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### **Research Article**

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# LIFE IS IN PROFESSION, PROFESSION IS IN LIFE (to the 120th anniversary of Professor I.I. Elkin)

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October 2023 marks the 120th anniversary of the birth of the famous epidemiologist, health organizer, authoritative scientist and teacher, chief epidemiologist of the Northwestern, Kalinin and 1st Baltic Fronts during the Great Patriotic War, editor-in-chief of the Journal of Microbiology, Epidemiology and Immunobiology, Honored Scientist of the Uzbek SSR, Professor Ivan Ivanovich Elkin (photo 1. Ivan Ivanovich Elkin).

Dwelling on the main moments of the life and creative activity of I.I. Elkin, one involuntarily looks back at the path traversed by domestic epidemiology in the last century.

Ivan Ivanovich Elkin was born on October 13, 1903, in the village of Bolshaya Gorka, Kologrivsky district, Kostroma province.

In 1921, he graduated from high school and was sent to study at the Medical Faculty of Nizhny Novgorod State University by the permit of the provincial Department of Vocational Education.

After graduating from university and a one-year specialization in Moscow, he headed the laboratory of occupational hygiene at the Regional Institute for the Study and Control of Occupational Diseases.

Soon he was appointed deputy director for the academic part of the Gorky Medical Institute, where he was engaged in pedagogical activity simultaneously with the organization and control of the educational process.

From 1934 to 1937, I.I. Elkin worked as a senior regional state sanitary inspector and deputy head of the regional health department of the Kirov region.



Ivan Ivanovich Elkin

In 1937, I.I. Elkin was appointed by the SNK of the USSR as the chief state sanitary inspector of the People's Commissariat of Health of the USSR.

In October 1939, he was transferred to work as the director of the Saratov Anti-Plague Institute "Microbe".

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From 1940 to June 1941, he headed the laboratory at the I.I. Mechnikov Moscow Institute of Vaccines and Serums and served as the scientific secretary of the Institute.

From the first days of the Great Patriotic War, I.I. Elkin was in the field army. In June 1941, he was appointed head of the sanitary disinfection train. In August 1941, he was transferred to the position of army epidemiologist of the 52nd Separate Army. Since February 1942 – Chief epidemiologist of the North-Western, Kalinin, then the 1st Baltic fronts.

With the troops of the 1st Baltic Front, he reached East Prussia.

In June 1945, he was sent to Germany as head of the Sanitary and Epidemiological Department of the Health Department of the Soviet Military Administration in Germany. At the request of the People's Commissariat of Health of the USSR (1946), he was demobilized from the armed forces and was assigned to the Institute of Biological Prevention of Infections, later transformed into the Institute of Penicillin and Other Antibiotics.

In 1950-1955, I.I. Elkin headed the Department of Epidemiology of the Central Institute of Advanced Medical Training, was the editor-in-chief of the Ministry of Health of the USSR. From 1955 until the end of his life he headed the Department of Epidemiology of the 1st Moscow Medical Institute named after I.M. Sechenov. At the same time (1966-1968) he worked as Deputy Director for Science of the Central Institute of Epidemiology of the Ministry of Health of the USSR.

Throughout his life and career, I.I. Elkin carried out a lot of organizational, managerial, scientific, and educational work. The list of works by I.I. Elkin includes more than 250 works, including monographs, manuals, and textbooks.

During his work in the all-USSR State Sanitary Inspection, I.I. Elkin dealt with issues of current and preventive sanitary supervision, took part in the creation of the Anti-Epidemic Department of the People's Commissariat of Health of the USSR, on the pages of the journal Hygiene and Sanitation he made proposals for optimizing the work of the VGSI and critical remarks.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector in 1938 was greatly concerned about the lack of sanitary stations in the country: "... first of all, in the RSFSR, as the most lagging in the construction of this network."

Thanks to the active position of the People's Commissariat of Health of the USSR on this issue in 1939, it was planned to increase the number of sanitary institutions in the USSR to 1,620, including 800 in the RSFSR.

