



MS and ScD, Professor Vazha Okujava (1930–2011), Distinguished Georgian Neuroscientist, Academician of Georgian Academy of Sciences, member of numerous international scientific societies and organizations, owner of a number of prestigious governmental awards. The supervisor of Professor Okujava's PhD research was World known neurophysiologist, Academician Ivane Beritashvili. During years, Professor Okujava performed some research at the Institute of Neurological Diseases and Insult, NIH, Bethesda, USA. In Georgia Professor Okujava was the Head of the Laboratory of Nerve Cell Physiology, Pathology and Pharmacology at the Institute of Physiology Georgian Academy of Science (now Ivane Beritashvili Center of Experimental Biomedicine) and the Laboratory of Neurobiology at Tbilisi State University. Here Professor Okujava developed the new direction of Translational Medicine, involving therapeutic monitoring of drugs and pharmacokinetic.

In different time, Professor Okujava was vice-rector at Tbilisi Medical State University, an Academician-secretary at the Department of Physiology and Experimental Medicine of Georgian Academy of Science, the Rector of Tbilisi State University, the President of I. Beritashvili Physiological Society, Chair of Advisory Board at the Tbilisi State University, Member of the Presidium of the Georgian Academy of Sciences, Member of All-Union Scientific Council of Nervous System Physiology and Pathology, Member of International Commission of Epilepsy, Member of International Brain Research Organization (IBRO), Member of Editorial Board of a number of foreign scientific journals (Electroencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology, Neurophysiology,

Epilepsy Research), Member of Editorial Collegiums of the Bulletin of Georgian Academy of Sciences and Editor-in-chief of Proceedings of the Georgian Academy of Sciences, Biol. Series, the Deputy Chairman of the society 'Tsodna' (Science), Member of Editorial Board of international journals 'Нейрофизиология', and 'Electroencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology', 'Epilepsy Research' and the Member of the European Epilepsy Academy, the Director of the Scientific-Research Center for Experimental Neurology of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection of Georgia. Vazha Okujava has received a number of prizes, including the Order of the Red Banner of Labor, Ivane Beritashvili Prize, Khorezm International Scientific Prize, as well as various medals and diplomas for his scientific-pedagogic and social activities.

The major scientific interests of Professor Okujava were: the modeling of neurological disorders and the investigation of their neurophysiological mechanisms; neurophysiological bases of epilepsy; clinical electrophysiology; experimental and clinical neuropharmacology; cellular level of neurobiology of memory; behavioral studies of memory in norm and pathology; the modeling of psychopathologic phenomena, etc.

Professor Vazha Okujava made an excellent contribution to the field of neurobiology with his more than 250 scientific articles and several monographs. His studies covers fundamental problems of general neurophysiology and the most important aspects of Clinical Neurology. Some of Professor Okujava's articles are:

Interaction of carbamazepine and chlorpromazine in rabbits. Rukhadze MD, Alexishvili MM, Okujava VM, Makharadze TG, Sebiskveradze MV, Tsagareli SK. Biomed Chromatogr. 1999 Nov;13(7):445-9.

One-trial visual recognition in cats. Okujava V, Natishvili T, Mishkin M, Gurashvili T, Chipashvili S, Bagashvili T, Andronikashvil G, Kvernadze G. Acta Neurobiol Exp (Wars). 2005;65(2):205-11.

Interaction of carbamazepine and phenobarbital in rabbits. Rukhadze MD, Alexishvili MM, Okujava NV, Sebiskveradze MV, Okujava VM, Tsagareli SK. *Biomed Chromatogr.* 2000 Aug;14(5):344-8.

Simultaneous determination of carbamazepine and carbamazepine 10,11-epoxide by using microcolumn HPLC: study of pharmacokinetics of carbamazepine in a volunteer. Alexishvili MM, Rukhadze MD, Okujava VM. *Biomed Chromatogr.* 1997 Jan-Feb;11(1):36-41.

Some electrical measurements of cortical elements and neuronal responses to direct stimulation with particular reference to input resistance. Li CL, Okujava VM, Bak AF. *Exp Neurol.* 1971 May;31(2):263-76.

Peripheral and central phenomena of post-epileptic extinction. Fernández-Guardiola A, Okujava VM, Gumá E. *Epilepsia.* 1968 Dec;9(4):303-10.

Responses of cerebro-cortical neurons to electrical stimulation with particular reference to epileptiform discharges. Li CL, Okujava VM, Bak AF. *Exp Neurol.* 1977 Apr;55(1):173-86

Modification of seizure activity by electrical stimulation. 3. Mechanisms. Racine R, Okujava V, Chipashvili S. *Electroencephalogr Clin Neurophysiol.* 1972 Mar;32(3):295-9.

Use of normal-phase microcolumn high-performance liquid chromatography for the study of hydrolytic stability, metabolic profiling and pharmacokinetics of an antiepileptic drug, benzonal. Okujava VM, Chankvetadze BG, Rukhadze MD, Rogava MM, Tkesheliadze NB. *J Pharm Biomed Anal.* 1991;9(6):465-73.

Some EEG criteria of the efficiency of angiosurgical treatment of "vascular epilepsy". Chelishvili MV, Okujava VM, Laitadze NS. *Acta Neurol (Napoli).* 1985 Jun-Aug;7(3-4):239-41.