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Review Article

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Professor Boris Nestorovich Mogilnitsky – Soviet pathologist, Scientist, Organizer and Educator

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ABSTRACT

Object: The article is dedicated to the life and creative path of a prominent Soviet pathologist, scientist, educator and organizer, Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, Doctor of Medical Sciences, Professor Boris Nestorovich Mogilnitsky.

Keywords: Boris Nestorovich Mogilnitsky, Soviet Pathologist, Educator, Organizer, professor, Scientist, Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences

Review

November 5, 2025 marks the 70th anniversary of the death of a great Soviet pathologist, scientist, educator and organizer, corresponding member of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR, Honored Scientist of the RSFSR, Doctor of Medical Sciences, Professor Boris Nestorovich Mogilnitsky [1,2] (Figure 1).

Boris Nestorovich Mogilnitsky was born on March 6, 1882 in Moscow. Married. Spouse: Mogilnitskaya Nadezhda Alekseevna (1891–1982). Children: Mikhail (1916–1971) [3].

In 1902, Boris graduated from the 1st Yeselenskaya Gymnasium, and in 1908, graduated with honors from the Medical Faculty of the Imperial Moscow University (IMU). In 1910, he defended his doctoral dissertation [4,5].

From 1908 to 1911, B.N. Mogilnitsky worked as an assistant and resident at the Department of Nervous Diseases in the IMU, headed by Professor G.N. Rossolimo [6]. In 1911, Boris Nestorovich left the university along with many other professors and teachers in protest against the reactionary policy of the



Figure 1: Mogilnitsky Boris Nestorovich (06.03.1882–05.11.1955)

Minister of National Education L.A. Kasso [7]. From 1913 to 1915, he was an assistant dissector at the Department of Pathological Anatomy. In 1918, he was an assistant professor at the Department of Pathological Physiology, who worked from 1915 to 1920. From 1920 to 1928, he was the head of the Department of Pathological Anatomy at the Medical Faculty of Nizhny Novgorod State University (NizhSU), now the National

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Research Nizhny Novgorod Lobachevsky State University [8]. From 1928 to 1955 – he was Head of the Department of Experimental Pathology at the Central Research Institute of Roentgenology and Radiology, and simultaneously from 1933 to 1955 – Head of the Department of Pathological Anatomy at the Faculty of Pediatrics, and from 1942 to 1946 – Deputy Director of the II Moscow Order of Lenin State Medical Institute (II MOLSMI) on the scientific and educational side. During the Great Patriotic War, during the evacuation of the Institute, he was an inspector of the Moscow Energy Industry and a consultant on the pathological anatomy of evacuation hospitals in Omsk [9-11].

B.N. Mogilnitsky's research interests included pathology of the central and autonomic nervous system, childhood and the newborn period, the endocrine system and its interaction with the central nervous system, radiation and military pathology, and the study of the problem of blood capillary permeability [12].

In 1920, he was awarded the title of professor and is considered one of the founders of the Departments of Pathological Anatomy at NizhSU and the Faculty of Pediatrics at II MOLSMI.

Boris Nestorovich was one of the first in our country to begin studying vascular permeability in pathology. He studied and described the pathological anatomy of changes in the autonomic nervous system in neoplasms, chronic and infectious diseases, poisoning and burns, the relationship between the autonomic nervous system and endocrine organs, found that X-rays, especially in combination with nonspecific stimuli, have an inhibitory effect on the development of neoplasms, revealed the pathogenetic mechanisms of pituitary-subthalamic syndrome [13].

B.N. Mogilnitsky, with the consulting assistance of I.P. Pavlov, together with N.N. Burdenko, revealed the dependence of neoplasms, experimental gastric ulcers on damage to the autonomic centers of the brain, spinal cord and pathways. The scientist established the titular indicators of the harmful and beneficial effects of radiation energy on the human body and proposed methods for the use of X-ray therapy for the treatment of various tumors, the inflammatory process and gunshot wounds. Under his leadership, educational collections of macroand micro-preparations, slides were created, and 20 doctoral and 30 candidate dissertations were completed and defended [14].

On November 19, 1943, B.N. Mogilnitsky was awarded the honorary title "Honored Scientist of the RSFSR" for his special services in the field of science.

In 1952, he was elected a corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences. He was awarded the Orders of Lenin, the Red Banner of Labor (1945) and the medals "For the Defense of Moscow" and "For the Victory over Germany in the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945." [15].

B.N. Mogilnitsky is the author of more than 200 scientific papers, including 7 monographs on pathological anatomy, pathology of the autonomic nervous system, and radiotherapy.

From 1949 to 1955, he was a member of the expert commission

of the Higher Attestation Commission, the Board of the All–Union Scientific Society of Pathologists, Deputy Chairman of the Board of the Moscow Society of Pathologists, the editorial board of the journal Arkhiv Patologii, and from 1946 to 1955, Deputy Chairman of the Scientific Medical Council of the Ministry of Health of the RSFSR.

B.N. Mogilnitsky was distinguished by his objectivity, responsibility, sense of duty, interest in the profession, humanity, exceptional modesty, logical thinking and the ability to apply acquired knowledge in practice, inexhaustible energy and enthusiasm in scientific research. His motto was: Never stop there [16].

B.N. Mogilnitsky lived at 4th Tverskaya-Yamskaya Street from 1910 to 1940, and at 57/65 Novoslobodskaya Street from 1948 to 1955. He died on November 5, 1955 in Moscow at his post at the age of 73. He was buried at the Vvedenskoye cemetery in Moscow [17] (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Tombstone monument to Boris Nestorovich Mogilnitsky at the ancestral plot of the Vvedenskoye cemetery in Moscow. Photo provided by Peter Ustinov (Moscow)

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