

IN MEMORY OF ANDREI YAKOVLEV (1944-2008)

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On February 27, 2008, the International Biometric Society and with her the world's scientific community lost the celebrated scientist and scholar Professor Andrei Yakovlev, Chair of the Department of Biostatistics and Computational Biology at the University of Rochester Medical Center. A sudden death stopped a visionary scientist who had devoted his lifetime for using the best science for finding optimal solutions for Biology and Medicine built on solid mathematical and statistical methods, in a fair, honest and wise way with unparalleled intellectual depth and rigor, as a model for his colleagues and future generations of researchers.

With four research monographs, about 200 peer reviewed papers, 12 major research grants, and in particular with his talent and mentoring gift to stimulate colleagues and students, Prof. Yakovlev made definitive and lasting contributions in biomedicine, comprising cell biology; cell population dynamics; carcinogenesis; genomics and genetic regulatory pathways; cancer epidemiology, surveillance and treatment. He developed path breaking methods in biostatistics; bioinformatics; and computational biology. His most recent enthusiasm belonged to the foundation of the Mathematical Biology section in BMC-Biology Direct for a new framework of open peer reviewed publication for better science.

The Session on "Critical Evaluation of Statistical Methods Proposed for Microarray Analysis" of the XXIVth International Biometric Conference in Dublin, Ireland, has been devoted to the memory of Andrei Yakovlev as an honest scientific visionary and friend in order to preserve his legacy.