During the Great Patriotic War, I.I. Elkin was engaged in extensive practical work in the field army. In the first period of the war, when the deployment of medical institutions was disrupted by the course of hostilities, he took part in the formation and debugging of the work of sanitary and anti-epidemic institutions.

With the beginning of the transition of Soviet troops to the offensive, he successfully provided anti-epidemic protection for troops. I.I. Elkin spent most of his official time in the advanced units, monitoring the precise implementation of the anti-epidemic work plan. He was directly involved in the elimination of outbreaks of infectious diseases in the areas liberated from occupation. He held several frontline conferences on topical anti-epidemic issues.

He organized the training of personnel in the armies and at the front – workers of the sanitary and anti-epidemic service.

As a result of competent management of anti-epidemic measures, the incidence in the troops was less than the incidence during the First World War.

For his successful work, I.I. Elkin was awarded military awards. For the award submission – the Order of the Patriotic War II degree – a brief description of the merits was given: "Lieutenant Colonel m/s Elkin I.I. is a highly qualified epidemiologist. The work of Elkin's is aimed at anti-epidemic protection of troops. Thanks to the great, energetic work of Elkin, it was possible to eliminate the epidemic of typhus in the winter of 1942-1943 in the 3rd Shock Army. He organized well the anti-epidemic protection of troops in the spring of 1943 in the 39th Army and during the Dukhovshchinsky operation. Elkin managed to organize a systematic sanitary reconnaissance of the newly occupied enemy territory, and sanitary treatment of troops in an offensive operation.

Thanks to the good organization of anti-epidemic protection of troops in 1943, there are no epidemic diseases in the troops of the Kalinin Front."

During the Great Patriotic War, I.I. Elkin actively studied the experience of the anti-epidemic provision of troops and conducted scientific research.

Based on an in-depth analysis, the issues of anti-epidemic support of offensive operations, epidemiological features and prevention of typhus, typhoid fever, dysentery, infectious jaundice, tularemia, and leptospirosis were thoroughly studied. I.I. Elkin presented the results of scientific research for defense in 1944 and 1947. At the competition of works on the experience of Soviet medicine during the Great Patriotic War, the doctoral dissertation of I.I. Elkin was awarded a diploma and the 2nd prize.

After the Victory in the Great Patriotic War and demobilization from the army from 1946 to 1950, I.I. Elkin worked in a new field for himself – he developed issues of the effectiveness of various dosage forms and methods of using antibiotics.

Under his leadership, extensive research on antibiotic aerosols began for the first time in the USSR. In 1955, together with S.I. Eidelstein, the monograph "Antibiotic aerosols, their preparation and clinical application" was written.

In 1956, under the editorship of I.I. Elkin, in collaboration with other specialists, a "Guide to Protecting the Population from Bacteriological Weapons" was published. The compilers of the manual used "The Materials of the Trial of Former Japanese Army Servicemen Accused of Preparing and Using Bacteriological Weapons", "The Report of the International Scientific Commission to investigate the facts of Bacteriological Warfare in Korea and China", other sources.

Elkin started working on the publication after returning from a business trip to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

In 1951, he was awarded the Order of the State Banner of the II degree by the DPRK government.

I.I. Elkin worked a lot and fruitfully on theoretical issues of epidemiology, paying great attention to such problems as the subject and method of epidemiology, the driving forces of the epidemic process, social and natural factors that cause quantitative and qualitative changes in the epidemic process, and the history of epidemiology.

A series of works on theoretical issues is summarized in the monograph "Essays on the Theory of Epidemiology" (1960).

I.I. Elkin owns many precise definitions of theoretical concepts of epidemiology. Without denying the concept of "epidemic process", which was given by L.V. Gromashevsky, he proposed a new interpretation: an epidemic process is a series of epidemic foci connected and arising from one another.

He supplemented the number of laws of general epidemiology with the law on natural foci and worked on improving the epidemiological classification of infectious diseases.

I.I. Elkin formulated his definition of epidemiology as the science of objective laws underlying the emer-

gence, spread and prevention of infectious diseases in human society, as well as methods of prevention and elimination of these diseases.

