

Vitaly Nikolaevich Melnikov (24.01.1941–27.03.2017)

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With deep regret we announce that after a serious illness died Professor Vitaly Melnikov, Editor-in-Chief of *Gravitation and Cosmology* journal, famous scientist and organizer of science, President of the Russian Gravitational Society, head of the Center for Gravitation and Fundamental Metrology at VNI-

IMS, Deputy Director of the Institute of Gravitation and Cosmology at Peoples' Friendship University of Russia.

Vitaly Melnikov, with his colleagues and students, has created new trends in the field of gravity. Much of his work was devoted to exact solutions of the equations of gravity in four and more dimensions and interpretation of these solutions, describing various cosmological models, black holes and solitons. Together with Prof. A. Sanders (University of Tennessee) he headed the theoretical group working on Project SEE (Satellite Energy Exchange) aimed at measuring a number of parameters of gravity (including the constant G) with unprecedented accuracy. With his colleagues, he created a new trend in metrological science, Gravitational-Relativistic Metrology. He is the author of five monographs and over 300 journal publications, he has been founder and Editor-in-Chief of our journal "Gravitation and Cosmology."

Vitaly Melnikov was the founder of the Russian Gravitational Society (1988) and its President for almost 30 years, till 2017. He headed Organizational Committees of a large number of national and international conferences, schools and workshops in the field of gravity and cosmology.

Vitaly Melnikov was a very cheerful and energetic person, careful and responsive to his colleagues and students, friendly and intelligent.

The blessed memory of Vitaly Nikolaevich Melnikov will remain in the hearts of his co-workers, colleagues, and students. May his memory be eternal!

Editorial Board