично
22. Физика	отлично	43. Детские болезни	отлично
23. Профилактика внутренних болезней	отлично	44. Понизательная	отлично
24. Общая хирургия	отлично	45. Гинекология	хорошо
25. Рентгенология	хорошо	46. Судебная медицина	отлично
26. Производственная практика после III курса	хорошо	47. Спидология	отлично
27. Оперативная хирургия с топографической анатомией	отлично	48. Госпитальная клиника внутренних болезней с курсом проф. болезней и ЛФК	хорошо
28. Гигиена	отлично	49. Госпитальная клиника хирургических болезней со стоматологией	хорошо
29. Основы научного коммунизма	отлично	50. Травматология и ортопедия	хорошо
30. Научный этизм	хорошо	51. Инфекционные болезни с энзимологией	отлично
31. Физ. клиника внутренних болезней	отлично	52. Врач контроль с лечебной физкультурой	хорошо
32. Туберкулез	хорошо	53. Производственная практика после V курса	хорошо
33. Физ. клиника хирургических болезней	отлично	Субординатура	хорошо
34. Урология	отлично		
35. Акушерство	отлично		

Fig. 5. Grade transcript of student Yu.B. Chaikovskiy.

As an outstanding graduate, Yuri Bohdanovych Chaikovskiy was recommended for a postgraduate (PhD) program at the Department of Normal Anatomy of the Bogomolets Kyiv Medical Institute (KMI) (Fig. 6).

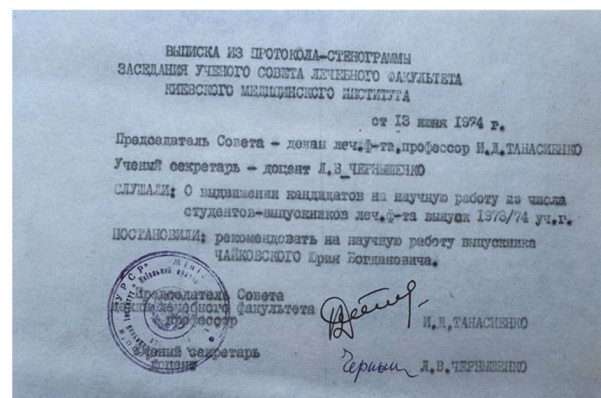


Fig. 6. Extract from the minutes of the Academic Council meeting of the Faculty of Medicine recommending graduate Yuri Bohdanovych Chaikovskiy for research work.

Despite his long-standing desire to pursue a career in pathological anatomy, once Yuri Chaikovskiy joined the Department of Normal Anatomy as a postgraduate student, he fully immersed himself in research. He began working on his Candidate of Medical Sciences dissertation titled "Microvascularization of the Sciatic Nerve Under Conditions of De- and Regeneration," under the co-supervision of Professor I.Ye. Kefeli (an anatomist) and Professor A.K. Kolomiitsev (a histologist). The guidance of Professor Andrii Kostiantynovych Kolomiitsev in supervising Yuri Bohdanovych's research decisively shaped the future Professor Chaikovskiy's subsequent scientific specialization. Alongside his research pursuits, he conducted practical laboratory sessions for medical students, accompanied them to mandatory seasonal agricultural work, and actively participated in the institute's community life.

In 1978, following the successful defense of his Candidate's dissertation, Yuri Bohdanovych was appointed as an assistant professor at the KMI Department of Normal Anatomy. In 1982, the Department of Operative Surgery and Topographic Anatomy at the Kyiv Institute for Advanced Medical

Training (now the Shupyk National Healthcare University of Ukraine) announced a competitive selection process to fill a vacancy for a senior lecturer. Yuri Bohdanovych successfully cleared the rigorous screening and complex selection process to secure the position, temporarily leaving KMI for several years. Working under the guidance of Professor M.N. Umovyst, Chaikovskiy remained at the Kyiv Institute for Advanced Medical Training until 1992. Throughout this period, he maintained close scientific collaboration with Professors A.K. Kolomiitsev and V.P. Yatsenko from the KMI Department of Histology and Embryology. This collaboration yielded an extensive body of research in the field of neurohistology, which achieved national recognition when the co-authors, including Yuri Bohdanovych, were honored with the State Prize of the Ukrainian SSR in Science and Technology in 1996.

