

Dear Igor Alekseevich, dear colleagues,

let me introduce the medal laureate.

I.A. finished the Physics faculty of MGU in Moscow in 1954 and in the next year he started his carrier in physics in the Electro-physical Laboratory of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR at Dubna. When JINR Dubna was founded next year he moved to the Laboratory of High Energy physics. His first task was the detector construction (scintillation and Čerenkov counters, spark chambers) for the first experiments at the new proton synchrotron built in the laboratory. In these experiments total cross-sections of π -p, K-p interactions, backward peak in the elastic π^+ p scattering were measured. In 1965-66 he participated in the measurement of the decay properties of K^0 meson at CERN. The experiment confirmed the CP-violation in the interference of the K_S and K_L decays into 2π . The experiment results he used in the PhD thesis in 1967.

At that time he proposed a regeneration experiment of short lived K^0 in the material environment for the newly built accelerator at IHEP Serpukhov. He led a team of physicists (including a Prague group) who built BIS detector (bezfil'movyj iskrovyyj spektrometr) and confirmed the Pomeranchuk theorem for the energy behaviour of particle-antiparticle cross sections – in this case for K^0 s. The results of the experiment appear in the Particle data properties handbook and I.A. Savin submitted them also in his doctoral thesis in 1975. Due to a successful collaboration between Dubna and Prague physicists in the BIS experiment Prague we were invited to participate in the next project ...

... the first common JINR-CERN experiment NA-4, in years 1975-90, in which I.A. was a Dubna group leader. The collaboration acronym BCDMS stands for Bologna-CERN-Dubna-Munich-Saclay. The experiment was devoted to deep inelastic muon-proton, muon-deuteron and muon-carbon scattering and measured proton and neutron structure functions with unprecedented accuracy. The results are still being regularly cited. In the experiment, the gamma-Z interference was measured 1 ½ year before the actual Z^0 observation. JINR became the respected laboratory for the construction of large size MWPC as it equipped fully the spectrometer with this basic tracking detector. During the long duration of the experiment I.A. showed high efficiency, undisputable scientific authority and tremendous management skill. He became a professor in 1977. The participation of the Prague group in this experiment opened door to our invitation to H1 experiment at DESY.

In 1985-95 he was a Dubna group leader in the experiment NA-47 – measurement of spin structure of nucleons and later in COMPASS experiment – results presented yesterday by I.A. in the seminar at the faculty. He also actively participated in the HERMES experiment at DESY. All these experiments deepened our knowledge about the origin of spin of nucleons. The puzzles as spin crisis, contribution of gluon spin or of the orbital momentum of valence quarks to the nucleon spin were addressed by these experiments. The Prague participation in this field is carried on by the group of Prof. Finger from Charles University.

Prof. Savin was the head of a sector and otdel' in the High Energy Laboratory of JINR Dubna. In 1989 he became director of the new JINR laboratory – Laboratory of Particle Physics. As a director he placed emphasis on the expansion of relations with world leading laboratories CERN, DESY and Brookhaven and on the development of the scientific and methodological platform of the laboratory. At present he is honorary director of the High Energy Physics Laboratory of JINR.

I.A. is the author and co-author of more than 300 scientific and methodological papers, ten of which is top-cited 500+. He obtained 10 times the JINR prize, he is awardee of the honorary degree of Russian Federation, of several medals, among others of the gold medal of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. And we are happy that he will be today decorated also with the medal of the Czech Physical Society of the 1st degree.

I hope that you feel like me that the Czech physical community is proud that I.A. accepted the medal. He will belong to the most prestigious persons honoured by the medal. His broad spectrum of interests, high professionalism and conceptuality gain him the high esteem among the scientists. Many of us call him a teacher who brought them to the most prestigious projects in high energy physics.

Praha, May 26, 2011

Jaroslav Cvach