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Life in Histology: On the 80th Anniversary of Professor Aleksandr Stadnikov

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ABSTRACT

On August 26, 2025, Professor Aleksandr A. Stadnikov, a prominent Soviet and Russian histologist, celebrated his 80th birthday. His entire career has been connected with the Orenburg Medical University (formerly Institute—Academy—University), where he rose through all stages of the academic hierarchy, from assistant (since 1971), to associate professor (since 1983), and later Head of the Department of Histology (1988–2025). In parallel, between 1993 and 2009, Professor Stadnikov served as vice-rector, and in 2009 as acting rector of the Orenburg Medical Academy. Since 2025, he has continued his work as a professor at the Department of Histology. His research interests include comparative and evolutionary histology, embryonic and postnatal morphogenesis, neuroendocrine regulation of morphogenesis and regeneration, and the history of histology. His research into the interactions between prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells has made a significant contribution to cell biology. Professor Stadnikov established a new direction within the Orenburg school of histology, focusing on neuroendocrine regulation of cells, tissues, and organs. His pioneering studies clarified the role of neuroendocrine regulation in the interactions between prokaryotes and eukaryotes. For more than 50 years, Professor Stadnikov has taught at Orenburg Medical University while conducting extensive research. He has earned the respect and admiration of generations of students, teachers, and physicians. Professor Stadnikov is an example of a gifted scientist and educator who motivates and empowers others. For his students and colleagues, he remains a figure of high scientific and moral authority.

Keywords: Stadnikov; Orenburg school of histology; histology; cell and tissue biology; history of science.

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Жизнь в гистологии: к 80-летию профессора А.А. Стадникова

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АННОТАЦИЯ

26 августа 2025 года исполнилось 80 лет видному советскому и российскому гистологу, профессору Александру Абрамовичу Стадникову. Вся его жизнь связана с Оренбургским медицинским вузом (институтом — академией — университетом), где он прошёл все ступени служебной лестницы — от ассистента (с 1971 года) до доцента (с 1983 года), а затем заведующего кафедрой (в 1988–2025 гг.). Одновременно с этим в период с 1993 по 2009 год Александр Абрамович был проректором, а в 2009 году исполнял обязанности ректора Оренбургской медицинской академии. С 2025 года А.А. Стадников работает в качестве профессора кафедры гистологии. Сфера его научных интересов охватывает широкий круг вопросов сравнительной и эволюционной гистологии, эмбрионального и постнатального морфогенеза, нейроэндокринной регуляции морфогенеза и регенерации, истории гистологии. Крупным вкладом в биологию клетки являются его исследования, посвящённые вопросам взаимоотношения про- и эукариотических клеток. Александр Абрамович Стадников создал новое направление в Оренбургской научной гистологической школе, посвящённое изучению нейроэндокринной регуляции клеток, тканей и органов. Пионерскими являются исследования, направленные на выяснение вопросов нейроэндокринной регуляции взаимоотношений про- и эукариот. Интенсивную исследовательскую деятельность профессор А.А. Стадников уже свыше 50 лет гармонично сочетает с преподавательской работой в Оренбургском медицинском вузе. Он заслужил уважение и любовь нескольких поколений студентов, преподавателей и врачей. Александр Абрамович является примером талантливого учёного и педагога, который воодушевляет и заставляет поверить в собственные силы. Для учеников и коллег он является высоким научным и моральным авторитетом.

Ключевые слова: А.А. Стадников; Оренбургская научная гистологическая школа; гистология; биология клеток и тканей; история науки.

