

Prof Dr Viktor Koksharov  
Ural Federal University  
Ulitsa Mira, 19 620002  
Ekaterinburg Russia

Mulhouse, 11 Feb.2016

Dear Prof Dr Koksharov,

**Re: Evgeny Yunosov for Doctor Honoris Causa**

This is a letter of support to for the nomination of Dr. Evgeny Yunosov as a Doctor Honoris Causa from of Ural Federal University.

The European Physical Society welcomes the nomination, and is pleased to support it. Evgeny Yunosov's vision in founding the International Young Physicists' Tournament (IYPT) is worthy of special recognition.

The IYPT has inspired many talented young individuals to follow careers in physics. Initiatives such as the IYPT are essential in improving physics education, and training the next generation of researchers. IYPT is now present in over 40 countries around the world, and is a great success.

I am pleased to add my support for the nomination of Dr. Evgeny Yunosov as a Doctor Honoris Causa.

Best regards



David LEE  
Secretary General  
EPS

European Physical Society  
6 rue des Frères Lumière  
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website: [www.eps.org](http://www.eps.org)  
— registered association —

Prof. Dr. Victor Koksharov  
Ural Federal University  
Ulitsa Mira 19  
620002, Ekaterinburg  
RUSSIA



INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON  
PHYSICS EDUCATION

Department of Physics  
Tokyo Gakugei University  
4-1-1 Nukui-kitamachi  
Koganei  
Tokyo, 184-8501  
JAPAN

8 March, 2016

Dear Prof. Dr. Koksharov,

I am writing in my capacity as Chair of the International Commission on Physics Education, Commission 14 of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, to support the case for awarding Dipl.-Phys Evgeny Yunosov the degree of Doctor honoris causa of Ural Federal University.

In 2013 the ICPE medal was awarded to the International Young Physicists' Tournament in recognition of the outstanding contribution that organization had made to Physics Education on an international scale. Though the award was to an organization rather than an individual, all those involved in the selection of IYPT were aware of the central role that Evgeny Yunosov played in creating IYPT, and helping to establish it on a firm footing.

Having learned of the efforts that were being made to have Evgeny's contributions recognized through the award of an honorary doctorate, I am happy to add the support of ICPE to the case being made. Few individuals make such substantial contributions as Evgeny Yunosov, and positively influence so many lives. I am confident that the honour would be well-deserved and would be very widely welcomed amongst physics educators around the world.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Nitta'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Hideo Nitta  
Chair, International Commission on Physics Education



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February 5, 2016

Professor V. A. Koksharov  
Rector  
Ural Federal University  
620002, 19 Mira str.  
Ekaterinburg, Russia

Dear Professor Koksharov,

With this letter I would like to express my strongest support for awarding Evgeny Nikolaevich Yunosov with the Honorary Doctorate (Doctor Honoris Causa) from Ural Federal University for his leadership in organizing the International Young Physicists' Tournament.

I have known Evgeny N. Yunosov since 1980, when I was involved in organization of the second Young Physicists' Tournament (that time only for schools in Moscow). After that the Young Physicist's Tournament (YPT) was constantly growing in size, involving more and more Moscow schools, then more and more schools from other cities of the Soviet Union, and then finally growing into International Young Physicist's Tournament (IYPT) in 1988. I was significantly involved into organization of YPT and IYPT until 1993, when my work as a physicist moved me to United States. After that I was following the progress and continuing growth of IYPT, but was not directly involved in its organization.

Evgeny N. Yunosov was surely the person number one in the YPT and IYPT. This was his idea, all the rules and formats were created by him and, most importantly, he was the main person in organizing the Tournament. I would say that in the Tournament organization his personal contribution was 50%, and other 10-20 people usually heavily involved into organization provided the other 50%. Most importantly, he was able to convince people at various levels in importance of the Tournament for school students, for general education, and

eventually for physics research in Soviet Union (then Russia) and other countries. I was always surprised how he can approach people and make them really interested and eager to help the Tournament. During the first decade of the Tournament history it was very important that Evgeny N. Yunosov arranged support from two famous physicists: Academician Evgenii Pavlovich Velikhov and Academician Georgii Timofeevich Zatsepin (both working that time at Moscow State University). Velikhov and Zatsepin agreed to take leadership positions in the Tournament, and this attracted many other people to YPT. In 1986-1987 Evgeny N. Yunosov was able to convince people in the Lenin Komsomol Central Committee (including Secretary Lyubov Ivanovna Shvetsova) in the importance of the Tournament for education, and this led to creation of the International Young Physicists' Tournament. Besides organizing support from high-level Academicians and government officials, Evgeny N. Yunosov attracted hundreds of university students, researchers, and professors to participate in the Tournament organization. Surprisingly, this was not only a selfless work but also a pleasure for students, researchers, and professors to participate in the Tournament. Interaction of school students from the Tournament teams with physics researchers and professors was surely important for school students, but surprisingly it was also valuable for researchers and professors. To a significant extent, the popularity of the Tournament in Russia and other countries is due to its specific form, which imitates the real science research during the preparation stage and imitates real collision of research opinions and theories during the "physics fights" (which are similar but much more lively than Ph.D. defenses). The creation of this form (which is now accepted in many countries) is also due to Evgeny N. Yunosov.

