

In memory of I.A. Ovid'ko (1961-2017)

On March 19, 2017, after a severe and prolonged illness, Ilya Ovid'ko, an outstanding scientist in the field of physics and mechanics of materials, the founder and first editor-in-chief of our journal, has passed away.

He was the head of the Laboratory of Mechanics of Nanomaterials and Defect Theory at the Institute of Problems in Mechanical Engineering of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the head of the Laboratory for Mechanics of New Nanomaterials and the Professor of the Department of Mechanics and Control Processes at Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University and the chief researcher of the Department of Elasticity Theory of St. Petersburg State University.

Ilya Ovid'ko was born on July 11, 1961 in the city of Zaporozhye. In 1984 he graduated from the Department of Physics of Metals at the Physics and Mechanics Faculty of the Leningrad Polytechnic Institute, after which he studied there as a PhD student under the leadership of professor V.I. Vladimirov. In 1987 he got a PhD. In the same year he was invited to work at the Institute of Problems in Mechanical Engineering of the Russian Academy of Sciences, where he worked until the end of his days. In 1993 I.A. Ovid'ko obtained the Doctor of Science degree, and in 1995 he founded the Laboratory for the Mechanics of Nanomaterials and Theory of Defects, whose permanent leader he was for more than 20 years. In 2014, he also founded and headed the Research Laboratory of the Mechanics of New Nanomaterials at Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University.

The scientific research of I.A. Ovid'ko encompassed the theory of structure, phase transitions, mechanical and functional properties of nanocrystalline and ultrafine-grained materials, nanocomposites, nanostructured films and coatings, nanowires and graphene. He wrote more than 300 scientific articles, 10 monographs, 20 chapters in monographs as invited scientist. He was the leader and executor of a huge number of projects supported by international and domestic organizations.

A special place in the scientific heritage of I.A. Ovid'ko is occupied by two scientific journals, "Materials Physics and Mechanics" and "Reviews on Advanced Materials Science", which he founded and whose editor-in-chief he was since foundation. Under his leadership, these journals began to be highly rated in the scientific community. They are included in the most prestigious referential scientific bases, such as Scopus and Web of Science. The journal "Reviews on Advanced Materials Science" has at the moment the third impact factor among all Russian scientific journals (and the highest in the field of materials science).

Also, I.A. Ovid'ko was at various years a member of the editorial boards of many well-known scientific journals, such as the Journal of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, the Journal of Metastable and Nanostructured Materials, Materials Research Letters, Letters on Materials, Journal of the Mechanical Behavior of Materials.

It is impossible not to mention the outstanding organizer talents of Ilya Ovid'ko. He was the chairman or co-chairman of 12 scientific conferences, in whose organizations he took the most active part. I.A. Ovid'ko understood the importance of attracting young people to scientific work. In his laboratory, there have always been many undergraduate and PhD students. Three of his students obtained the Doctor of Science degree.



Ilya Ovid'ko was a very positive person, the life of any party. Everyone who knew him always noted his great sense of humor. At the same time, he was a very intelligent and exceptionally hard-working person. He was always full of plans, ready to storm new scientific peaks. However, on March 19 this year he was gone...

The memory of Ilya Ovid'ko will forever remain in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to know this wonderful scientist and person.