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组织学人生：纪念Stadnikov教授八十华诞

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摘要

2025年8月26日，著名的苏联及俄罗斯组织学家、教授Aleksandr A. Stadnikov迎来了80岁生日。他的一生都与Orenburg Medical University（先后为学院—科学院—大学）紧密相连，在这里他走过了完整的学术道路——从助教（1971年起），到副教授（1983年起），再到组织学教研室主任（1988 - 2025年）。与此同时，在1993年至2009年期间，Stadnikov教授还担任Orenburg Medical Academy副校长，并于2009年出任代理校长。自2025年起，他继续在组织学教研室任教授。他的科研兴趣涵盖比较与进化组织学、胚胎期与出生后形态发生、神经内分泌对形态发生和再生的调控、组织学史等多个领域。他在原核与真核细胞相互关系方面的研究是其对细胞生物学的重要贡献。斯塔德尼科夫教授在Orenburg组织学学派内开创了一个新的方向，即神经内分泌对细胞、组织和器官调控的研究。他在阐明神经内分泌对原核与真核相互作用调控方面的探索具有开创性。五十余年来，Stadnikov教授始终将高强度的科研工作与在Orenburg Medical University的教学活动有机结合。他赢得了几代学生、教师和医生的尊敬与爱戴。Stadnikov教授是杰出学者和教育家的典范，能够启迪、激励他人，相信自己的力量。对于学生和同事而言，他始终是崇高的科学与道德权威。

关键词：Stadnikov; Orenburg组织学学派; 组织学; 细胞与组织生物学; 科学史。

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On August 26, 2025, the prominent Soviet and Russian histologist, Professor Alexander Stadnikov, turned 80 years old.

After graduating from the Orenburg Medical Institute in 1968, he initially planned to work in clinical healthcare. Therefore, when the head of the Department of Histology, Professor Zoya S. Khlystova, offered him a postgraduate position after graduation, Stadnikov hesitated for a long time, questioning whether he should engage in theoretical medicine instead of treating patients. These doubts remained with him for several years. Even as a postgraduate student and later as an assistant at the department, he maintained ties with medical institutions. For many years, he worked as a physician at the emergency medical service station. He also served as the chief physician of the Orenburg Regional Student Construction Brigade for several years.

Stadnikov's entire long scientific and pedagogical career has been associated with the Orenburg Medical University—first as an institute, then academy, and later university. In 1971, after completing postgraduate training, he joined the Department of Histology at the Orenburg Medical Institute, where he advanced through all career stages, from assistant (since 1971), to associate professor (since 1983), and to head of the department (1988–2025). Since 2025, Stadnikov has held the position of professor at the department. In parallel with his work at the Department of Histology, he served as first vice-rector (1993–2009). In 2009, he was as acting rector of the Orenburg Medical Academy for nine months. In 1998, he established the Laboratory of Functional Cell Morphology at the Institute of Cellular and Intracellular Symbiosis of the Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences and headed it for about fifteen years. In addition, Stadnikov has collaborated with the Orenburg branch of the S. Fyodorov Eye Microsurgery Federal State Institution for several decades [1–8].

The scientific interests of Professor Stadnikov are remarkably broad, encompassing embryonic and postnatal morphogenesis, comparative and evolutionary morphology, neuroendocrine regulation of morphogenesis and regeneration, as well as the history of histology.

He proposed that neuropeptides of the anterior hypothalamic region play a critical role in regulating the proliferation, growth, and differentiation of adenohypophyseal epithelial cells. Stadnikov began his research in neuroendocrinology following the advice of Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences Polenov. He highlighted the significance of nonapeptides of the anterior hypothalamic region in regulating reparative histogenesis under various destabilizing influences on the organism.

Stadnikov's research on the relationships between prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells made a major contribution to cell biology. This research area emerged through his collaboration with Academician of Russian Academy of Sciences Bukharin.

At the ultrastructural level, he identified and described the phenomenon of prokaryotic cell sheltering within eukaryotic cells, established patterns of ultrastructural transformations in the neurosecretory cells of the supraoptic and paraventricular nuclei of the hypothalamus under endosymbiotic interactions between cells and tissues of the organism with prokaryotic cells, and formulated the principles of intracellular interactions of prokaryotic cells with the host cell.

His pioneering studies clarified the role of neuroendocrine regulation in the interactions between prokaryotes and eukaryotes. He described the antimicrobial effect of oxytocin and provided a theoretical rationale for the feasibility of topical oxytocin administration in the complex treatment of purulent-necrotic processes.

Over more than half a century in science, Stadnikov has published more than 700 scientific and educational-methodological works, including over 20 monographs [6–17]. He has presented the results of his research at conferences both in Russia and abroad.