It is almost impossible to overestimate the importance of the Tournament. As an alternative form of education, it is surely important for raising interest in schools to physics; it is important for selecting outstanding school students for their future career in physics and other sciences; it gives the first research experience to team members; it gives experience in a team work on a project, it is important for raising the general quality of physics education in schools in Russia and other countries, and finally it shows that physics research is not only a hard work, but it is also fun and pleasure. Everybody who participated in the Tournament at least once either as a team member or a jury member or was involved in another way, knows how good and important is the Tournament.

While Evgeny N. Yunosov succeeded in creating the Tournament and leading it for over 35 years, he did not have time for his own research to obtain Ph.D. and Habilitation degrees. I think now it is a perfect opportunity to honor his achievements by awarding him with the Honorary Doctorate from Ural Federal University. It is my firm opinion that his impact on Physics and Education is much more than an impact of an average professor with both Ph.D. and Habilitation degrees. Therefore I highly support awarding Evgeny Nikolaevich Yunosov with the Honorary Doctorate (Doctor Honoris Causa) from Ural Federal University.

Sincerely yours,



Alexander N. Korotkov  
Professor



DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY  
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December 14, 2015

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I support the nomination of Evgeniy Yunosov for the honorary degree of Doctor Honoris Causa of Ural Federal University.

Over many years, the Tournament of Young Physicists founded by Evgeniy Nikolaevich has been one of the most successful and inspiring educational movements. The Tournament attracted high-school students interested in physics, and the program emphasized deep understanding of the physical world, the use of scientific method, and team research, which culminated in a lively debate between the research teams. A number of future scientists have learned the skills of research and scientific discourse while participating in the Tournament. Regardless of their future occupation, the participants sharpened their critical thinking and emerged with a greater appreciation for science and its methods.

I did not participate in the Tournament as a student, but I was actively involved in organizing it in 1987–1989, when I led a team of Moscow State University students providing support for the first two international Tournaments. I greatly admire Yunosov's charismatic personality, his uncompromising focus on the highest quality of science, and his ability to get people to work together.

Conceived and spearheaded by Yunosov, the Tournament of Young Physicists has played an important role in educating generations of high-school students. It also inspired those of us who came to the Tournament as university students and contributed to the running of the Tournament. The proposed honorary degree is

a well-deserved honor, which I am very happy to endorse.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexander Kusenko". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Alexander Kusenko

Professor

Physics and Astronomy, UCLA

and

Senior Scientist

Kavli IPMU, University of Tokyo, Japan

Dr. Andrzej Nadolny  
ul. Grochowska 202 m 35  
04-357 Warszawa, Poland  
E-mail: nadola@ifpan.edu.pl

10<sup>th</sup> March, 2016

Professor Viktor A. Koksharov  
Rector  
Ural Federal University  
620002, 19 Mira str.  
Ekaterinburg, Russia

Re: Evgeny N. Yunosov for a Dr. h. c.

Dear Professor Koksharov,

With great pleasure I have learned about the nomination of Evgeny N. Yunosov for the Honorary Doctorate (Doctor Honoris Causa) of Ural Federal University. I would like to express my strongest support to that initiative. In my opinion Evgeny N. Yunosov fully deserves such a honour because of his outstanding contribution to international physics education as the founder of the International Young Physicists' Tournament (IYPT).

I met Evgeny N. Yunosov in 1989 during the 2<sup>nd</sup> IYPT in Moscow as the main organizer and the soul of this event. His huge enthusiasm and passion as well as warm-hearted relation to students impressed me very much.

A unique idea of the Tournament, to certain extent complementary to Physics Olympiad, but more universal and exciting for participants, inspired me to organize such a competition in Poland. Also physicists from other countries started to organize local Tournaments. As a consequence of increasing international interest for the IYPT, it started to be organized outside Russia (1994 in The Netherlands, 1995 in Poland, 1996 in Georgia ...) and even on other continents (2004 in Australia, 2007 in South Korea, ... 2015 in Thailand).

Now the International Young Physicists' Tournament gathers every year around 30 teams representing countries from nearly all continents. As an international organization IYPT has been awarded in 2013 with the Medal of the Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP). This may be regarded as a sign of high recognition of the IYPT in the world.

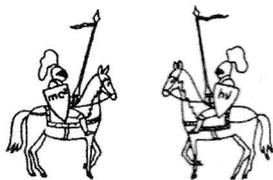
The IYPT, that was born in Soviet Union and organized in Russia until 1993, after many years comes back to Russia – to Ekaterinburg. This is the right moment to award Evgeny N. Yunosov, to whom IYPT is indebted for its origin, with the Honorary Doctorate of Ural Federal University.

Yours sincerely,



Andrzej Nadolny

Honorary Member of the Polish Physical Society  
Retired from the Institute of Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences  
IYPT participant as team leader or independent juror in the period 1989 – 20014  
Secretary General of the IYPT in the period 2002 – 2006



Prof Dr Viktor Koksharov  
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**Re: Evgeny Yunosov for a Dr. h. c.**

March 11, 2015

Dear Prof Dr Koksharov,

This is a letter of support to the initiative in nominating Dipl.-Phys. Evgeny Yunosov for the degree of Doctor Honoris Causa of Ural Federal University.