Subsequently, it was the basis for the definition adopted at the International Epidemiological Symposium in Prague in 1960.

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In the '60s, I.I. Elkin in-depth developed theoretical, organizational, and methodological foundations for the prevention and control of infectious diseases, the possibility of eliminating individual infections (a scientific work in the form of a book "Problems of the Elimination of Infectious Diseases" was published in 1966).

Thanks to the work of Soviet scientists, the possibility of eliminating infectious diseases was scientifically justified. The conviction in the validity of these conclusions, as well as the invaluable experience of domestic healthcare in the elimination of smallpox in the USSR in the 30s, allowed acad. USSR Academy of Medical Sciences V.M. Zhdanov to address the WHO with a proposal to adopt a global program for the elimination of smallpox.

To the end, I.I. Elkin remained a supporter of "classical" epidemiology and resolutely defended the scientific position that the social conditions of society are the main driving force of the epidemic process and determine the intensity, nature of the course and termination of the epidemic process, and hence the level of morbidity.

I.I. Elkin attached great importance to the history of epidemiology, an independent branch of medical science with a specific object and method of cognition, as well as an original picture of the historical development of scientific views, theories, and facts. He has written many works about the life and creative activity of scientists, whose activities were associated with important events in the scientific knowledge of the surrounding world.

In the multi-volume manual on microbiology, clinic, and epidemiology of infectious diseases (1965, vol. 5), the chapter "History of epidemiology" is written. In 1974, in collaboration with V.V. Frolova published the book "I. A. Deminsky", which contains a biography and description of the medical and scientific activities of Ippolit Alexandrovich Deminsky, who devoted his short life to the fight against particularly dangerous infections.

For several years, I.I. Elkin and V.K. Yashkul have been engaged in epidemiological geography. In 1961, a scientific laboratory was established, where the main provisions of this new direction of science were developed, the doctrine of nosoareal was formulated, and studies on nosogeography and regional epidemiology of many infectious diseases were conducted.

In 1964, the work on epidemiological geography was awarded a diploma of honour and a bronze medal of VDNH.

In the list of works by I.I. Elkin, written in collaboration with other specialists, there are articles dedicated to the experience of sanitary and epidemiological stations, polyclinics, district doctors, methods of epidemiological analysis, etc. Among the issues of private epidemiology, the greatest attention was paid to the problems of intestinal infections. Together with O.A. Krasheninnikov, the monograph "Dysentery" (1975) was published.

The main result of I.I. Elkin's pedagogical activity is textbooks and manuals that have survived several editions and been translated into English and Chinese.

An example of a combination of extensive experience in pedagogical work and deep knowledge was the series of works "Pedagogical reflections", which were published by "ZHMEI" in the 70s.

At the Department of Epidemiology of the 1st I.M. Sechenov Moscow Medical Institute, I.I. Elkin worked for 27 years. During this time, the staff of the department created a unified educational and methodological system for teaching epidemiology in medical universities of the USSR. The department became a recognized methodological centre, where teachers of medical universities regularly upgraded their qualifications.

In 1968, the staff of the Department of Epidemiology of the 1st I.M. Sechenov Moscow Medical Institute hosted the heads of the Departments of Epidemiology and Institutes of Advanced medical training – delegates of the seminar on the theory of epidemiology and its teaching, which was held at the Central Research Institute of Epidemiology of the Ministry of Health of the USSR.

The seminar was attended by heads of epidemiology departments of 23 medical institutes and institutes of advanced medical training, as well as heads of epidemiological departments of 28 institutes of epidemiology and microbiology, republican institutes, representatives of epidemiological services of the Ministry of Health of the USSR, RSFSR, etc.

The seminar discussed the main directions in the development of epidemiology at the present stage, as well as the state of teaching epidemiology at university departments. Major Soviet epidemiologists made reports, among them Prof. I.I. Elkin. The participants of the seminar, including USSR Academy of Medical Sciences L.V. Gromashevsky and akad. M.N. Solovyov of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences – employees of the first Department of Epidemiology, organized by D.K. Zabolotny in 1920, took part in the debate on the reports.

