

NEWS ITEMS

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IVAN DMYTROVYCH HOLOVATSKY ON THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH

Ye. MAKUKH¹, S. GRABOVSKYI¹, R. STOIKA²

¹Department of Biochemistry, Stepan Gzhytskyi National University
of Veterinary Medicine and Biotechnologies, Lviv, Ukraine;

²Department of Regulation of Cell Proliferation and Apoptosis, Institute of Cell
Biology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Lviv

Ivan Dmytrovych Holovatskyi (1926–2015) was a distinguished Ukrainian biochemist and enzymologist, professor, and the founder of a school of biochemistry in Lviv. His research focused on carbohydrate metabolism, with particular emphasis on the pentose phosphate pathway and the regulation of glycolysis in normal and tumor cells. He authored more than 650 scientific publications, including monographs and a textbook, supervised numerous PhD and Doctoral dissertations, and served for many years as head of the Lviv branch of the Ukrainian Biochemical Society. His career was shaped by political repression and institutional obstacles; nevertheless, he remained committed to scientific research, mentorship, and public engagement, maintaining intellectual integrity and a principled approach to science and civic life.

March 29, 2026 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Dmytrovych Holovatsky (1926–2015), an outstanding Ukrainian biochemist and enzymologist, Doctor of Biological Sciences, Professor and prominent public figure.

Ivan Dmytrovych Holovatsky was born on March 29, 1926, in the village of Chortovets, Stanislav Voivodeship (now Ivano-Frankivsk Region), in a peasant family. He received his secondary education at the Kolomyia Gymnasium and continued his studies at the Kolomyia Pedagogical College. In December 1944, he was arrested by the Kolomyia MGB and was under investigation until May 1945 on suspicion of having connections with the underground movement.

After graduating from Lviv Pedagogical College No. 2 in 1946, Ivan Dmytrovych entered the Lviv Veterinary Institute. Being an excellent student, he was recommended for postgraduate studies at the Department of Organic and Biological Chemistry. His scientific mentor was Corresponding Member



of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR, Professor S. Z. Gzhytsky, founder of the renowned Lviv scientific school of biochemists. Following the successful defense of his candidate's dissertation, the young and promising scientist worked at the department as an assistant, then as an associate Professor, and, from 1963, as a Professor after defending his doctoral dissertation.

I. D. Holovatsky initiated a new scientific direction in biochemistry of carbohydrate metabolism, particularly, the study of the pentose phosphate pathway and its relationships with glycolysis. These studies were summarized in the monograph *Carbohydrate Metabolism in Farm Animals* (1961), which served as a key reference book for graduate students and researchers for many years.

From 1968 to 1982, Professor Holovatsky headed the Department of Biological, Organic, and Inorganic Chemistry at the Lviv Zoological and

Veterinary Institute. On his initiative, a scientific laboratory of Pathological Enzymology was established, where applied research was conducted on metabolism and the treatment of digestive disorders in cows.

In April 1982, the KGB of the Ukrainian SSR reminded Professor Holovatsky of his “nationalist” past and, with the verdict “for family ties with ‘unreliable’ people, in particular the family of Colonel of the Sich Riflemen Vasyl Didushok,” he was dismissed from his position as head of the department and prohibited from working in educational institutions.

Given the great respect for Professor Holovatsky, a special Department of Carbohydrate Metabolism Regulation was established for him at the Lviv branch of the O.V. Palladin Institute of Biochemistry. The department focused on fundamental research on the mechanisms of glycolysis and pentose phosphate cycle regulation and their connections to nucleotide metabolism processes in normal and tumor cells.

After the political changes in the USSR, in December 1989, Professor I. D. Holovatsky returned to academic leadership as head of the Department of Biological, Organic, and Inorganic Chemistry at the Lviv Zoological and Veterinary Institute (now the S. Z. Gzhytsky Lviv National University of Veterinary Medicine and Biotechnology). The scientist founded a renowned scientific school of biochemists, supervised 19 candidates and 6 doctors of science, and authored more than 650 publications, including 8 monographs, a textbook and nearly 120 essays and journalistic articles. For over 20 years, Profes-

sor Holovatsky was the head of the Lviv branch of the Ukrainian Biochemical Society and was awarded honorary membership of the Society.

Alongside his scientific achievements, I. D. Holovatsky was deeply engaged in public and civic activities. He actively contributed to the restoration of the Taras Shevchenko Scientific Society in Ukraine, participated in the founding of the People’s Movement of Ukraine and the Memorial Society, and paid great attention to covering the history of Ukraine’s liberation struggle and its key historical figures.

Even in independent Ukraine, Professor Holovatsky faced renewed injustice when he was dismissed from his position in 1995. The “system” tried to break his spirit once more and for all and bring him to his knees, but failed. He remained steadfast in his convictions and continued to work for the benefit of the Ukraine he had fought for. Ivan Dmytrovych was actively involved in public and journalistic work, was chairman and member of several public committees, in particular on the establishment of the Museum of Ukrainian Liberation Fight in Lviv, and also initiated the inclusion in the 2004 UNESCO program of the international celebration of the 150th anniversary of Ukrainian biochemist, public and political figure Ivan Gorbachevsky.

Ivan Dmytrovych Holovatsky’s life credo was: “Honesty in life – honesty in science.”

Ivan Dmytrovych Holovatsky passed away on January 23, 2015, and was buried on January 27 at Lychakiv Cemetery, on Mars Field.