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HAPPY NEW YEAR COMRADES

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR COMRADES

[Following is the translation of an article published in the Russian-language periodical Zhurnal Mikrobiologii, Epidemiologii i Immunobiologii (Journal of Microbiology, Epidemiology and Immunobiology), No 1, Vol 43, 1966, pp 3--5. Translation performed by Sp/7 Charles T. Ostertag, Jr.]

We are entering the new year of 1966. This is a special year -- it precedes the 50th year of Soviet power.

There is no doubt that the people of our country during this year will spare no efforts for new labor achievements on the path of the successful construction of a communist society.

In our country the role of science is increasing every year. The party and the government are constantly looking after the development of science, the further strengthening and improvement of its material base, and attracting the most talented and creatively active people into scientific activity.

✓ The primary problem for medical science is the struggle with malignant tumors, cardiovascular and infectious (especially viral) diseases. This is explained by the fact that it is primarily these diseases which are occupying the main place in human pathology at the present time.

Skilled, well prepared cadres are of decisive importance in any affair. This is mainly why the party and the government always have and always will give great attention to this problem.

During the past year the Ministry of Public Health approved the new training plans of the higher medical training institutes. These included a number of important changes directed at improving the preparation of students in the biological-medical and clinical disciplines.

The modern development of medical science practically demands a knowledge of chemistry on the part of doctors, therefore, the training plan envisions a certain increase in the number of hours devoted to this discipline.

For strengthening medical-biological training, general genetics is being introduced in the biology course, the divisions of virology and immunology are being expanded in the microbiology course, and cytology in the histology course. ✓

The new training plan also calls for teaching a course in biophysics.

A lecture course on medical genetics is included in the program of neural diseases; besides this it is planned to acquaint the students with problems of hereditary diseases in a number of clinical disciplines. Lectures on medical psychology will be read in the faculty of psychiatry.

In the sanitation-hygienic departments a large amount of time will be devoted to the study of clinical disciplines due to a certain reduction in the number of hours on hygienic disciplines; the volume of training in occupational diseases and traumatology will also be increased.

The main medical practice will be transferred from the IV to the V course and will last 8 weeks.

It is necessary to review the training programs on the basis of the new training plans and introduce the necessary adjustments into them. It would be useful if the Society of Epidemiologists, Microbiologists and Infectious Disease Specialists assisted in the work of the Departments of Microbiology, Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases in the further improvement of education in these disciplines, which occupy an important place in the general training of doctors.

In 1967 we will have fulfilled 50 years of the Great October Socialist Revolution. In order to mark this date in the necessary manner, the preparation for it should begin during this year. It is necessary to publish books which are not only good in content but also in design. These books will reflect the noticeable achievements of Soviet medical science, and mainly clearly reflect the positive shifts in the condition of health of the nation which have taken place over these 50 years.

The Journal of Microbiology, Epidemiology and Immunobiology proposes to publish a series of articles dealing with these problems.

It would be expedient if in 1966-1967 the local department of the Scientific Society of Epidemiologists, Microbiologists and Infectious Disease Specialists would conduct scientific conferences devoted to the great anniversary, and organize at enterprises, collective farms, institutes, schools and clubs popular lectures on the successes of Soviet public health, and attract a wide group of doctors to this.

In Moscow in July of 1966 there will be an International Congress on Microbiology. The scientific program of the Congress will be very extensive. The work of the Congress will be carried out in seven sections: a) Physiology and genetics of microbes; b) Biochemical activity of microorganisms; c) Industrial and agricultural microbiology; d) Medical and veterinary microbiology; e) Virology; f) Immunology and g) Epidemiology.

In each of these sections 4--6 problems and themes will be discussed. Thus, in the section on the physiology and genetics of microorganisms the following problems will be discussed: 1) the kinetics of reproduction and the role of nucleic acids in the biosynthesis of proteins; 2) biochemical mechanisms of resistance; 3) mutation genetics of microorganisms; 4) cytology of microorganisms.

In the section on the biochemical activity of microorganisms it is proposed that the following problems be discussed: 1) chemistry of the microbial cell; 2) metabolism in the microbial cell; 3) chemosynthesis and photosynthesis in microorganisms; 4) new antibiotics and other products from the biosynthesis of microorganisms; 5) chemical transformations being carried out by microorganisms.

The section on medical and veterinary microbiology will concentrate its attention on problems of: 1) rickettsiae, chlamydozooids, PPLO; 2) influenza and other respiratory diseases; 3) hepatitis; 4) staphylococcal infections; 5) veterinary microbiology (foot and mouth disease and other important diseases of farm animals).

No less urgent problems will be the subject of attention of the section on virology: 1) anatomy of viruses; 2) genetics of viruses and phages; 3) synthesis of virus components in isolated cellular structures; 4) viruses in oncology; 5) chemotherapy of viral infections; 6) virologically sterile tissues.

Immunology will discuss such problems as: 1) mechanisms for the formation of antibodies; 2) chemistry of bacterial antibodies and toxins; 3) the nature and properties of immunizing factors; 4) pathology of immunological processes.

The epidemiologists will also have problems for discussion. These are 1) ecological principles in epidemiology; 2) criteria for the liquidation of infectious diseases; 3) immunological method in epidemiology.

Besides the section meetings the Congress will hold 8 symposiums on the following themes: 1) genetic regulation of the metabolism of microorganisms; 2) biologically active substances of microbial origin; 3) biological fixation of nitrogen; 4) specificity of the pathogenesis of infectious diseases; 5) gnotobiology; 6) classification of viruses; 7) mechanism of immunogenesis; 8) the problem of eliminating infectious diseases.

The selection of lecturers and reporters at the symposiums will be in accordance with the organizational committee and the executive committee of the International Association of Microbiological Societies.

The program of the Congress is extensive and the problems presented for discussion are very urgent, and we are confident that our medical public will display great attention and interest in it.

There is confidence that the national Organization Committee will ensure preparation for the Congress on a high scientific level and our Soviet scientists will be actively included in the future discussion.

The Journal of Microbiology, Epidemiology and Immunobiology proposes to publish a series of articles on the results of the International Congress.

Just as in previous years, in the first issue of the Journal we are publishing the thematic plan for the Journal.

No 1 -- Microbiology, epidemiology and prophylaxis of intestinal infections.

No 2 -- Microbiology, epidemiology and prophylaxis of infections of the respiratory tract.

No 3 -- Problems of microbiology and methods of bacteriological diagnosis and indication of pathogenic microbes in the external medium.

No 4 -- Problems of immunity and the specific prophylaxis of infectious diseases.

No 5 -- Microbiology, epidemiology and prophylaxis of blood infections, including naturally focal diseases.

No 6 -- Microbiology, epidemiology and prophylaxis of intestinal infections.

No 7 -- Problems of general epidemiology. Experience in the prophylaxis of infectious diseases in the USSR. Training of cadres.

No 8 -- Problems of chemotherapy and chemoprophylaxis. Disinfection, insect extermination and rodent control.

No 9 -- Microbiology, epidemiology and prophylaxis of infections of the respiratory tract.

No 10 -- Problems of microbiology and methods of laboratory diagnosis and indication of pathogenic microorganisms in the external medium.

No 11 -- Problems of immunity and the specific prophylaxis of infectious diseases.

No 12 -- Problems of general epidemiology. Experience in the prophylaxis of infectious diseases in the USSR. Prophylaxis of blood infections, including naturally focal diseases. Results of the International Congress on Microbiology.