I.I. Elkin was engaged not only in training future specialists in medical universities but also understood the need to expand the professional horizons of doctors of other specialities. This opportunity was provided by the Great Medical Encyclopedia, the value of which was to provide a specialist with information on any issue from other specialities. In the Great Medical Encyclopedia, I.I. Elkin wrote the sections "Epidemiological experiment" (1964, vol.34), "Sanitary protection of borders" (1963, vol.29), and "Anti-epidemic provision of troops" (1962, vol. 26).

In 1973, under the editorship of I.I. Elkin, a two-volume manual "General and Private Epidemiology" was published to help medical practitioners, to work on which he managed to attract the leading scientists of the country: acad. USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, prof. N.N. Zhukova-Verezhnikova, corresponding member; USSR Academy of Medical Sciences Prof. T.E. Boldyreva, corresponding member; USSR Academy of Medical Sciences Prof. I.I. Rogozin, etc. The publication aroused great interest among a wide range of readers and remained a reference book for several generations of medical practitioners.

The authority of the scientist, vast practical experience, professional openness, and goodwill of I.I. Elkin attracted young scientists to the scientific school of epidemiology. Among them were representatives of the countries of people's democracy – Vedres I. and Sholt K. (Hungary), Yu-Chen and Feng Xue-Ui (China), Mureshan I. (Romania). Many applicants were from the republics of the USSR: Lebedev N.I. (Belarus), Ukhov A.Ya. (Ukraine), Bogacheva R.P. (Latvia), Kireev P.G. (Kazakhstan), Elfimova V.Z. (Tajikistan), Hasanov I.Yu. (Turkmenistan), Karimov Z.K., Nevsky M.V., Sharipov M.K. Aminzade Z.M., Pulatov Ya.G., Yuldashev A.K., Bahramova R.A., Kadyrov A.M. (Uzbekistan), etc. Under the guidance of Prof. I.I. Elkin, more than 70 dissertations were completed, including 19 doctoral dissertations. Students of I.I. Elkin conducted research on nosogeography, regional epidemiology of brucellosis (Cherchenko I.I., 1962; Aslanyan R.G., 1967), taeniasis (Suvorov V.Yu., 1965), typhoid fever and paratyphoid diseases (Solodovnikov Yu.P., 1965; Mukhutdinov I.Z., 1966; Ukhov A.Ya., 1974), bacterial dysentery (Krasheninnikov O.A., 1969; Padalkin V.P., 1970, Briko N.I. 1980), salmonellosis (Lebedev N.I., 1972).

The features of the epidemic process of typhoid fever in the conditions of industrially developing regions of Western Siberia are revealed, the high efficiency of mass immunization of the population is shown (Zamotin B.A., 1971). The role and importance of bacterial carriers in the epidemiology of typhoid fever is considered (Olkova M.P., 1964). The issues of active detection of patients with bacterial dysentery were studied (Frolov V.I., 1958), the causes of the transition of acute dysentery to prolonged (Kovaleva E.P., 1957), the complex of preventive and anti-epidemic measures for dysentery was improved (Zhogova M.A., 1958; Lebedev V.I., 1964; Ankirskaya A.S., 1966; Pavlova L.I., 1972).

The features of the epidemic process of infectious hepatitis have been studied, and the high epidemiological effectiveness of homologous serum preparations has been shown (Spotarenko S.S., 1965 and 1971, Stepanov G.P., 1962).

Thanks to the works of Kilesso V.A. (1975), the understanding of the epidemiology of salmonellosis has significantly expanded. A system of epidemiological surveillance of salmonellosis has been developed and implemented. Preclinical trials of the rehabilitation of chronic salmonella carriers were carried out (Efimova V.Z., 1972).

The etiology and epidemiological features of coli infection are studied, and the analysis of factors contributing to the spread of colienteritis in hospitals and preschool institutions is given (Bychenko V.D., 1969, Kuralesina V.V., 1971).

