

**The "Unsurmountable Wall": The Radiation Effect Study in the Soviet Union
in the late 1950s and the Early 1960s**

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In the second half of 1950s, Soviet scientists stood at the crossroads in understanding radiation effects on the living body: their perspective was changing from that of a mere follower of Western studies to that of a radical critic. On international arenas such as the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, based on the achievements of their own indigenous research, the Soviet radiation scientists confronted with the U.S. and British scientists, sharply criticizing their indulgent way of radiation effect estimation (Hiroshi ICHIKAWA, "Radiation Study and the Soviet Scientists in the Second Half of the 1950's." An International Journal of the History of Science Society of Japan, *Historia Scientiarum*. Vol.25-No.1. -August 2015-. 78-93). Domestically, the rapidly growing need for radiation effects study even pressured the predominance of Lysenkoites in biological sciences (Hiroshi Ichikawa, "Against Lysenkoites' Hegemony: On the Establishment of the Institute of Cytology and Genetics at the Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences." *Studies in the History of Biology*. Vol.9, No.2 -2017-. 7-21.). So as to catch up with the Western achievements, the Soviet Academy of Sciences newly established two large-scale research institutes related to the new currents of genetics and other biological sciences; The Institute of Radiation Biology and Physicochemical Biology in Moscow and the Institute of Cytology and Genetics in Novosibirsk.

However, as early as in the first half of 1960s, the Soviets toned down their criticism against the U.S. and British way of radiation effects estimation. What is striking here is that many Western scientists, such as Alexander Hollaender (1898-1986) and others, visited the Soviet Union intensively in 1960, the year in which the International Symposium on Primary and Initial Effects of Ionizing Radiations on Living Cells, organized by the Soviet Academy of Sciences under the auspices of UNESCO and cosponsored by IAEA, was held in Moscow in October 18-22. Drawn mostly the documents kept in the Archive of Russian Academy of Sciences, my paper tries to shed light to the influence of Western science upon the Soviet scientists through the contact with those from the West, so as to approach to the factor behind the change in the radiation effect study in the Soviet Union.