

*Alexsander Berlin<sup>1</sup> and Gennady Zaikov<sup>2</sup>*

PROFESSOR ABDULAKH KAZBULATOVICH MIKITAEV.  
50 YEARS IN SCIENCE

<sup>1</sup>*Institute of Chemical Physics, Russian Academy of Sciences,  
4 Kosygin str., 119991 Moscow, Russia*

<sup>2</sup>*Institute of Biochemical Physics, Russian Academy of Sciences,  
4 Kosygin str., 119334 Moscow, Russia*

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An April 23, 2012 we are going to celebrate the 70-th anniversary of Abdullah Kasbulatovich Mikitaev – outstanding Russian specialists in the field of high-molecular compounds. Abdullah Kasbulatovich graduated cum laude from Moscow D.I. Mendeleev Chemicotechnological Institute (now Mendeleev University of Chemical Technology of Russia) in the specialty “Chemical technology of plastics” in 1965, one year earlier than required by the educational program. He started his research activities in 1961 under the supervision of docent Olga Valerianovna Smirnova, then Professor German Sergeevich Kolesnikov and further academician Vasilij Vladimirovich Korshak.

A.K. Mikitaev defended his Ph.D (1968) and doctoral dissertation (1974) at Moscow D.I. Mendeleev Chemicotechnological Institute. In 1976 he earned the title of professor. From 1968 to 1971 A.K. Mikitaev worked as senior lecturer and docent. From 1971 to 1990

and since 2004 he headed the Chair of Organic Chemistry and High-Molecular Compounds of Kh.M. Berbekov Kabardino-Blakarian State University (KBSU).

Being the follower of V.V. Korshak, A.K. Mikitaev has built his scientific school which includes 28 doctors and 135 candidates of sciences today. Many of them work at KBSU, others – at institutions of Sothern Russia as well as in Moscow and abroad (Italy, Mexico, Egypt).

All the 50-year research activity of Prof. A.K. Mikitaev is dedicated to the synthesis, study of the structure and properties, kinetics and mechanism of polycondensation processes of polymer synthesis and forecasting of the properties of thermally stable polymers. His research school has extensively developed composite and nanocomposite materials for the last decade. The researches in the field of synthesis of organomodified layered silicates are specially known. The studies of the structure, properties, and mechanisms of improving of polymer nanocomposites as well as of the development of technology of production of polymer-layered-silicate nanocomposites attract more and more attention every day. For example, the films of improved barrier properties are already realized in industry.

The developed technology of production of nanocomposite polybutyleneterephthalate is at the stage of industrial implementation (research is supported by “Rosnano”; the modified nanofiller and the catalyst for the polycondensation process are the same).

The Chair and the Research and Education Center “Polymers and Composites” (KBSU), both headed by A.K. Mikitaev, permanently win and successfully carry out projects for competitive federally targeted programs. The Chair annually recruits post-graduate and post-doc students. A.K. Mikitaev is also the Chairman of the KBSU Council for doctoral theses in the field of high-

molecular compounds. Numerous scientific papers of professor Mikitaev's research school have been published in more than 700 scientific articles and 12 monographs. More than 100 patents are owned by his alumni.

At different periods of his scientific and organizational activity, A.K. Mikitaev founded and headed the following units: the Laboratory "Heat-resistant polymers in electronics", the Institute of Macromolecular Compounds, EDTB "Mars" (both at KBSU), the Laboratory of nanocomposites based on industrial polymers (at Karpov Scientific Research Institute of Physics and Chemistry). A.K. Mikitaev was director of the "Center for composite materials" of the Ministry of Education and Science of Russian Federation in 1996-2006.

At the moment, A.K. Mikitaev is member of the editorial board of the journals "Materials Science" (*"Materialovedenie"*) and "Russian Plastics Technology Journal" (*"Plasticheskie massy"*). Early he joined the team of the journal "Polymer Science" (*"Vysokomolekulyarnye soedineniya"*).

In the years 1990-1996 Professor A.K. Mikitaev was deputy of the Russian Federation, Chairman of the Commission on Citizenship under the President of the

Russian Federation, Head of the Citizenship of the Presidential Administration of Russia. On behalf of the President of Russia B.N. Yeltsin Professor A.K. Mikitaev took active part in organizing of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Over the years, Professor A.K. Mikitaev was awarded for his achievements in science and education of highly qualified specialists by the orders "Badge of Honor" and "Friendship of Nations", the honorary titles "Honored Worker of Science of the Russian Federation" and "Honored Worker of Science of Kabardino-Balkarian Republic", the honorary diplomas of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation and the Federal Agency for Science and Innovations of the Russian Federation, the diplomas of the Supreme Councils of the Kabardino-Balkarian Republic and Republic of Chechnya. A.K. Mikitaev was awarded the honorary Order of Belgium "For merits in the field of invention" of the highest degree (Grand Officer) in 2008.

Professor A.K. Mikitaev meets his birthday at the peak of his creative powers, in good spirits and good health, surrounded by the colleagues willing to implement his great plans for the future.