In controlled epidemiological studies, specific prevention of measles with live and inactivated vaccines has been studied (Bolotovsky V.M., 1967). The intensity, and duration of post-vaccination reactions and the intensity of immunity were evaluated. Studies of the immunological efficacy of monovaccine, divaccine and associated vaccines against pertussis, diphtheria and tetanus have been conducted (Kuznetsova L.S., 1960; Baeva E.A., 1972). The scientific basis for the elimination of the incidence of diphtheria has been developed (Khazanov M.I., 1968), the immunological aspects of the carriage of C. diphtheriae have been considered (Khisamutdinov A.G. 1975), the epidemiological features of scarlet fever in the USSR have been identified, the effectiveness of measures in foci has been evaluated, as well as the role of scarlet fever convalescents at various discharge dates (Sukhorukova N.L., 1959, Dodonov V.N, 1972).

The natural focal infections of the Kazakh SSR are characterized (P.G. Kireev, 1965). The features of epidemiology and prevention of intestinal infections in the Uzbek SSR were studied (Aminzade Z.M., 1964; Pulatov Ya.G., 1965; Karimov Z.K., 1966, Yuldashev A.K., 1967; Bahramova R.R., 1968; Kadyrov A.M., 1970, Nevsky M.V., 1971).

The results of scientific research conducted by numerous students of I.I. Elkin made it possible to study modern manifestations of the incidence of current infectious diseases, to create an effective system of epidemiological surveillance and morbidity management.

Over the years, I.I. Elkin carried out extensive editorial work, being a member of the scientific and editorial council of the publishing house "Medicine", editor-inchief of the USSR Ministry of Health, editor of the journal "Hygiene and Sanitation", co-editor of the epidemiology department of the Great Medical Encyclopedia.

From 1954 to 1982, Ivan Ivanovich was the editorin-chief of the Journal of Microbiology, Epidemiology and Immunobiology, the oldest scientific and practical periodical in the country. The first issue of the journal was published in 1924 under the title "Journal of Microbiology, Pathology and Infectious Diseases".

Since 1935, the journal has been called the Journal of Microbiology, Epidemiology and Immunobiology. Scientific works on microbiology and immunology continued to be published in it, but articles on epidemiology began to appear more often – summarizing the experience of preventing the most relevant infections for that time. Since 1935, the journal has published research in the field of epidemiology of typhus by L.V. Gromashevsky et al. After completing the expeditions to the Far East and Siberia and studying the etiology, clinic, epidemiology of spring-summer (tick-borne) encephalitis, A.A. Smorodintsev and M.P. Chumakov, D.V. Soloviev and others made articles in the journal. The first findings of Japanese encephalitis in the Far East were reported by A.A. Smorodintsev.

A lot of attention on the pages of the magazine was paid to preventive vaccinations against smallpox, diphtheria, tuberculosis, dysentery, typhoid fever, seroprophylaxis of measles, and phagoprophylaxis of dysentery.

The magazine continued to be published during the Great Patriotic War. Already in the first year of the war, the journal published articles on accelerated diagnostic methods, serotherapy, and chemotherapy for anaerobic infection of wounds. During the war, the works of S.P. Karpov and co., L.M. Hatenever and co. and others, were published, which were devoted to the epidemiology and diagnosis of tularemia-the desease that active troops of the Red Army had to encounter. But the most striking works on the problem of prevention of tularemia, undoubtedly, were the studies of N. A. Gaisky and B.Ya. Elbert, which resulted in the creation of a live anti-tularemia vaccine.

A major achievement of wartime science, undoubtedly, was the development of a method for mass production of an inactivated vaccine against typhus. Articles by M.K. Krontovskaya, M.M. Mayevsky and others were published on this topic in the journal.

However the magazine focused on the problem of acute infectious diseases, the spread of which both in the active army and among the civilian population contributed to the conditions of war. Many articles were devoted to the problem of prevention of childhood infections in the conditions of the Great Patriotic War.

