

In Memory of Andrei

Andrei Lipson was a long-time, highly respected member of the Condensed Matter Nuclear Science community. He was a member of the International advisory committee for the ICCF meeting series, representing Russia. Aside from his home base at the Institute of Physical Chemistry, Russian Academy of Sciences and the Joint Institute in Dubna, he “had suitcase and would travel” to do research. Stays elsewhere included over four years with me at the University of Illinois, time at the New Hydrogen Energy Laboratory in Sapporo and then at Tohoku University with Professor Kasagi, time in Israel at Energetics Technologies, at the US Naval Research Laboratory and the Naval Postgraduate School in CA with Michael Melich. He had just accepted a visiting position at the University of Missouri - Columbia when his unforeseen death occurred while riding a subway in Moscow. This seemed impossible to me—Andrei was in good health when I saw him months earlier at ICCF-15 in Rome, and again 2 weeks before his death when he stopped at my lab to spend several days talking about joint experiments.



Several months later I gave a presentation for him that we had been working on for the ACS meeting in San Francisco. It was my honor to represent him in this manner. Many Russian colleagues and ICCF colleagues can recount Andrei’s many contributions to the field. However, here I will simply present my personal view based on the years of close collaboration we had. Andrei was a great colleague and had a significant influence in my LENR research. It seems like only yesterday that I first met him at an ICCF meeting in Europe. He had just returned from a stay in Japan where he collaborated with Professor Kasagi on low-energy nuclear cross sections using ion beam-target experiments. I approached Andrei afterwards and asked if he would come to Illinois to join my work, if I could raise enough money. He consented. Later, in e-mails, I asked if he “believed” in cold fusion. He replied that he thought so, but wanted to keep an open mind because “experiments would determine the truth”. I told him that I shared that view.

We do continued experiments on thin film electrode concepts, we successfully applied some analysis techniques that Andrei used in Russia, such as nuclear particle detection using CR-39 film. He also contributed, in collaboration with others at the University of Illinois, developed a pioneering method for creating near metallic density hydrogen (or deuterium) states in dislocation loops in palladium. The resulting Physics Review article about superconducting properties of this state has received a number of citations.

There is not enough space to tell all I want to about Andrei’s accomplishments and our close relationship. I grew to deeply respect him as a person and as a scientist. The interested reader can find out more about him from the article by his daughter, Maria, in Infinite Energy magazine following his death. Also, I was asked to speak about some of his recent research at the March 2010 American Chemical Society meeting in San Francisco. Andrei prepared a presentation on the effect of electron beam bombardment on loaded hydrides for that meeting which can be found in the proceedings based on my presentation and my comments about Andrei’s many contributions to cold fusion research.

As all people in the field know, Andrei was extremely prolific in his range of research work, and he had numerous publications. As a result of his collaboration with me, we had coauthored along with others in my lab and his lab back home over 50 publications ranging from articles in ICCF meeting proceedings to articles in various journals. In addition, Andrei had a number of other publications that I was not involved in.

A characteristic of all this work is that the problems were attacked from a very fundamental, basic science point of view. Another characteristic of Andrei that I deeply admired and which made me so comfortable working with him was his high integrity and honesty in everything he did. He never allowed himself to become so emotionally involved that he would fail to bring out all the facts about anything he was studying. Andrei was very strong willed and hard to convince if he had already formed an opinion, but I could always have complete faith in any results that Andrei reported. And if your point of view had merit, Andrei would keep an open mind and help you get deeper insight into the physics issues. We will all sorely miss him.

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