

INTRODUCTION

Historical principle is used as the basic one for the present monograph: all the achievements and progress results in the field of ionising radiation effects on nervous system and psychics are presented in chronological sequence with taking into account exact social and political situation when the research was held. The named principle was chosen because of several reasons. *Firstly*, the book was initially published in the period of 100th anniversary of greatest discoveries in the natural science: W.K. Roentgen — X-rays (1895), A. Becquerel — the radioactivity phenomenon (1896), M. Sklodovskaya–Curie and P. Curie — Radium chemical element (1898). At the same time, more than 50 years passed since the tragic events of atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki cities and more that 10 years after the Chernobyl disaster. *Secondly*, the historical principle of scientific material presentation exactly enables to reflect most completely the nervous system radiosensitivity problem debatable nature, as the named problem remains unsolved already for century and up-to-date presents the polar points of view reflected in more than 5,000 literature sources. Thus the authors intended to prevent the prompt discoveries and categorical statements in this field: «There can be something they say «Look, this is new», but that already was in centuries, been before us» (Ecclesiastes 1, 10).

Radiation neuropsychiatry history both with that of all the radiation medicine is divided in two main periods: the 1st — «*explorative*» one (1896–1945) — since the first radiobiological experiment by I.R.Tarkhanov up to the first nuclear explosions and the 2nd — «*radioecological*» one (from 1945 up to the present time) connected with the nuclear power application in military and civil purposes including the atomic bombings, nuclear tests and technogeneous radioecologic disasters experience. Principal difference between these two periods is that on the contrary to the first one, within the second period radiation medicine has become closely connected to the medicine of disasters. That is why the separate research in the field of ionising radiation neuropsychiatric effects at present is the extremely complicated scientific-research task.

Authors express the deep appreciation Academician A.Y. Romanenko, sincere gratitude is expressed to the Neurology Department staff whose selfless work results were essential for the present monograph: Dr. V.G. Kostuchenko, Dr. E.A. Vashchenko, Dr. Yu.I. Plachinda, Dr. R.N. Zazimko, Dr. K.L. Yuryev, Dr. T.K. Loganovskaya.