After the end of the war, the health authorities faced the task of eliminating the epidemic consequences of the war. The journal published articles by I.I. Rogozin, A.I. Volkov, A.A. Chasovnikov, I.I. Elkin, E.I. Smirnov, T.E. Boldyrev and others devoted to the fight against infectious diseases.

The editors-in-chief of the journal since the release of the first issue have been L.A. Tarasevich, L.V. Gromashevsky, I.I. Rogozin, V.D. Timakov, I.I. Elkin.

Since 1955 the magazine began to be published monthly, its volume increased to 10 printed sheets. A discussion on theoretical issues of general epidemiology unfolded on the pages of the journal. It helped Russian epidemiologists to come to a consensus on many issues of the theory of epidemiology. During the discussion, theoretical articles were presented by L. V. Gromashevsky, E.I. Smirnov, N.R. Dyadichev, I.I. Elkin, I.I. Rogozin, I.I. Shatrov, N.A. Khomenko, etc.

When in the 60s the health authorities faced the task of further reducing the incidence and eliminating certain infectious diseases, a broad discussion of ways and methods of solving these issues unfolded on the pages of the magazine. L. V. Gromashevsky, Sh.D. Moshkovsky, I.I. Elkin, I.I. Rogozin, I.I. Shatrov, P.F. Zdrodovsky, V.M. Zhdanov and others made great articles on this top-ic.

On the pages of the magazine, much attention was paid to highlighting the experience of anti-epidemic work by sanitary and epidemiological stations, outpatient clinics, and individual specialists. Questions about methods of epidemiological analysis, the use of methods of medical statistics, the use of computers in epidemiology were widely discussed: E.P. Tambovtsev, I.S. Bezdenezhnykh, I.I. Elkin, B.Ya. Teplyakov, V. V. Biryukov, I.P. Ashmarin, M.N. Tkachev, Sh.G. Khanin, etc.

Much attention was paid to the theory of immunology and the scientific development of new ways of specific prevention: L.A.Silber, V. I. Ioffe, G.V. Vygodchikov, A.A. Vorobyev. Fundamental theoretical works were presented by P.F. Zdrodovsky, who justified new approaches to understanding immunogenesis.

In the articles of A.A. Smorodintseva, O.G. Andzhaparidze, V.M. Bolotovsky et al, S.M. Terekhova et al., M.A. Barabash et al. and others discussed the creation and study of the epidemiological and immunological effectiveness of new vaccines against measles. Vaccination against whooping cough was widely covered on the pages of the journal (M.S. Zakharova, A.A. Demina, E.A. Baeva, etc.). Several articles presented the features of vaccination against influenza (A. A. Smorodintsev, V.D. Solovyov, A. N. Slepushkin, M. I. Blinova, V.M. Zhdanov, O. V. Baroyan, T. K. Bobyleva, etc.).

There were reports on the results of controlled epidemiological studies on the study of new preventive drugs, in particular, articles on the improvement of vaccines against typhoid fever (I.I. Shatrov, M.P. Pokrovskaya, E.V. Chernokhvostova, V.D. Gekker, N.I. Kovaleva, A. N. Meshalova). There has been renewed interest in the problem of specific prevention of dysentery based on live vaccines (V.V. Sergeev et al.), and others.

Much attention was paid to other preventive drugs. For example, many articles have been published on the use of gamma globulin for the prevention of infectious hepatitis and other infectious diseases (N.V. Kholchev, S.S. Spotarenko, T.S. Podsedlovsky, Z. K. Karimov, I.I. Shatrova, etc.).

Major theoretical papers on microbiology have been published articles on the variability and genetics of bacteria and viruses (V.D. Timakov, V.G. Petrovskaya, D.G. Kudlay, A.G. Skavronskaya, A.P. Pekhov). A series of papers devoted to the study of L-forms of bacteria has been published (V.D. Timakov, G.Ya. Kagan, V.S. Levashev, etc.). Much attention was paid to the publication of materials on the aetiology, pathogenesis, epidemiology, and prevention of several infectious diseases. A significant number of articles were devoted to the issues of disinfection and disinsection (V. I. Vashkov et al.).

