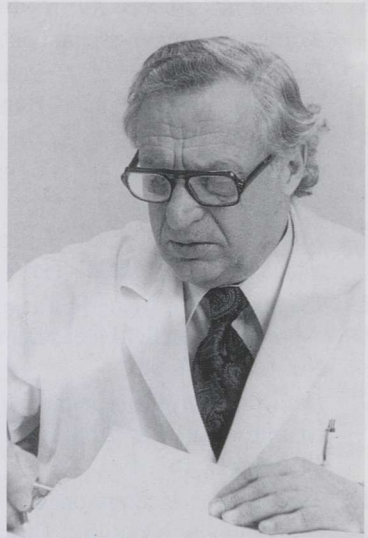


PAVEL BOGOVSKI 80

Pavel Bogovski was born into a Russian doctor's family in Tartu, Estonia, in 1919. His father, who had graduated from the Imperial Medical Military Academy (St. Petersburg), worked for seven years at Kihelkonna, Saaremaa, as a general practitioner. In 1937 Pavel Bogovski graduated from Hugo Treffner's gymnasium in Tartu. Obviously his affection for foreign languages dates back to his school years when he had outstanding teachers especially in Greek and Latin. In 1937 he was enrolled at the Medical Faculty of Tartu University. Unfortunately after four years the war interrupted his studies in Estonia. His family escaped into the rear. He managed to continue his studies at the Medical Institute in Alma-Ata (Kazakhstan) from which he graduated in 1943. After a short training course he was sent to the Estonian Rifle Corps to serve as a surgeon, epidemiologist, and physician until the end of World War II.



In 1946-49 P. Bogovski was a postgraduate student at the Department of Pathology of the University of Tartu. During this period he carried out an experimental histopathologic study in rabbits on wound healing under the influence of malnutrition and intravenously administered glucose, performed general training in morbid anatomy including necropsies, and gave training courses to graduate students in histopathology. He wrote his thesis under the supervision of Professor V. Valdes and in 1949 the degree of candidate of medicine (PhD) was conferred on him. In 1949 Pavel Bogovski started work with the Institute of Experimental and Clinical Medicine (IECM), affiliated until 1963 to the Academy of Sciences of the Estonian SSR. In 1950 he established the laboratory of Morphology & Pathology of the Institute together with the first photomicrographic laboratory in Tallinn. Investigations in guinea pigs on histological aspects of experimental treatment of tuberculosis with some new compounds (semicarbazones) were carried out in the first two years. In 1953 Pavel Bogovski was named Director of the Institute. He was in

this position until 1991 except the years when he was staff member of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) (1968-74). He enthusiastically started to build up the Institute with many different research areas. As the Institute expanded the idea of a new building emerged. It was realized thanks to P. Bogovski's efforts in 1971.

As a long lasting research project he started investigations on the carcinogenicity of products of thermal processing of oil shale launching by these studies experimental cancer research in Estonia. Results of these studies (published in numerous scientific articles, summarized in IARC Monograph No. 35, 1985) can be used all over the world wherever oil shale is mined and processed. In collaboration with a chemist-technologist and a toxicologist, a technology of decreasing the cancer producing potential of shale oils consisting in converting the hazardous liquid products into less offensive solid coke was proposed and successfully introduced in the oil-shale industry in Estonia (1964). On Pavel Bogovski's initiative the first post-war collection of medical articles in Estonia was published in 1954. In 1958, on its basis a monthly medical journal titled *Nõukogude Eesti Tervishoid* (Public Health of Soviet Estonia) started to appear. This journal continued the traditions of the journal *Eesti Arst* (Estonian Physician) of the 1920s-30s. In 1988 the editorial board, as Pavel Bogovski proposed it, decided to restore the name of the journal as *Eesti Arst*.

In 1961 Pavel Bogovski received the degree of Doctor of Sciences in Medicine for his dissertation on the carcinogenic action of products of thermal processing of Estonian oil shale. The scientific advisor of this work was the world-known scientist Academician Leon Shabad from Moscow Institute of Experimental and Clinical Oncology (now Russian Oncology Research Centre) to whose school Pavel Bogovski reckons himself belonging. They worked closely for decades on several Soviet and international commissions and committees on the investigation of carcinogenic compounds and prophylaxis of their action.

In 1962 P. Bogovski was named Professor and in 1965 elected Associated Member of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR (since 1992 renamed Russian Academy of Medical Sciences).

In 1968-74 Pavel Bogovski worked with the World Health Organization (WHO) International Agency for Research on Cancer (Lyon, France), where he organized the Unit and Laboratory of Environmental Carcinogens, initiated several international research projects on carcinogenic N-nitroso compounds in the environment, and supervised an international asbestos cancer program. Simultaneously experimental studies in laboratory animals on the modifying action of some substances on the carcinogenicity of benzo(a)pyrene were carried out. He also participated in the international investigation on esophageal cancer in Iran, Brittany, and France, organizing and supervising in its framework the environmental chemistry field study to identify carcinogenic compounds in alcoholic beverages. In 1969 he started the successfully continuing series of international meetings on environmental N-nitroso compounds. The meetings took place every second year in different scientific centres (London, Heidelberg, Lyon, Tallinn, Durham, Tokyo, Banff, etc.). Pavel Bogovski was editor of the first three volumes

of the proceedings of these meetings. The series of these books is well ongoing, as are the meetings. For many scientists all over the world Tallinn and Estonia are closely associated with the name of Pavel Bogovski till now.

Having returned from Lyon he resumed work as Director of the IECM, organized and carried out investigations on environmental carcinogens, mainly N-nitroso compounds and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons with special emphasis on the modifying influence of comparatively inoffensive environmental agents, such as shale oil phenols and fly ash, on the action of carcinogens, mainly benzo(a)pyrene and asbestos. In the 1970s the IECM developed into a leading centre of nitrosamine studies in the USSR.

Since 1977 Pavel Bogovski has been actively working as the chairman of the Committee of Estonian Medical Terminology. The Committee has discussed, corrected, reformed, created, and adopted over 2000 new medical terms in Estonian, which will serve as a basis for a special dictionary. In 1991-97 the Committee discussed and approved all entries of the International Classification of Diseases (10th revision) (ICD-10), the English version of which Pavel Bogovski translated into Estonian adding the Latin terms. His comprehensive training in classical Latin and Greek in the secondary school was helpful in translating the ICD-10 into Latin. Pavel Bogovski was also advisor in Latin orthography for the Swedish edition of ICD-10 (1993) and co-author of the Finnish ICD-10 edition (1995). During this work he acquired satisfactory experience in handling an IBM compatible PC, especially its word processing programs. Pavel Bogovski with co-workers was editor of the Estonian translation of Medical Dictionary from the Finnish (1996), which is the most complete modern Estonian dictionary of medical terms. The next, complete edition of this dictionary will be published in 1999.

Throughout his life Pavel Bogovski has been a passionate communicator of medical knowledge, especially knowledge on cancer risks. He has held numerous scientific and public lectures on this subject. In his numerous articles and books he promulgates the contemporary views on cancer risks and advises healthy lifestyles. For his outstanding achievements in 1996 Pavel Bogovski was awarded the 3rd class Order of the Estonian White Star.

His long-time collaborators respect very much not only his excellent knowledge in medical disciplines and many languages, but also his general erudition and intelligence. During his spare time he likes most of all to wander in the woods or at the seashore, admiring nature, picking wild berries and mushrooms.

Toomas VEIDEBAUM

The members of the *Oil Shale* editorial board and editors congratulate Professor P. Bogovski on his remarkable jubilee and wish him lasting energy and good health!