

JINR's Meshkov celebrates 70th birthday...

Igor Meshkov of the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research (JINR) was 70 in January. Currently an adviser to the JINR Directorate on problems associated with charged-particle accelerators, Meshkov is well known in beam and accelerator physics and techniques.



Igor Meshkov

Working with colleagues in the Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics (BINP), Novosibirsk, Meshkov developed and demonstrated for the first time electron cooling of charged particles. Under his leadership, the Physics Technological Centre at the BINP was created, where, in particular, an electron gun and a collector for the Low Energy Antiproton Ring at CERN were designed.

Meshkov continues to play an active role in accelerator projects at JINR. He is a spokesperson for the Low Energy Positron Toroidal Accumulator project, which is based on an idea proposed together with Alexander Skrinsky, the current director of BINP. This new type of accelerator, commissioned in 2004, uses a focusing system with a longitudinal magnetic field and full magnetization of circulating particles. The goal is to produce positronium through the recombination of the stored positrons with cooling electrons in the ring. This could be used in conjunction with an antiproton accelerator to generate the antihydrogen atoms in flight.

Meshkov has been head of the Scientific Council of the Russian Academy of Sciences on the problems of particle accelerators for many years. In addition, a large number of young scientists have been educated under his leadership. He is an experienced mountaineer and rock-climber, and a good skier, and he still keeps up his sporting activities.