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«Национальный медицинский исследовательский центр  
психиатрии и неврологии имени В.М. Бехтерева»**

**МИНИСТЕРСТВА ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ  
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ**

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ОКПО 01966466, ОГРН 1037825015953  
ИНН/КПП 7811017424/781101001

Телефон.: +7 (812) 670-0220  
Факс: +7 (812) 412-7127  
Эл. почта: [spbinstb@bekhterev.ru](mailto:spbinstb@bekhterev.ru)

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**On establishing the “V. M. Bekhterev Friends’ International Society” at the Federal State Budgetary Institution “V. M. Bekhterev National Research Medical Center for Psychiatry and Neurology” of the Russian Federation Ministry of Health**

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, V. M. Bekhterev wrote: “Among all diseases that affect humans, mental diseases are of particular significance. They affect the very essence of human personality by darkening the human mind and distorting the sphere of feelings, ideas and motivations... An increase of mental and nervous diseases has become a phenomenon common to all European nations. It has attracted attention of the scientists and has motivated them to develop relevant research activities. To make these research activities more successful and harmonious, the scientists have recently united by founding the International Association of Academies”.

There is no doubt that it is necessary to preserve the memory of the prominent personalities of the past who laid the foundation of Russian and international psychoneurology, all the more so because scientific forecasting in this field of medicine has to be based on a profound knowledge of the past and the present.

In this respect, of considerable importance is the scientific activity of the great Russian scholar, Vladimir Mikhailovich BEKHTEREV, who has made Russian science world-famous. His works have become the foundation for the past and current studies of the human brain. V. M. Bekhterev was a clinician, physiologist and morphologist who studied the anatomical and physiological essentials of the human brain and psychic activity. He was also a psychologist, thinker and philosopher who was trying to understand the integrative activity of the brain and its highest function, consciousness.

To further extend the study of V. M. Bekhterev’s scientific legacy, it would be expedient to found the V. M. Bekhterev Friends’ International Society at the Federal State Budgetary Institution “*V. M. Bekhterev National Research Medical Center for Psychiatry and Neurology*” of the Russian Federation Ministry of Health. The Society will pursue a two-fold objective –carrying out scientific and practical activities.

The scientific activity of the Society will be directed at:

- 1) Further profound study of V. M. Bekhterev’s scientific legacy.
- 2) Study of V. M. Bekhterev’s biography and creative legacy; of the influence of international experience on his scientific activity; and of the influence of V. M. Bekhterev’s scientific advancement on the progress of world science.

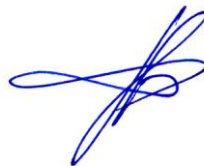
The practical activity of the Society will be directed at applying the accumulated data for creating the V. M. Bekhterev Personal International Encyclopedia.

To reach the above-mentioned goals, the following practical tasks are to be realized:

1. To study the archival materials related to V. M. Bekhterev's life and scientific activity, including his newly developed branch of medicine – psychoneurology.
2. To expand the international collaboration to consolidate the efforts of the specialists engaged in the study of relevant issues related to the history of psychoneurology.
3. To involve medical specialists, such as morphologists, physiologists, clinical psychologists, as well as sociologists, philosophers, historians, and other specialists working at research or high school departments in the activities of the Society. This will enable a complex approach to the realization of the Society's objectives.
4. To establish within the Society special departments for studying specific themes related to creating the V. M. Bekhterev Encyclopedia (“V. M. Bekhterev bibliography”, “V. M. Bekhterev biography: life stages and events”, “The Kazan period of V. M. Bekhterev's activities”, “Working at the Military Medical Academy”, “The Psychoneurological Institute”, etc.). To appoint persons responsible for carrying out each of the mentioned studies.
5. On the basis of data obtained, to create a glossary for the V. M. Bekhterev Personal International Encyclopedia.
6. To assign the size of articles and the general principles of publication in the Encyclopedia.

The creation of the V. M. Bekhterev Personal International Encyclopedia would be a worthy commemorative event dedicated to V. M. Bekhterev's activities.

The Federal State Budgetary Institution “V. M. Bekhterev National Research Medical Center for Psychiatry and Neurology” of the Russian Federation Ministry of Health plans to hold, on 17-18 May 2018, a conference with international participants entitled “Clinical psychiatry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: Integration of innovations and traditions for diagnostics and optimization of therapy of patients with mental disorders”. It is being planned to hold, within the framework of the conference, the founding meeting of the V. M. Bekhterev Friends' International Society and to discuss the above stated issues. We have the pleasure to invite you to attend the meeting and we hope our proposal will be of interest to you.



Prof. Nikolay G. Neznanov, M.D., Ph.D.  
Merited Scientist of the Russian Federation  
Director, V. M. Bekhterev National Research Medical Center for Psychiatry and Neurology



Prof. Marina A. Akimenko, M.D., Ph.D.  
Academic Secretary, V. M. Bekhterev National Research Medical Center for Psychiatry and Neurology