

Anatol Brodsky

1927 - 2013



This is a brief [obituary from Seattle Times](#)

On December 28th 2013, Anatol M. Brodsky passed away suddenly at his home in Seattle after a long happy life.

Anatol was born in Leningrad, USSR, in 1927. He graduated from the Physics and Chemistry Departments of the Moscow State University and became a leading scientist receiving PhD degrees in both fields. His research spanned various fields: structure of the universe, chemical physics, electrochemistry, and nuclear physics. He worked closely with many world-renowned scientists. While in the Soviet Union, he authored and coauthored six books and published over 300 articles in leading international scientific journals.

In 1989, at the age of 62, Anatol fulfilled his dream of immigrating to the United States with his family. After a few years at the University of Pennsylvania, he moved to the University of Washington in Seattle, where he worked as a research professor for sixteen years. While in the US, Anatol wrote over 100 more research articles, and his last book, Nanoparticles, came out in 2011.

Anatol was an avid reader, and was passionate about history, international politics, Jewish identity, and keeping track of current events. He loved Seattle parks and forests and was a mushroom enthusiast. His family was always his main passion; he loved his wife and his children and was dearly loved by them. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Sulamif (Mifa) Brodsky, children Mikhail, Yuliy, and Maria, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He was interred at the Rolling Hills Memorial Park in the San Francisco Bay Area in California.

Additional biographical notes and clarifications

Anatol Brodsky first entered the Faculty of Chemistry, Moscow State University (MSU), in 1943, but later moved to the Faculty of Mechanics and Math, MSU. He worked first in the Institute of Oil (later Topchiev Institute of petrochemical synthesis), where he completed his PhD (1953) and DSc (1959) theses on high-temperature cracking of organic reagents. In addition, he participated in the studies of radiolysis of organic substances, and this probably formed a link to his later studies of processes involving solvated electrons. He joined Levich's Dept in 1964, and is known for at least three types of activities in this Dept.

Anatol continued with the chemical engineering topics. In parallel, he was actively involved into electron photoemission theory (jointly with Yu. Ya. Gurevich), which was experimentally addressed by Viktor A. Bendersky in the Institute of Chemical Physics (Chernogolovka scientific centrum) and by Yuriy V. Pleskov and Zakhar A. Rotenberg in the Frumkin Inst. There are two monographs in Russian presenting this direction: "Theory of electron emission from metals" (Brodsky and Gurevich, 1973), and "Modern photoelectrochemistry: photoemission phenomena" (Brodsky, Gurevich, Pleskov, and Rotenberg, 1974). Later, with Mikhail I. Urbakh and Leonid I. Daikhin, he started with optics of charged interface, providing theoretical description for various experimental techniques. Some of them, mostly electroreflection, were actively developed by Alexander B. Ershler and by Alexander M. Foontikov in the Frumkin Inst in 1970s-1980s. This direction is presented in the monograph "Electrodynamics of metal/electrolyte interface" (Brodsky and Urbakh, 1989).

Anatol Brodsky also taught at the Faculty of Mechanics and Math, where he published his educational books (lectures text) on multiparticle scattering (with Vladimir V. Tolmachev, 1968) and on the basic principles of non-relativistic quantum mechanics (with Anatolyi I. Naumov, 1971).