While working at the Kyiv Institute for Advanced Medical Training, Yuri Bohdanovych finalized the topic of his doctoral research to pursue the degree of Doctor of Medical Sciences, with Professor A.K. Kolomiitsev serving as his scientific consultant. Following a successful defense, Chaikovskiy was awarded the degree of Doctor of Medical Sciences in Histology. Regrettably, around this time, the Head of the KMI Department of Histology and Embryology, Professor K.S. Kabak, fell seriously ill. When it became apparent that his

deteriorating health prevented him from fulfilling his duties as department chair, the selection of his successor became necessary. According to Professor Kolomiitsev's own recollections, the Rector of KMI (Professor Ye.H. Honcharuk) invited him for an interview to offer him the chairmanship of the Department of Histology and Embryology. Andrii Kostiantynovych declined the offer, instead recommending his student – the young and talented scientist, Doctor of Medical Sciences Yuri Bohdanovych Chaikovskiy. After successfully clearing the competitive selection process for the vacant position of chair, Yuri Bohdanovych assumed leadership of the department in 1992.

Since Yuri Bohdanovych had always maintained close scientific ties with the Department of Histology – as his research focused primarily on neuromorphology – he easily established a common professional language with such renowned scientists as Professor A.K. Kolomiitsev and Professor H.A. Konstantynovskiy, Associate Professors M.M. Kornilova and T.L. Tereshchenko, and other neuromorphologists.

Following his confirmation as department chair, Yuri Bohdanovych was appointed to administrative duties, heading the Department of Postgraduate and Residency Training starting December 1, 1992. Subsequently, Professor Chaikovskiy was appointed Vice-Rector for International Relations and Foreign Students in 1994 (Fig. 7).

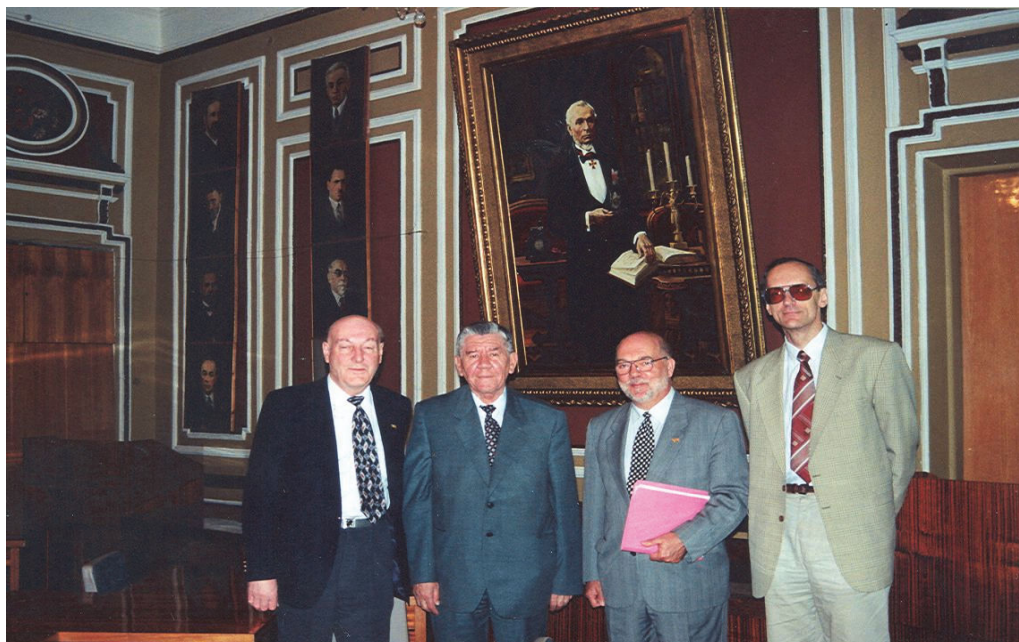


Fig. 7. A meeting of an international delegation of Canadian scientists with the Rector of Bogomolets NMU, Professor Ye.H. Honcharuk, and the Vice-Rector for International Relations, Professor Yu.B. Chaikovskiy.