Stadnikov has been a long-standing contributor to the journal *Archive of Anatomy, Histology, and Embryology (Morphology)*. His first article in this journal was published in 1973, and to date he has authored 137 publications in this periodical.



Fig. 1. Professor Aleksandr A. Stadnikov delivering a lecture for faculty members as part of the program “Cellular Interactions in Immune Responses: Pedagogical Aspects” (Orenburg, May 27, 2025). Photo by the authors.

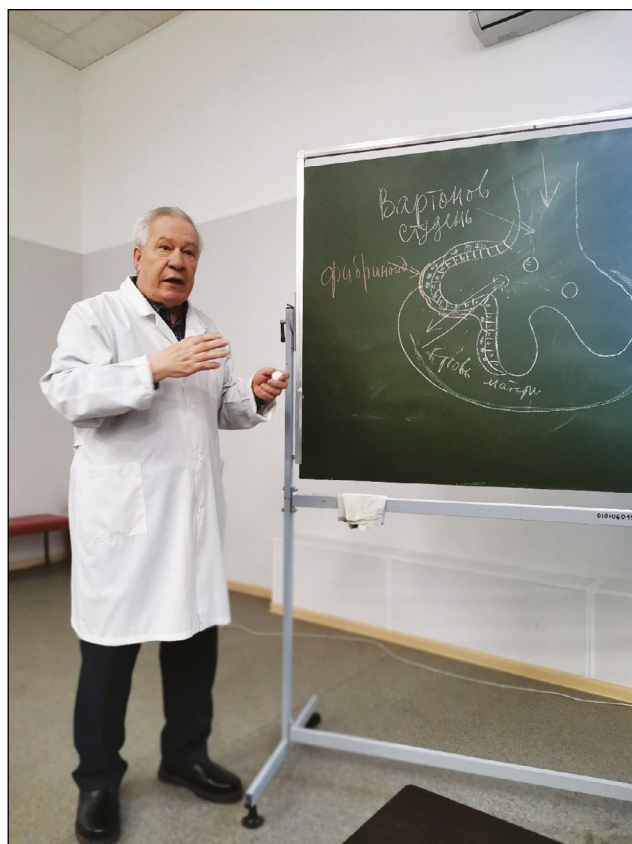


Fig. 2. Professor Aleksandr A. Stadnikov delivering a lecture on embryology (Orenburg, 2025). Photo by the authors.

Professor Stadnikov's integrity, attentiveness to students and colleagues, friendliness, extensive knowledge in all areas of biomedical science, deep devotion to his subject, and willingness to help were highly valued by both morphologists and clinicians. Among the more than 80 candidates and doctors of science he has supervised (20 doctors and more than 60 candidates), more than half are faculty of clinical departments and practicing physicians. Professor Stadnikov is the leader of the Orenburg Scientific Histological School and the founder of a new branch within it. He is an excellent supervisor and mentor for his graduate students, providing guidance and support at all stages of dissertation work. Furthermore, Professor Stadnikov encourages initiative and independence among his trainees, many of whom now head departments at the Orenburg Medical University and elsewhere. Researchers and teachers trained by him work in Russia as well as in the United States, Tanzania, and Yemen. Physicians trained under his supervision also work both in Russia and in many other countries around the world.

For more than 50 years, Professor Stadnikov has successfully combined intensive scientific research with teaching at the Orenburg Medical University. He has earned the respect and admiration of generations of students, teachers, and physicians.

Special mention should be made of Professor Stadnikov's exceptional lecturing skills. He enjoys giving lectures to students and generously sharing his knowledge. For many

years, Professor Stadnikov has remained one of the best lecturers at the university. Each of his lectures is both a performance (a nod to his time in community theater as a student) and a logically structured academic conversation. He enjoys live interaction with students during lectures and practical classes, can convey even the most complex material, and always holds the audience's attention. Among all illustrative formats, he has always favored chalk drawings on the board (see Figs. 1, 2). Despite rapid progress in audiovisual technologies and the widespread use of interactive boards in lecture halls, Professor Stadnikov has never abandoned chalk, although he also skillfully uses modern technologies when needed. He always delivers his lectures standing, in contrast to the recent trend of giving lectures seated and reading from a computer screen. He always arrives early for the lecture, begins exactly on time, but still admits late students, although students of the Orenburg Medical University are highly disciplined, and lecture halls are practically never empty or half-empty.

