ADDRESS IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR EZRAS A. ASRATYAN

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On April 23 1981 after a long and serious illness, at the age of 78, died E. A. Asratyan, the corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, an Academician of the Armenian Academy of Sciences, Professor, M. D.

Being a true follower and passionate continuator of I. P. Pavlov's work, E. A. Asratyan has enriched the soviet and world science with his discoveries and theoretical thinking, which are of fundamental importance for the modern brain physiology. Investigations which had been carried out even in Pavlov’s time and connected with the role of brain cortex in the compensation of damaged functions of the central nervous system are recognized as classical.

The discovery of a phenomenon of conditioned reflexory transswitching and the two-way character of conditioned connections as a universal principle of the integrative brain activity were completed by the creation of a reflexory conception of the goal-directed motivated behavior, which included the problem of motivation in the flow of further development of Pavlov’s teaching, in the system of theoretical ideas and experimental methods of the higher nervous activity study.

The works by E. A. Asratyan received a wide recognition among the world scientists; the result of it was his election as an honorary member of five foreign physiological societies and numerous translations of his books and articles abroad. Even bedridden, E. A. Asratyan still continued to receive a great deal of invitations for delivering lectures and participation in major scientific forums.
His actual achievements, ideas and plans will remain for many years a source of further investigations for his disciples and followers, for the Institute of Higher Nervous Activity and Neurophysiology of the USSR Academy of Sciences, which was directed by him with such love, enthusiasm and persistance.

E. A. Asratayan saw the role of this unique scientific institute in the creative development of Pavlov's teaching, in learning the mechanisms of complicated forms of behavior and psychics based on modern achievements of general neurophysiology, electrophysiology, neurochemistry, electronic microscopy and computer technology.

Member of the Communist Party since 1929, E. A. Asratyan was an ardent patriot of the Socialist Motherland, a true son of the Soviet Armenia.

Nearly 60 years of this life he devoted to pedagogic and public activity and was awarded 2 Orders of Lenin, 2 Orders of the Red Banner of Labour, Order of the Red Star and medals. The Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences honored him with the Gold Medal and I. P. Pavlov award.

E. A. Asratyan was always an example of confirmed communist-internationalist. One can hardly imagine how much of his energy and cordial warmth he dedicated in his last years to the Problem Commission of the Academies of Sciences of Socialist countries — “Intermozg”, headed by him; to the broadening and strengthening of the multilateral cooperation on this problem.

As an editor-in-chief of the “I. P. Pavlov's Journal of Higher Nervous Activity” E. A. Asratyan united the collective of leading specialists, which he liked to call “the staff” of that field of sciences that tends to comprehend the laws and mechanisms of higher nervous activity of human being and animals.

We take leave of E. A. Asratyan with a feeling of deep sorrow caused by a severe bereavement and at the same time we are overwhelmed by a feeling of high responsibility for the further success in the work to which E. A. Asratyan devoted all his long, bright and fruitful life.

His memory will remain in our hearts forever.