It has been more than two years since Sergei Aleksandrovich Akhmanov passed away. It seems like just yesterday that he was here among us, at the heart of a large collective which had generated new ideas and conceived of some interesting new matters. We around him clearly understood the scale of this man as a scientist-physicist, with a name known around the world, whose activities will be a part of the history of science forever.

At the same time we perceived him as one of our own, a person who was close to us. For me personally, he was first of all a leading teacher in science and life. It is unquestionably true that his brilliant scientific ideas and his personal moral example shaped an entire generation of physicists, among which I have the honor to be included. He was a truly great teacher, a remarkable university professor, in the highest and noblest meaning of the word. He undoubtedly was and remains the pride and glory of the University. Young people were attracted to him, clearly sensing the pulses of creativity coming from him, his sincere and honest service to science, and the absence of any sort of fraud or cynicism in his relations with respect to the principal moral components of our life: truth, kindness, and beauty. He won the hearts of the young people entering science by virtue of this intellect, his unbounded intellectual curiosity, his phenomenal erudition, and his competitive passion to be first in the eternal race for new knowledge.

This issue is dedicated to

Sergii Aleksandrovich Akhmanov

—a Russian physicist who revealed the

beauty of nonlinear optics

to the world
He attracted talented, industrious young people also by virtue of the fact that he represented complete creative freedom, placing a huge amount of confidence in young people, which never deteriorated to petty checkups and fault-finding. A beloved principle of Akhmanov as a leader of the creative search was his principle of evaluating people and collectives on the basis of the final result. He always appraised the importance and value of a result without allowances for a weakness of the material-technical base or for the general low level of work in the field. The criteria were always the highest: be world-class. This was a general feature of the style of two major scientists and coworkers: Rem Viktorovich Khokhlov and Sergei Aleksandrovich Akhmanov.

We are left with a huge effort, founded by our teachers. There is a large, smooth, productive working collective—the Department of Wave Processes of the Physics Faculty, Moscow State University. The scientific school of Akhmanov enjoys huge international authority. There is the International Laser Center which he conceived and founded. We, the students and coworkers of Sergei Aleksandrovich Akhmanov, will continue the work he began.

N. I. Koroteev