While serving in the university administration, Yuri Bohdanovych maintained his responsibilities at the department. He continued to deliver lectures and conduct practical laboratory sessions, while overseeing the team's methodological and publishing endeavors, including the authorship of monographs, manuals,

and textbooks. He remained equally active in research, conducting scientific investigations, supervising PhD candidates, and serving as a consultant for doctoral dissertations. In 1996, Professor Yu.B. Chaikovskiy was honored with the State Prize of Ukraine in Science and Technology for a cycle of scientific works (Fig. 8).



Fig. 8. Professor Yu.B. Chaikovskiy being awarded the State Prize of Ukraine in Science and Technology. The award is presented by the President of Ukraine (1994–2005), L.D. Kuchma.

From 2000 to 2011, Professor Yu.B. Chaikovskiy headed the attestation department of the Higher Attestation Commission (VAK) of Ukraine, managing the body through its reorganization and renaming into the State Attestation Commission (DAK) of Ukraine (Fig. 9).



Fig. 9. The staff of the Department of Medicine, Biology, and Chemistry of the DAK of Ukraine, headed by Professor Chaikovskiy Yu.B. (2000–2011).

In 2001, by Decree of the President of Ukraine, Yuri Bohdanovych Chaikovskiy was awarded the honorary title of Honored Worker of Science and Technology of Ukraine in recognition of his significant professional achievements and years of diligent service.

Despite his demanding administrative responsibilities and rigorous schedule, Yuri Bohdanovych consistently dedicated time to research, the mentorship of young scientists, and

collaboration with colleagues. In 2002, at the 3rd Congress of the All-Ukrainian Public Organization "Scientific Society of Anatomists, Histologists, Embryologists and Topographic Anatomists of Ukraine" (AHET Ukraine), Yuri Bohdanovych was elected its third President. Assuming leadership of this professional association of Ukrainian morphologists, Yuri Bohdanovych served as its President for twenty years, until 2022 (Fig. 10).



Fig. 10. Vinnytsia, 2010. The 5th International AHET Congress of Ukraine. Seated at the table: Professor V.H. Cherkasov and Professor V.S. Pykaliuk. Speaking: President of the AHET Scientific Society, Professor Yu.B. Chaikovskiy.

In 2004, Professor Yu.B. Chaikovskiy was elected a Corresponding Member of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine. Beginning in 2013, Yurii Bohdanovych served for several years as the Vice-Rector for Research, concurrently managing his duties as Head of the Department of Histology and Embryology. During a period of higher education reform, when regulations required

choosing between an administrative vice-rector position and a departmental chairmanship, Yurii Bohdanovych chose his department team and stepped down from his role as Vice-Rector for Research to focus entirely on leading the Department of Histology and Embryology. The department staff were profoundly grateful for his decision (Fig. 11).



Fig. 11. Yurii Bohdanovych's 70th birthday. June 29, 2021. The staff of the Department of Histology and Embryology.

In 2019, to the deep regret of all who knew him, Yurii Bohdanovych fell seriously and terminally ill. Yet, despite undergoing courses of treatment and at times experiencing poor health, he refused to abandon his duties, continuing to visit the department and

conduct practical laboratory sessions for students. He personally guided student tours through the department's "History of the Microscope" exhibition, a collection he curated with immense care and reverence (Fig. 12).



Fig. 12. A tour of the "History of the Microscope" exhibition at the Department of Histology and Embryology of Bogomolets NMU, conducted by Corresponding Member of the NAMS of Ukraine, Doctor of Medical Sciences, Professor Yu.B. Chaikovskiy for a group of English-medium medical students on February 1, 2022.

Until the final days of his life, Yuri Bohdanovych continued to mentor young researchers. Regrettably, several of his students who began their dissertation research under his supervision had to complete and defend their work without him. On March 3, 2022, Yuri Bohdanovych passed away. This event was, without exaggeration, a

profound personal loss for every member of the Department of Histology and Embryology, which he had led for thirty years, from 1992 to 2022. Yuri Bohdanovych left behind numerous plans and initiatives. Though he did not live to see many of them to fruition, he passed this legacy on to us – his students and colleagues.