

In memoriam

Professor Algis Mickis (1927–2006)

On September 7, 2006, Acta Medica Lituanica lost Professor Emeritus Algis Mickis, member of the Editorial Board since founding of the journal.

A. Mickis was born in Kaunas on May 3, 1927. He graduated with distinction from the Medical Faculty of Kaunas University in 1950. After postgraduate studies at Moscow Second Medical Institute he defended his doctoral degree in pharmacology in 1953. Soon after that A. Mickis joined the Department of Pharmacology at Kaunas Medical Institute (now Kaunas University of Medicine) where he spent the rest of his professional career. He got the title of Associate Professor in 1959. In 1968 he defended his habilitation work “Investigations of the high-frequency electrocorticogram under the influence of thiopental and other neurotropic agents”. He became Professor in 1971 and was awarded the title of Professor Emeritus in 2006.

A. Mickis held the position of Head of the Department of Pharmacology from 1956 until 1992. He established a new school of education in pharmacology and supported the growth and development of its staff. He gave lectures to regular students, including biophysicists and refresher course attendants. Together with his colleagues he wrote handbooks of pharmacology for university students in Lithuanian and was awarded a Republican Prize. He served as President of Lithuanian Pharmacological Society and organized regular meetings of pharmacologists of the Baltic States. His efforts were awarded by two Latvian medals. He was the editorial board member of several medical journals, Lithuanian Medical Encyclopedia and General Lithuanian Encyclopedia.

A. Mickis was an enthusiastic researcher. He founded the first modern research laboratory of electroencephalography (EEG) at the University in 1957, and soon new research laboratories and institutes started to appear. In numerous scientific publications and at international conferences he made a significant contribution to understanding the high-frequency components of the EEG. He was a member of the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) since 1981. Under his creative leadership and innovative spirit, 23 doctoral and 5 habilitation works were defended at his laboratory. He was honored by the title of Deserved Scientist in 1977 and elected a Corresponding Member of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences in 1990. He was a member of the Science Council of Lithuania.

A. Mickis played a major role in University affairs. He was the Chairman of the University Council and a member of several committees. In 1995–1998 he was the President of the Lithuanian Medical Association and participated in establishing the State Medicines Control Agency. He understood the responsibility of scientists for social and political issues and actively participated in re-establishing Lithuania's independence. His efforts were recognized and he was awarded the 3rd degree Order of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas for his merits to the Republic of Lithuania.

Professor A. Mickis will remain in the hearts and minds of his students and colleagues as a deeply respected personality.

Editorial Board