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LONGIN MYKOLAYOVYCH LISETSKI
(on his 75th birthday)



This year marks the 75th anniversary of the birth of Professor Longin Mykolayovych Lisetski, Doctor of Sciences in Physics and Mathematics, a leading researcher at the Institute of Scintillation Materials of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (Kharkiv), and a well-known scientist in the field of molecular physics, liquid crystal physics, and biophysics.

L.M. Lisetski was born on June 3, 1951, in Kharkiv. His parents were associate professors at Kharkiv institutions of higher education with a high reputation in Ukraine.

Between 1958 and 1968, Longin studied at Secondary School No. 6 in Kharkiv. At that time, it was the only school in the city where lessons were

taught in Ukrainian, and English was taught extensively. In 1968–1974, Longin Mykolayovych studied at the Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute, where he received a diploma of chemical technologist in the specialty “technology of electrochemical production”. The results of his diploma thesis dealing with the study of anodic oxide films on valve metals were published in a number of leading Soviet journals, in particular, *Elektrokhimiya* (*Electrochemistry*) in 1975.

Since July 1974, Longin Lisetski has been working at the Institute for Single Crystals; now, this is the State Scientific Institution “Institute for Single Crystals” of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NASU), with the Institute for Scintillation Materials as its part. As the first step, he chose a very challenging scientific direction at that time, namely, the study of cholesteric liquid crystals. In 1980, he defended his Ph.D. thesis (at the Institute for Scintillation Materials of the NASU). Based on the results of his work on the thesis topic, a number of papers were published in well-established journals, in particular, *Pis'ma v ZhETF* (*JETP Letters*) and *Uspekhi Fizicheskikh Nauk* (*Soviet Physics Uspekhi*). Those papers are still cited today.

Longin Mykolayovych extended his approach to modeling the short-range order to other types of liquid crystals (nematic, smectic) and mixtures based on them, and in 1993, he defended his doctoral thesis on this topic.

Then, his main efforts became focused on the study of the liquid-crystal ordering in phospholipid membranes and on liquid crystal systems with dispersed nanoparticles (in particular, carbon nanotubes). He has studied in detail the phase transitions, intermolecular interactions, and the behavior of optical transmission and electrical conductivity in liquid crystal composites doped with carbon nanotubes

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and organomodified nanoplates. The processes of self-organization of such nanoparticles in soft colloidal systems and, in particular, the behavior of hybrid hydrogels cross-linked with acid-activated nanoplates have been considered.

The deeply original approaches used by Longin Mykolayovych when dealing with every problem immediately attracted the attention of prominent managers of Ukrainian science. As a result, at the conferences they held, Longin Lisetski was primarily invited to deliver plenary reports.

In 2002, he received the academic title of professor. Longin Mykolayovych is the author of 138 publications indexed in the Scopus database. A total of 1118 citations of his publications have been registered, and his h-index is 17, which significantly exceeds the average value for Ukrainian scientists. It should be noted that the number of publications by Longin Mykolayovych, as well as the level of their citation, bring him closer to the classics of Ukrainian and world science. Longin Mykolayovych maintains full responsibility for the publication of his articles; the race for the number of publications is not characteristic of him. Almost all statements in his articles are clearly substantiated by qualitative arguments.

It is people like Longin Lisetski who continue to maintain a high level of education and science in Kharkiv. He has supervised 12 Candidates and 2 Doctors of Sciences. From his disciples and collaborators, he demands the same attitude to science and the obtained results as is characteristic of himself. He responds positively to invitations to review articles in various journals and to be an opponent at the defenses of candidate and doctoral dissertations.

Longin Mykolayovych is not only a first-class physicist, but also a person with a wide range of cultural interests. He knows several foreign languages, including Lithuanian, a very small Baltic state. He

has a good sense of music and dances beautifully. At one of the conferences dedicated to spectroscopy of molecules and crystals, when Longin Mykolayovych, at the farewell dinner, began to sing the Lithuanian anthem in Lithuanian, all people in the hall jumped up in excitement and frantically shouted, "Ukraine! Lithuania! Longin!"

We cannot fail to mention his poetic talent, which has been particularly evident in a small poem dedicated to the tiny island of Tuzla. He can write anywhere: a few steps aside, a pause, and barely noticeable movements of his facial features indicate that Longin Mykolayovych is already in a state of poetic ecstasy. As a poet, he is also extremely vulnerable. For example, at one of the conferences, our guest from Israel spoke about an attack by a group of terrorists on one of the Jewish settlements in the southwestern part of the country. And when he talked about the number of dead and that there was a very small Israeli girl among them, tears welled up in the eyes of Longin Mykolayovych, the namesake of the stern Roman warrior.

His knowledge of Ukrainian traditions and his refined Ukrainian language attract the attention of his colleagues and others, both in Kyiv, Lviv, and Odesa.

The editorial board of the *Ukrainian Journal of Physics* and the colleagues-physicists of Longin Mykolayovych sincerely congratulate him – the physicist, poet, and linguist – on this glorious anniversary. We wish him good health and a future life full of all vivid colors.

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