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From the Heart to Science: 65th Anniversary of Professor Irina Alekseevna Odintsova

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ABSTRACT

On June 28, 2025, Professor Irina Alekseevna Odintsova—an esteemed histologist, talented educator, and outstanding individual—celebrates her 65th birthday. She is Head of the Department of Histology and Embryology at the S.M. Kirov Military Medical Academy, Doctor of Medical Sciences, Professor, and Honored Worker of Higher Education of the Russian Federation. This anniversary prompted us to briefly outline the key milestones of her biography and professional journey. Professor Odintsova's life and work have been inextricably linked with the Military Medical Academy. For more than two decades, she has led the Department of Histology and Embryology, where her students and colleagues work productively and gain scientific experience under her guidance. Professor Odintsova is engaged not only in scientific research but also in extensive educational outreach. She initiated the tradition of organizing national histological conferences and academic meetings not only within the department but also at prominent venues across Saint Petersburg, transforming these events into noteworthy and anticipated gatherings for the entire Russian histological community. Her students, colleagues, and friends extend their warmest congratulations to Irina Alekseevna, wishing her good health, professional longevity, boundless energy, and happiness.

Keywords: Irina A. Odintsova; Professor I.A. Odintsova; S.M. Kirov Military Medical Academy; histology.

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От сердца к науке: 65 лет профессору Ирине Алексеевне Одинцовой

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АННОТАЦИЯ

28 июня 2025 года исполняется 65 лет Ирине Алексеевне Одинцовой — известному учёному-гистологу, талантливому педагогу и человеку, заведующей кафедрой гистологии с курсом эмбриологии Военно-медицинской академии имени С.М. Кирова, доктору медицинских наук, профессору, заслуженному работнику высшей школы России. Юбилей этого незаурядного человека побудил нас кратко изложить важнейшие вехи её биографии и творческого пути. Весь жизненный путь профессора И.А. Одинцовой неразрывно связан с Военно-медицинской академией. В стенах кафедры гистологии с курсом эмбриологии, вот уже второе десятилетие возглавляемой Ириной Алексеевной, плодотворно трудятся и перенимают научный опыт её ученики и последователи. Профессор И.А. Одинцова ведёт не только научную, но и большую просветительскую работу. Она ввела традицию организации всероссийских научных гистологических конференций и научных совещаний не только в стенах кафедры, но и на знаковых площадках Санкт-Петербурга, которые делают проведение этих мероприятий нетривиальным и ожидаемым событием для всего научного гистологического сообщества России. Ученики, коллеги и друзья сердечно поздравляют Ирину Алексеевну и желают крепкого здоровья, профессионального долголетия, неиссякаемой энергии и счастья.

Ключевые слова: Ирина Алексеевна Одинцова; профессор И.А. Одинцова; Военно-медицинская академия имени С.М. Кирова; гистология.

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献身医学，心怀科研：致敬Irina Alekseevna Odintsova教授六十五华诞

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摘要

2025年6月28日，著名组织学专家、才华横溢的教育家与德才兼备的学者，俄罗斯荣誉高等教育工作者、医学博士、教授、S.M. Kirov Military Medical Academy组织学与胚胎学教研室主任Irina Alekseevna Odintsova将迎来65岁生日。她的华诞成为契机，让我们回顾她不凡的生平与学术征程中的重要节点。Odintsova教授的一生始终与Military Medical Academy紧密相连。在由Odintsova教授领导、已有二十年的组织学与胚胎学教研室中，学生和追随者在此从事科研工作并传承她的学术经验。Odintsova教授不仅从事科研工作，也积极开展科普工作。她倡导在组织学教研室及圣彼得堡的重要学术场所举办全国性组织学会议与研讨会，使这些活动成为俄罗斯组织学界非同寻常且备受期待的重要学术事件。学生、同事与朋友们谨向Odintsova教授致以最衷心的祝贺，祝愿她身体健康、学术长青、精力充沛、幸福安康。

关键词： Irina Alekseevna Odintsova; Odintsova教授; S.M. Kirov Military Medical Academy; 组织学。

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Irina Alekseevna Odintsova (Fig. 1) was born on June 28, 1960, in the city of Kamensk-Uralsky, Sverdlovsk region, USSR. She spent her childhood and early school years in Ivdel, a small town in the Ural Mountains named after the nearby Ivdel River. The family moved around a lot because Irina's father, Aleksey Tikhonovich, was in the military. She changed schools, made new friends, and met new teachers. These experiences shaped her personality. She then spent several interesting and eventful years as a student at the Leningrad Public Health Institute, which is now known as the North-Western State Medical University named after I. I. Mechnikov. After graduating from university in 1983, the young alumna began working in the Department of Histology and Embryology at the Kirov Military Medical Academy. This academy would play a central role in her future career. Irina advanced up the career ladder, progressing from senior laboratory assistant to teacher, then associate professor, professor, and finally, the head of the department. Professor Alexey Andreevich Klishov was Irina's first supervisor and mentor. Under his guidance, she developed her teaching skills and launched her career in scientific research. In 1984, Irina started her full-time postgraduate studies in the Department of Histology and Embryology at the Kirov Military Medical Academy. She successfully defended her thesis titled "Ultrastructural Organization, Differentiation, and Reactive Changes of Glandulocytes in the Gastric Mucosa Epithelium"

