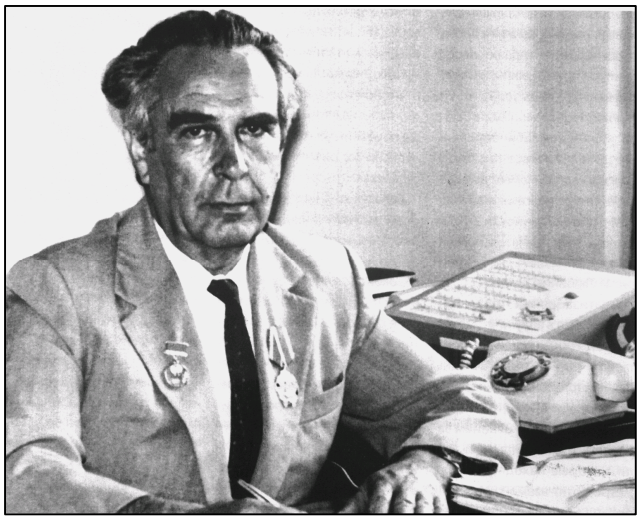
Sklyar Vladimir Tikhonovich
In Memory of an Extraordinary Scientist

L.M. Shkaraputa[1], Yu.L. Ischuk[2]

[1]Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry and Petrochemistry, NAS of Ukraine,
1, Murmanska Str., Kyiv 02094, Ukraine, Fax: (044) 559-98-00
[2]Ukrainian S&R Institute for Crude Oil Refining Industry "MASMA",
Ukraine, 03680, Kyiv, Palladin av., 46

July 14th 2013 marks the 90th birthday of Vladimir Tikhonovich Sklyar, Doctor of Sciences, Professor, Ukraine's Scientific and Technical Fellow, Academician of Ukrainian Academy of Oil and Gas, an outstanding expert in technology, production and industrial applications of fuel and lubricant materials. Dr. Sklyar represents pleiad of researchers and administrators whose efforts created and advanced the modern petro-refining and petrochemical industry in Ukraine. His highly creative approaches and methodologies, his organizational talents brought him the highest praise and recognition as the leading petro-refining and petro-chemical specialist and manager.



Vladimir Tikhonovich Sklyar was born on July 13th 1923 in the village of Khomintsy of Sumy Region in the family of a blacksmith. He finished Kiev Infantry Academy and served in the military during the World War II. In 1951 he was graduated with honors from the Petrol Department of the Lviv Polytechnic Institute and received highly selective Stalin's Fellowship. In 1954 Mr. Sklyar was admitted to the Postgraduate School at the Institute of Petrol of the USSR's Academy of Sciences. He defended his PhD Thesis in 1955 under the guidance of world renowned scientist Academician S.R. Sergienko. In 1959 Vladimir Tikhonovich became the Vice Director of UkrNIIproekt Institute in charge of research activities. This became a ground-breaking year in the history of Ukraine's petro-refining and petro-chemistry. Dr. Sklyar established the strategy of development of the petro-refining industry in Ukraine, defined its place in the context of the USSR's industrial production framework.

He started extensive administrative work creating powerful momentum in petro-refining and petrochemical industry research and development activities in Ukraine. Under Dr. Sklyar's direct supervision and guidance the USSR's R&D Institute of Petro-refining and Petro-chemical Industry (VNIIPKneftehim) was created. Dr. Sklyar became the first Director of this Institute and demonstrated outstanding skills not only as the researcher and developer, but as the leader and manager. VNIIPKneftehim became the complex organization including scientific branches in Kiev and Lviv, design division in Kiev (now Ukrneftehimproect LLC), its design branch in Lviv (now "Lvivgipromneftehim") and Manufacturing Plant in Drogobych. The total staff employed by this organization exceeded 2,000.

VNIIPKneftehim (now "UkrNIINP MASMA") became one of USSR's largest centers of the petro-refining and petro-chemical industry. There, under Dr. Sklyar's supervision, the modern R&D schools in the following areas were formed:

- Chemistry and Technology of Fuel and Lubricant Additives
- Chemistry, Technology, Rheology and Tribology of Plastic Lubricants
- Colloid Chemistry of Inter-phase Mass Exchange in Tri-phase Dispersive Systems
- Engineering Rheology and Thermo-physics of Dispersive Systems in petro-refining and petro-chemical industry.

Unfortunately, Dr. Sklyar didn't get to work for a long time in the institute he formed and became the victim of the communist party's raging anti-dissident campaign against the so-called "bourgeois Ukrainian nationalism". Dr. Sklyar judged people strictly by their work skills and talents, their effectiveness, and did not bend under pressure from the communist party overseers. They certainly didn't appreciate this which led to open antagonism and finally resulted in public and demonstrative punishment. In 1972 the Central Committee Secretariat of Ukraine's Communist Party declared that Dr. Sklyar "ignored Party principles in selecting, promoting and developing personnel" and fired him from his post of VNIIPKneftehim Director, prohibiting him from even continuing his employment at the institute.

