

TOVKACH FEDIR IVANOVYCH (on the occasion of his 70th birthday)



Fedir Ivanovich Tovkach is a well-known Ukrainian scientist in the field of virology, molecular biology, and genetics of bacteriophages, head of the Department of Molecular Genetics of Bacteriophages at the Zabolotny Institute of Microbiology and Virology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. He is a Doctor of Biological Sciences, a Corresponding Member of the Na-

tional Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, and a laureate of the Zabolotny Prize of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. Dr. Tovkach was born on March 25, 1954. After graduating from school, he entered the Faculty of Biology of the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, from which he graduated in 1976 and received a diploma in biophysics. As a student, he began working at the Zabolotny Institute of Microbiology and Virology, which became the first and only institution in his working life.

Dr. Tovkach conducts active scientific and organizational work. He is a member of the editorial boards of the «Microbiological Journal», the «Journal of Microbiology and Biotechnology», as well as the «Bulletin of Geneticists and Breeders of Ukraine». He is a member of the Specialized Scientific Council at the Institute of Microbiology and Virology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

F.I. Tovkach has a recognized talent as an educator and leader who thoughtfully works with young people. In a short time, he has trained 11 candidates in sciences. Thanks to this, he has formed a talented team of scientists who work at the level of requirements for modern scientific research. Dr. Tovkach gives a course of lectures

«Molecular Microbiology» for masters-microbiologists at the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. Also, he has organized and implemented the annual scientific and practical school «Molecular Microbiology and Biotechnology» for students, graduate students, and young scientists of Odesa I.I. Mechnikov National University. In 2008, F.I. Tovkach was honored with the award of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine «For the preparation of scientific change» for his active pedagogical and educational activities.

F. I. Tovkach is the author of more than 200 scientific publications in the area of molecular biology of viruses, bacteriocins, plasmids, and mechanisms of pathogenesis of viral infections in microorganisms. He has developed a number of original molecular genetic approaches and methods for the study of autonomous genetic elements of viral nature in bacteria. He proposed and practically confirmed a new conceptual statement that the mosaic of temperate phages, defective phages,

bacteriocins, and plasmids, as well as restriction-modification systems, determines not only the strain but also the species diversity of bacteria. This statement is revolutionary for the taxonomy of microorganisms. In 2013, for the series of works «Phytopathogenic bacteria — causative agents of especially dangerous plant diseases and their autonomous genetic elements», F.I. Tovkach became a laureate of the Zabolotny Prize.

With sincere respect and love, students, staff, and the scientific community congratulate Fedir Ivanovych Tovkach on his anniversary and wish him good health, optimism, bright sunny peaceful days, inspiration in research, and significant scientific achievements.

*The staff of the Zabolotny
Institute of Microbiology and Virology
of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
Department of Molecular Genetics of Bacteriophages
Vinogradsky Society of Microbiologists of Ukraine
The Editorial Board and
the Editors of the «Microbiological Journal»*