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In memory of Venedikt Petrovich Dzhelepov

The Russian scientific community and the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research have suffered an unbearable loss: the death of Venedikt Petrovich Dzhelepov, on 12th March 1999 at the age of 85. Dzhelepov was a prominent Russian scientist, a successful science administrator, a Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, who conducted fruitful research for more than 60 years in the nuclear physics and in elementary particle physics, in the physics and technology of powerful accelerators, and in their practical applications.

In the 1940s, V P Dzhelepov worked in Moscow with I V Kurchatov on the 'uranium problem'. Later his research was connected with the accelerators at Dubna and Protvino.

He was one of the creators of the first national research center of high energy physics in the Soviet Union, the Institute for Nuclear Problems of the USSR Academy of Sciences (1948–1956) at Dubna, and later, again at Dubna, of the international research centre 'The Joint Institute for Nuclear Research' (JINR). From 1956 to 1989, for 33 years, V P Dzhelepov headed the Laboratory of Nuclear Problems. In 1989 he became the Honorary Director of this laboratory.

The contribution made by V P Dzhelepov to the creation and development of powerful high-energy accelerators in the USSR is well known. In the post-war years he was one of the principal designers of, at the time, the largest accelerator in the world: the 680 MeV synchrocyclotron that was launched in Dubna in 1949 and successfully worked for 30 years. In 1984, under Dzhelepov's supervision, this accelerator was reconstructed into a larger machine: the phasotron.

V P Dzhelepov was one of the founding fathers of the novel field of nuclear physics in the USSR — high-energy particle physics. He carried out several large-scale cycles of investigations at the accelerators of Dubna and Serpukhov and obtained a number of fundamental results in the field of strong interactions of hadrons.

On Dzhelepov's suggestion and under his leadership, novel studies were pioneered in the USSR which soon led to using charged-particle beams for treating cancer patients.

Dzhelepov carried out fundamental research into the physics of muons and especially into muon catalysis. He coauthored the discovery of resonance formation of deuterium and tritium molecules, which resulted in a high efficiency of muon catalysis and led to energetic study of this phenomenon in other countries. For this work Dzhelepov received the Kurchatov's Gold Medal of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in 1986.

V P Dzhelepov always had a great burden of organizational and administrative work in science. Since 1967 he was the deputy of the Secretary-Academician of the Division of Nuclear Physics of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR (later RAS). Venedikt Petrovich sat on the editorial boards of the international journals *Physics of Elementary Particles and*

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Venedikt Petrovich Dzhelepovn (12.04.1913-12.03.1999)

Atomic Nucleus and *Muon Catalysis*. For more than 40 years he also headed the Learned Council of the Laboratory of Nuclear Problems at the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research at Dubna on conferring degrees and academic ranks.

B P Dzhelepov enjoyed well-deserved recognition for his research work and administrative activity. He was awarded two USSR State Prizes, as well as the Order of Lenin, two Orders of the Red Banner of Labor, orders from Bulgaria, Mongolia and Hungary, and numerous medals.

V P Dzhelepov trained several generations of physicists who are now doing active research at the JINR and in the largest research centers in our country and in the West. The charisma of Venedikt Petrovich, his intense awareness of human duty, his rare kindness and attention to people's needs, his utter modesty and refined intelligence will never vanish from our memory. We will always remember Venedikt Petrovich Dzhelepov — an outstanding scientist, an exemplary patriot of his country and a wonderful human being.

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