Professor Stadnikov devoted considerable attention to advancing the scientific legacy of Fedor M. Lazarenko, Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences and founder of the Orenburg Scientific Histological School. There are several articles and monographs on Lazarenko's life and scientific accomplishments [6–8], as well as three Russian scientific conferences held in Orenburg (2003, 2008, and 2013).

Throughout his career at the university, Professor Stadnikov has been actively engaged in institutional and public academic service. For many years, he served as Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee of the Medical Institute. He has been a long-standing member of the Presidium and Vice President of the All-Union / All-Russian Society of Anatomists, Histologists, and Embryologists. He serves on editorial boards and editorial councils of several morphological journals. From 2003 to 2018, he was a member of the Expert Council for Medical and Pharmacological Sciences of the Higher Attestation Commission of the Ministry of Education and Science.

For his outstanding contribution to the training of medical personnel and his active scientific work, Professor Stadnikov was awarded the honorary titles Honored Worker of Higher Education of the Russian Federation (1999) and Honored Scientist of the Russian Federation (2008). He was awarded the badge Excellence in Public Health (2019), and received honorary commendations from the Central Committee of the Komsomol (1974), the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (1995), the Russian Academy of Sciences (2008), and the Orenburg Scientific Center of the Ural Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (2020, 2024). Professor Stadnikov is also a multiple recipient of the Orenburg Regional Governor's Prize in education (1999) and science and technology (2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2014, 2017).

Professor Stadnikov is an example of a gifted scientist and educator who motivates and empowers others. Since

2025, Professor Stadnikov no longer heads the department due to his advanced age; however, he remains a profound scientific and moral authority for the entire team.

The jubilee celebrant has not slowed his creative activity and reaches his 80th anniversary with new scientific ideas and creative concepts. This is evidenced by the monographs and papers he has published in recent years, as well as his outstanding plenary lecture delivered at the 9th Congress of the Scientific Medical Society of Anatomists, Histologists, and Embryologists on May 30, 2025. The staff of the Orenburg State Medical University congratulates Professor Stadnikov on his 80th birthday and wishes him good health, new talented students, continued scientific achievements in all spheres of his activity, and new goals and accomplishments.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Author contributions: N.N. Shevlyuk: conceptualization, visualization, writing—original draft, writing—review & editing; E.V. Blinova: visualization, writing—original draft, writing—review & editing; M.F. Ryskulov: visualization, writing—original draft. 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.

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ДОПОЛНИТЕЛЬНАЯ ИНФОРМАЦИЯ

Вклад авторов. Н.Н. Шевлюк — определение концепции, визуализация, написание черновика рукописи, пересмотр и редактирование рукописи; Е.В. Блинова — визуализация, написание черновика рукописи, пересмотр и редактирование рукописи; М.Ф. Рыскулов — визуализация, написание черновика рукописи. Все авторы одобрили рукопись (версию для публикации), а также согласились нести ответственность за все аспекты настоящей работы, гарантируя надлежащее рассмотрение и решение вопросов, связанных с точностью и добросовестностью любой её части.

Источники финансирования. Отсутствуют.

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

Оригинальность. При проведении исследования и создании настоящей статьи авторы не использовали ранее полученные и опубликованные сведения (данные, текст, иллюстрации).

Доступ к данным. Редакционная политика в отношении совместного использования данных к настоящей работе не применима, новые данные не собирали и не создавали.

Генеративный искусственный интеллект. При создании настоящей статьи технологии генеративного искусственного интеллекта не использовали.

Рассмотрение и рецензирование. Настоящая работа подана в журнал в инициативном порядке и рассмотрена по обычной процедуре. В рецензировании участвовали два внешних рецензента, член редакционной коллегии и научный редактор издания.

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