Upon a personal request from Academician V. Gutyrya, Academician B. Paton granted permission for Dr. Sklyar to work as the Senior Researcher in the Petro-chemical Division of the Institute Chemistry of the Highmolecular Compounds. While recognizing the stature and contributions of Dr. Sklyar, Academician Paton later on petitioned Ukraine's Communist Party Central Committee Chair Mr. Scherbitsky personally to lift Mr. Sklyar's "taboo". As a result, Mr. Sklyar was promoted to Institute's Associate Director and later on to a Head of the Petro-chemistry Division of the Institute of Physical Organic Chemistry and Coal Chemistry of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. Full of his characteristic determination and perseverance Vladimir Tikhonovich pursued his R&D activities. In 1984 he defended Doctor of Sciences Dissertation.

For over 10 years Dr. Sklyar headed the Petro-chemistry Division of the Institute of Physical Organic Chemistry and Petro-chemistry of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences and made significant personal contributions to making the Institute one of the leading scientific centers as part of Ukraine's Academy of Sciences. During that time the new building was constructed, which was equipped according to highest standards and which until now serves as highly successful scientific establishment and a significant part of Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry and Petrochemistry of National Academy of Science of Ukraine.

Later on (from 1991 and until his passing) Dr. Sklyar served as the General Manager of the International Association "Highly Reliable Pipeline Transport" which he created and which operated under the patronage of Academician Paton himself.

Dr. Sklyar's early research work was dedicated to studying genetic connections of the oil fields of Prykarpattya with menilite deposits in the Karpaty region. The work was summarized and published in his Dissertation "The Study of Highly Molecular Parts of Bitkov and Sagajdack Petrol". The patterns of genesis of petrol that he discovered served as the basis for construction of the oil-refining plant in the Ivano-Frankivsk region.

In later years the scientific interests of Dr. Sklyar were connected with synthesis and technology of lubricant additives, corrosion inhibitors, protective coatings, binding materials for road construction, plastic lubricants, coke chemistry, lubricant-coolant liquids and technological compounds, surface active compounds for oil and gas production and anti-corrosion protection of oil production equipment, technology of highly effective seed mordant, medicines for struggle with AIDS (АЗТ, Д4Т) and mycosis (Teobon).

Several technologies developed by Dr. Sklyar were utilized during post-Chernobyl disaster recovery activities. Under his direct technical supervision and under aggressive schedule, the development and production of petro-products targeting use by heavy VAZ and KAMAZ trucks was organized.

Dr. Sklyar was one of the first to prove via his own R&D work that technology is the first and foremost scientific basis of effective manufacturing. In his Dissertation "Research and Development of Industrial Production of Alkyl-salicylate and Succineimide Additives" he masterfully resolved the issues associated with optimal manufacturing of highly effective lubricant additives. His contributions to developing technical specifications, design and construction of Lisichansk, Drogobych, Odessa, Kherson Oil Refinery Plants and Berdyansk Oil and Lubricant Plant are hard to overestimate.

Vladimir Tikhonovich generously shared his knowledge and experience with youth. His students include one Doctor and ten Candidate of Sciences. His research work is summarized in six monographs, 130 inventions and patents, 181 articles, numerous presentations and summaries. Prof. Sklyar's contributions were recognized by governments' orders, medals, honorary diplomas and acknowledgements, including the honorary recognition of his work to alleviate consequences of Chernobyl disaster.

Vladimir Tikhonovich Sklyar was a true patriot, he loved people, loved life. He passed away on March 9, 1998 and is buried at Bajkove Cemetery.

Скляр Владимир Тихонович
Памяти замечательного ученого

Л.Н. Шкарапута[1], Ю.Л. Ищук[2]

[1]Институт биоорганической химии и нефтехимии НАН Украины,
Украина, 02094 Киев, ул. Мурманская, 1; факс: (044) 559-98-00

[2]Украинский научно-исследовательский институт
нефтеперерабатывающей промышленности "МАСМА",
Украина, 03680 Киев, просп. Академика Палладина, 46

14 июля исполнилось 90 лет со дня рождения Владимира Тихоновича Скляра, доктора технических наук, профессора, заслуженного деятеля науки и техники Украины, академика Украинской нефтегазовой академии, выдающегося нефтехимика, одного из ведущих исследователей и организаторов, усилиями которых создавалась современная нефтеперерабатывающая и нефтехимическая промышленность Украины.

Скляр Володимир Тихонович
Пам'яті чудового вченого

Л.М. Шкарапута[1], Ю.Л. Іщук[2]

[1]Інститут біоорганічної хімії та нафтохімії НАН України,
Україна, 02094 Київ, вул. Мурманська, 1; факс: (044) 559-98-00

[2]Український науково-дослідний інститут
нафтопереробної промисловості "МАСМА",
Україна, 03680 Київ, просп. Академіка Палладіна, 46

14 липня виповнилося 90 років з дня народження Володимира Тихоновича Скляра, доктора технічних наук, професора, заслуженого діяча науки і техніки України, академіка Української нафтогазової академії, видатного нафтохіміка, одного з провідних дослідників і організаторів, зусиллями яких створювалася сучасна нафтопереробна і нафтохімічна промисловість України.