and earned her degree of Candidate of Sciences (Medicine) in 1989. Professor Revkhat Konstantinovich Danilov, one of Irina's teachers, became her academic advisor for her thesis for the Doctor of Sciences (Medicine) degree. In 1991, he succeeded his teacher, Professor Klishov, as the Head of the Department of Histology and Embryology at the Kirov Military Medical Academy. This line of research expands traditional evolutionary histological studies of histogenesis and tissue regeneration. These studies were founded by our distinguished predecessors and department heads, including Alexey Zavarzin, Nikolay Khlopin, and Serafim Shchelkunov. At that time, Irina Odintsova was conducting experimental histological studies to evaluate tissue regeneration following mechanical and gunshot injuries. This work resulted in a thesis titled "Regenerative Histogenesis in a Musculocutaneous Injury: An Experimental Histological Study" for the Doctor of Sciences (Medicine) degree, which she defended in 2005. Irina was awarded the academic degree of Doctor of Sciences (Medicine) in 2005 and the academic status of Professor in 2009. Current research interests of Professor Odintsova include histogenesis and tissue regeneration, the functional organization of histogenesis after musculocutaneous injury from gunshots, and intertissue correlations.

In 2011, Professor Odintsova became the head of the Department of Histology and Embryology at the Kirov Military Medical Academy, where she had started her



Fig. 1. Professor Irina Alekseevna Odintsova, 2025. Photo by the authors.

career immediately after graduating. She is now a teacher and mentor. Her students are candidates and doctors of sciences with academic statuses. Under the guidance of Professor Odintsova, a supportive and hardworking team was formed that continues to uphold the histological research traditions of the Kirov Military Medical Academy. However, Professor Odintsova is constantly expanding her area of research and setting ambitious new goals for her department faculty. During her years as Head of the Department, she has proven herself to be a talented researcher and a wise mentor, capable of finding creative solutions to management and research issues. Professor Odintsova continues to drive the development of comparative embryological research. She is also working to create a course titled “Medical Embryology with the Basics of Teratology” for senior medical students.

Professor Odintsova is involved not only in research, but also in extensive educational initiatives. She started the tradition of holding national histological conferences and academic meetings at prominent venues across St. Petersburg and within the department. These events became highly anticipated and unconventional for the entire Russian histological community.

The high level of activity of Professor Odintsova is evident from her large number of publications, including over 200 papers such as monographs and textbooks. She is the editor of a compendium of papers from Russian histological congresses, that is published under the title “Morphology Issues in the 21st Century” (Voprosy morfologii XXI veka). Professor Odintsova also presents at scientific conferences and congresses hosted by other Russian medical universities. She is a member of the Academic Council of the Kirov Military Medical Academy and Thesis Committee 07.2.002.09. She also serves on the Board of the Medical Research Council of Anatomists, Histologists, and Embryologists and on the editorial boards of “Morphology” and “Genes & Cells” journals. Professor Odintsova serves as a reviewer and official opponent of theses for candidates and doctors of science.

This year, we are celebrating two notable events: Irina’s birthday and 42 years of her dedicated service to the Kirov Military Medical Academy. Many of her graduates now serve in the Academy’s Command.

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Professor Odintsova has received numerous departmental and national awards and honors in recognition of her professionalism, including the For Zealous Labor and For Comradeship-in-Arms awards.

The department faculty not only recognizes Professor Odintsova’s achievements, but also expresses gratitude for her contributions to our shared goals. Her highest standards for herself and her colleagues have become proverbial. Irina is the perfect example of a researcher who is passionate about science and eager to share her knowledge and experience with future teachers and military doctors.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Author contributions: All the authors approved the version of the manuscript to be published and agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the work, ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved. R.K. Danilov: conceptualization, writing—original draft, writing—review & editing; D.R. Slutskaya: writing—original draft, writing—review & editing (literary editing); T.I. Berezovskaya: writing—original draft, visualization.

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ДОПОЛНИТЕЛЬНАЯ ИНФОРМАЦИЯ

Вклад авторов. Все авторы одобрили рукопись (версию для публикации), а также согласились нести ответственность за все аспекты работы, гарантируя надлежащее рассмотрение и решение вопросов, связанных с точностью и добросовестностью любой её части. Р.К. Данилов — разработка концепции статьи, написание текста и редактирование текста статьи; Д.Р. Слуцкая — написание и литературное редактирование текста статьи, Т.И. Березовская — написание текста статьи, подбор иллюстрации.

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Раскрытие интересов. Авторы заявляют об отсутствии отношений, деятельности и интересов за последние три года, связанных с третьими лицами (коммерческими и некоммерческими), интересы которых могут быть затронуты содержанием статьи.

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