

## Valery Zagrebaev 1950-2015

Valery Ivanovich Zagrebaev, deputy director of the Flerov Laboratory of Nuclear Reactions (FLNR) at the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research (JINR), passed away suddenly on 17 January, aged 64.



Zagrebaev

Valery Zagrebaev graduated with a degree in physics from Leningrad State University, where he subsequently defended his PhD and habilitation theses. He then began his academic career in the Department of Theoretical Physics at Chuvash State University, where he worked for more than 25 years, holding positions as an assistant, then associate professor and, finally, professor. In 1997, he was appointed as a senior researcher at JINR FLNR. Two years later, he founded and became head of the laboratory group of theoretical and computational physics, and in 2007 he became the deputy director of JINR FLNR, a position that he held up to his death. During his career, he published more than 190 scientific articles in top journals, both in Russia and abroad, and was awarded JINR prizes in 1997, 2002 and 2007, in recognition of his outstanding scientific achievements.

With academic interests interwoven intricately with research in nuclear-reaction dynamics at low and intermediate energies, Zagrebaev is known for his fundamental work in various fields of nuclear physics that played a key role in establishing and developing many areas of further research. For example, his calculations served as a basis for a series of experiments carried out in leading laboratories worldwide. He also initiated the development of a unique network of knowledge on low-energy nuclear physics, which continues to expand today. A co-discoverer of the superheavy elements with atomic numbers 113, 114, 115, 116 and 118, synthesized during the past few years at JINR FLNR, most recently in 2011 he initiated and led work on the development of a state-of-the-art set-up for the selective laser ionization and separation of nuclear-reaction products. He is also recognized internationally for his expertise in heavy-ion physics, and made important contributions to the development of quasi-classical approaches for the description of a range of phenomena occurring in heavy-ion collisions.

Zagrebaev paid great attention to the training of academic staff and was involved in academic work for many years. Graduates defended PhD and habilitation theses under his guidance. In 2003, the Department of Nuclear Physics at Dubna State University was established under his leadership and with his direct involvement. The department's graduates have a range of employment opportunities, and are rated by employers as highly skilled and proficient. This is also reflected by the large majority of the graduates who went on to work successfully at JINR laboratories.

A many-sided man of great depth who contributed enormously to the development of fundamental science, Zagrebaev was more than an outstanding scientist. We are mourning the loss of a good friend, great academician and wonderful colleague, who gave freely of his time, advice and expertise. He will stay in our hearts forever, and will be remembered as an extremely thoughtful scientist and dedicated mentor.

- *His colleagues, friends, students, and the FLNR staff.*