A series of works was devoted to the development of theoretical foundations of epidemiological geography and the doctrine of natural foci, as well as epidemiology and prevention of natural focal diseases (E.I. Pavlovsky, P.A. Petrishcheva, A.Ya. Alymov, I.I. Elkin, V.K. Yashkul, N.G. Olsufyev, Yu.A. Myasnikov, V.V. Ananyin, S.M. Kulagin, G.P. Somov, S.P. Karpov, E.P. Kovaleva, I.V. Tarasevich, N. P. Naumov, V.I.Terskikh, V.S. Kiktenko, etc.).

Much attention was paid on the pages of the journal to the issues of training and improvement of personnel. So, in 1968, an article appeared,

in which the expediency of introducing specialization in sanitary and hygienic faculties was justified, in other words, it was proposed to train not a sanitary doctor at all, but an epidemiologist, microbiologist, a specialist in communal hygiene, etc. At various times, articles were also published on improving teaching methods and optimizing the educational process. Many works have been published on the history of epidemiology, microbiology, and immunology, as well as the formation and development of the system of control and prevention of infectious diseases in the USSR.

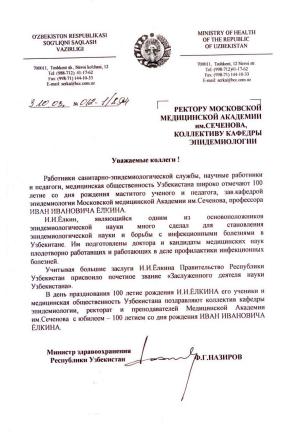
Hundreds of Russian and foreign specialists were involved in the work of the journal. The Editorial Board used the services of more than 200 reviewers. The journal became a mirror of scientific life, acted as a conductor of scientific knowledge, and contributed to the adoption of scientifically sound decisions by practical healthcare.

I.I. Elkin was a well-known scientist, who had extensive practical experience, so he repeatedly went on business trips abroad: in 1951 - to the DPRK to assist the population in the fight against epidemics, in 1959 – to Iraq for advisory work on health issues. In 1960, he represented Soviet science at the International Epidemiological Symposium in Czechoslovakia. He has travelled to Prague and Bratislava to give lectures and has repeatedly delivered lectures at the Universities of Berlin, Vienna, Weimar, and Leipzig. Participated in the International Symposium on Teaching Epidemiology in Brussels.

I.I. Elkin was a man with an active civic position. In 1928 he became a member of the CPSU /b/. He devoted a lot of time to social work. While working in Gorky, he was chairman of the Scientific and Medical Association and was elected a member of the City Council. For many years he was a member of the Plenum of the Higher Attestation Commission. For 5 years he was Chairman of the Board of the All-Union Society of Epidemiologists, Microbiologists, and Infectious Disease Specialists. He was elected deputy chairman of the Soviet-Iraqi Friendship Society and was a member of the Moscow Peace Protection Committee.

I.I. Elkin's services to the state were marked by government awards, he was awarded the Orders of the Patriotic War of the 1st and 2nd degrees, the Order of the Red Star, the Order of the Red Banner of Labor, the Badge of Honor and six medals. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbek SSR awarded him the honorary title of "Honored Scientist".

In 2003, solemn events and a scientific conference dedicated to the 100th anniversary of Professor I.I. Elkin were held at the I.M. Sechenov MMA. During the anniversary events, the Minister of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan sent a letter of congratulations to the Rector of the Moscow Medical Academy named after I.M. Sechenov and the staff of the Department of Epidemiology, in which it was noted that I.I. Elkin made a great contribution to the training of scientific and practical personnel of the Republic of Uzbekistan.



#### On the Occasion of the 120th Anniversary of Professor I.I. Elkin

A prominent scientist and public figure, a wise mentor and teacher who had a rare gift to guess the future personality and reveal its potential, I.I. Elkin left a bright mark in the history of world epidemiology. The article presents the life and creative path of the famous Russian epidemiologist, health care organizer, public figure, authoritative scientist and teacher Professor I.I. Elkina

Key words: I.I. Elkin, epidemiology