



**KAMEN G. USUNOFF (1941-2009):  
GREAT IN TRIPLICATE - SCIENTIST,  
SCHOLAR, FRIEND**

Kamen Usunoff was a professor at the Department of Anatomy and Histology, Medical University, Sofia, Bulgaria. He passed away on 28 February 2009 while on a research visit at the Department of Anatomy, University of Rostock, Rostock, Germany.

Kamen Usunoff graduated Medicine from the Medical University, Sofia in 1967. He became a member of the Department of Anatomy and Histology, Medical University, Sofia in the same year. Passing through all academic levels at his Department, he headed the Section of Neuromorphology in 1992, and since 1997 he became a Full Professor at his *Alma mater*. Kamen Usunoff was a member of a number of Bulgarian and international anatomical and neuroscience societies, member of the Editorial Board of *Biomedical Reviews*, as well as he was a Member of the Scientific Council of the Institute of Neurobiology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Kamen Usunoff was a profound investigator of the neurobiology of brain basal ganglia, particularly *subthalamic nucleus* and *substantia nigra*. He produced over 100 peer-reviewed articles in the field and two state-of-the-science monographs on *The Subthalamic Nucleus* published by Springer Verlag. Using sophisticated tracing methodologies and Cajal-like devotion to research, he became one of the biggest pursuer of nerve fibers involved in the pathogenesis of Parkinson's disease. Kamen Georgieff Usunoff, like Santiago Ramón y Cajal, was born as a son of physician and university professor (of psychiatry). His work as a teacher and investigator was marked with that toughness and detailed tenacity of purpose so characteristic of the man. Never did he spare himself in his effort to achieve better results in both science and teaching.

Kamen Usunoff was exceptional in many ways. Personally he appeared tough on the outside, but soft, very much friendly in the inside. We all remember his piercing glance and straightforward questions. Discussing with him science was a „tough cookie“. On the other side one could hardly find a more accommodating and compassionate listener and dedicated helper when the principles of academic fairness was challenged.

We will always miss Professor Usunoff very much.

**On behalf of the Bulgarian Society for Cell Biology**