

ROUBEN M. AROUTIUNIAN

THE SCIENTIST, TEACHER AND CITIZEN
(on the occasion of 70th anniversary)

Rouben M. Aroutiunian, famous biologist, one of the founders of the Armenian school of Genetics, corresponding member of National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, the head of Chair of Genetics and Cytology of the Yerevan State University celebrated his 70th anniversary.



Rouben Aroutiunian was born on September 23, 1946 in Yerevan. He graduated from high school after A. Pushkin with honors in 1964 and entered the biological faculty of the Yerevan State University. Still a student he was actively engaged in research work. His desire to study, the pursuit to the science could not go unnoticed, and he was allowed to continue his education with an individual training plan. In 1969 after graduating from University with honors R. Aroutiunian in 1970–1972 continued his postgraduate studies in the Institute of Medical Genetics of the USSR in Moscow under the leadership of Academician Nikolay Bochkov. After defending his PhD thesis in 1972 R. Aroutiunian returns to Alma Mater where he is working till

now, having passed all the steps of scientific and pedagogical activity.

Having started his scientific practice in the Laboratory of General and Molecular Genetics as a researcher, he later linked his life with the Chair of Genetics and Cytology. The scientific purposefulness, diligence, hard scientific work in the laboratory, scholar in USA, the tight cooperation with Institute of Medical Genetics in Moscow and other Scientific Centers made it possible for talented scientist to defend the doctoral thesis in 1981 at the age of 35. Very soon he was the head of the Laboratory and since 1991 Professor Aroutiunian is the head of the Chair of Genetics and Cytology of YSU.

In 2006 Professor Aroutiunian was elected as corresponding member of NAS, he is Academician–Secretary of the Division of the Natural Sciences of NAS RA (since 2016), Member of the Presidium of NAS RA (since 2016).

Professor Aroutiunian is the leading Armenian scientist in genetics particularly he is the founder of Armenian ecological and toxicological genetics and molecular cytogenetic school. He has wide area of interests. For decades under his supervision, monitoring of the health status of workers employed in harmful industries in the Republic was conducted. In cooperation with scientists from France and Israel for the first time was revealed presence of a mutagen factor in blood plasma of patients with periodical disease.

On Professor Aroutiunian's personal initiative were studied the healing properties of antioxidants in the group of liquidators of consequences of the Chernobyl disaster from Armenia, for the first time in South Caucasus was introduced a molecular-cytogenetic diagnosis of leukemia, which allowed hundreds of patients suffering from blood cancer to receive for many years life-saving medicines.

R. Aroutiunian was among the initiators of introducing the prenatal cytogenetic diagnosis in Armenia and was the first who studies mathematical modeling of these data. Professor together with his colleagues introduced the methodological approach which made it possible to assess the risk of genetic contamination of water and soil in various regions of Armenia, using local biomarkers. Further using the approbated methodology, in cooperation with scientists from Russian Federation, it was supported enlarging the spectra of studies of the Lake Sevan and other water ecosystems contamination.

As a basis of wide collaboration with several scientific centers in Italy, Spain and Germany were used new approaches proposed by Professor Aroutiunian in the field of plant genetics.

The comprehensive and productive scientific work of Professor Aroutiunian never alienated him from teaching. It is difficult to overestimate his pedagogical contribution to the training and scientific advancement of the younger generation.

Through his efforts, many students and young scientists were given the opportunity to continue their studies and conduct a variety of scientific research in leading foreign universities and research centers. The Professor himself lectured in a dozen countries. He participated in many studies funded by foreign grants and was Co-Director of NATO ASI workshop, Macomb, USA devoted to the newest methods of toxicological genetics.

Rouben Aroutiunian is the representative of Armenia in the Council on Radiobiology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and in recent years has been repeatedly invited as a lecturer on radiation genetics in Dubna (RF) in United Institute of Nuclear Research.

R. Aroutiunian has published almost 300 scientific works, among them are 4 monographies and more than 170 articles published as in native, so in international scientific journals. Since 1999 he is Editor in Chief of the "Proceedings of Yerevan State University" and vice-editor of "Biological Journal of Armenia", member of editorial boards of "Korean Journal of Environmental Biology" and "Molecular Cytogenetics", member of Editorial Council of journal "Blood".

During his teaching activity he was the scientific leader of 20 PhD theses and supervisor of two Doctoral theses. The scientific achievements of Professor Aroutiunian were repeatedly evaluated both at home and abroad. He is Laureate of medals of Gregor Mendel (1981), Nikolay Vavilov (1987), Anania Shirakatsi (1999), Gold medals of YSU and Ministry of Education and Science of RA, he was repeatedly awarded by SCS of MES RA among the most effective scientists.

Editorial Board and Office of the Journal "Proceedings of YSU" are happy to congratulate the famous scientist and pedagogue on a significant Date. We wish him Health, Happiness and to be Successful in all endeavors and to remain the same young at any age.

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