

NECROLOGUE

Azerbaijan's astronomical science has a heavy loss.

Dmitry Ivanovich Shestopalov, the leading researcher of the "Planets and small celestial bodies" department of the Shamakhy Astrophysical Observatory named after N.Tusi of ANAS, died on April 7, 2021. Unfortunately, during the pandemic, the COVID-19 virus did not pass unnoticed by our astronomer colleague D.I. Shestopalov made us feel pain by taking from us a hard-working man



who wasted his time in his scientific work.

Dmitry Ivanovich Shestopalov was born on April 22, 1952, in the city of Baku. He graduated from the Physics Department of Kharkiv State University, the Republic of Ukraine, in 1975 with a degree in Astronomy. He continued his postgraduate studies in astronomy at the same university. In 1980, he successfully defended his dissertation on "Polarimetric and colorimetric maps of the lunar surface" at the Sternberg State Astronomical Institute of Moscow State University, where he received a Ph.D. in physics and mathematics.

DI Shestopalov started his career as a junior researcher at the Shamakhy Astrophysical Observatory in 1978. Since 1980, he has been engaged in the "Study of the physical properties of asteroids" in the ShAO. During this time, most of the more than 170 scientific papers devoted to studying the physical properties of asteroids have been published in prestigious journals around the world. He was one of the main organizers and observers of spectral observations of asteroids in ShAO telescopes. In collaboration with the staff of St. Petersburg University, a program of research of radiation spectra reflected from meteorites close to asteroids due to their chemical composition was organized, and in-depth analysis was carried out. He was responsible for observing the asteroid Vesta, Mars, and Halley's International Cooperative Program from the ShAO. He was elected a Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the International Conference on Physics of Asteroids, organized in ShAO.

From 1983 he worked as a senior researcher, from 1992 as an associate professor, and from 1994 as a leading researcher in the department of "Planets and celestial bodies."

From 1980 to 1992, he was a member of the International Working Groups on Asteroids, Comets and Spectrophotometry, and Photometric Standards and Catalogs. In addition, he co-authored two monographs on the long-term study of asteroids in the ShAO and the book "Energy Distribution in the Spectra of 425 Bright Stars", which is central to the history of the ShAO.

It should be noted in particular that D.I. Shestopalov's scientific activity was carried out in Russia, Ukraine, the USA, France, Canada, Japan, and other countries. He had close scientific relations with his colleagues from other countries and carried out joint work. He was a regular participant of many international conferences, author of articles and theses published in more than 120 international journals and scientific conference proceedings.

D.I. Shestopalov has been a member of several working groups and, since 2001, a member of the European Astronomical Society and the American Geophysical Society.

He was closely involved in the scientific and public life of the observatory. Rest in peace.