Evgeny Yunosov is most widely known as the Founder of the International Young Physicists' Tournament, IYPT. The IYPT is one of a few initiatives for physics education that has achieved sustained, tangible, and inspiring impact to the direct benefit of physics students and educators in over 40 countries around the globe.

His vision and work allowed the Tournament, which he conceived in 1979, to gain global reputation not only as the Physics World Cup, but also as a scalable education platform that attracts students, teachers, and university researchers alike. Followed by developing the format, regulations, and the framework of research-based problems, Evgeny Yunosov helped the movement climb to international prominence in 1988. In immediate recognition, he was awarded with the 1989 Arkady Gaidar Badge of Merit and the 1989 Lenin Komsomol Prize in Education from the Soviet Union. More recently, the IYPT was awarded with the 2013 Medal of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, IUPAP, for "outstanding contributions to international physics education", "in recognition of its inspiring and wide-ranging contribution to physics education that has touched many lives and countries, over the past 25 years."

Previously, some of our colleagues received honorary degrees for their IYPT activities; in one example, Bernd Kretschmer received a Doctor Honoris Causa in 2009 from the University of Basel in Switzerland for promoting the Tournament in German-speaking countries; in other example, former Secretary of IYPT Dr Andrzej Nadolny was proclaimed Honorary Member of the Polish Physical Society in 2015.

Two circumstances may substantiate such a nomination,

1. Such an award from Ural Federal University would be a visible landmark coinciding with the 29th IYPT 2016 in Ekaterinburg and highlighting a special role of the University in the IYPT movement;
2. The award would celebrate Evgeny Yunosov's influential contribution to physics education via IYPT. Such achievements of the IYPT have been celebrated by prominent international organizations, including the European Physical Society, the IUPAP, and CERN.

We thank you for discussing the nomination with the Academic Council of the University.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Ilya Martchenko  
IYPT Treasurer

International Young Physicists' Tournament  
European Physical Society  
6, rue des Frères Lumière  
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BIC POFICHBEXXX

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## Appendix: Short biographic sketch of Evgeny Yunosov



Evgeny Yunosov was born near Moscow in 1943 where he went on to earn his degree in physics from Lomonosov Moscow State University in 1966, working on low-frequency noise in backward diodes with Prof Dr Vasily Potemkin. He taught physics courses at Moscow State University and various Moscow schools since 1966, having tenure as the chair of the Physics of Oscillations department laboratory at Moscow State University.

In the late 1970s, he sought a student activity that would instill excitement in physics and teach practical skills. While science clubs or pencil-and-paper olympiads could not fulfill these goals fully, he believed that a new activity must combine competitive and cooperative features, stir debates, and allow students and teachers to gather around a motivating cause. Although the proposed problems would encourage the teams to devise own methods and solutions, it would be essential that all teams are familiar with the topics other teams have worked on, such that discussions are substantive and challenging, unlike what students would expect at a science fair.

Decades before *project-based learning* became a buzzword, Evgeny Yunosov's vision laid the foundations for the Young Physicists' Tournament and its iconic peer-review *Physics Fights*.

The 1st YPT, in March 1979, enjoyed considerable popularity and has been an annual event ever since, gradually gaining an international following. Evgeny Yunosov spearheaded the movement, published numerous papers on the new activity, built a participant community, and established cooperation with prominent figures in the Soviet Union. Starting from the summer of 1987, he identified a group of high profile supporters, including Vice-President of Soviet Academy of Sciences Prof Dr Evgeny Velikhov, renowned astrophysicist Prof Dr Georgiy Zatsepin, and Secretary of Komsomol Lyudmila Shvetsova, to assist his effort in bringing the Tournament to the international arena and ensuring that the IYPT is born prominent, stable, and reaching out to a global audience. The 1st IYPT, with 31 teams, enjoyed major national and international coverage in March and April 1988, and is widely regarded as an identifiable landmark in the history of physics education. Nonetheless, the IYPT soon became a story of remarkable resilience when the Soviet financial support ended in 1991, and the large-scale event could only rely on its own resources and international infrastructure.

The true value of Evgeny Yunosov's accomplishment goes far beyond mere creation of a competition and an organization. From the onset, he crafted the Young Physicists' Tournament as a portable education platform that could be deployed anywhere in the World; keep relevance on any scale, from an elective school activity to a nationwide or cross-border event; provide a toolkit to establish links between schools and universities; attract students with a wide range of academic achievements and interests; and eventually extend the reach to other scientific disciplines. This vision has been elaborated in publications for various audiences and interviews mostly dating to 1987–1990. Evgeny Yunosov has introduced the IYPT to some of the World's most influential scientists and public figures, from Prince Philip of the United Kingdom to President Ma Ying-jeou of Taiwan.

He lives in Moscow with his wife and co-author Tatyana Korneeva, and serves as President of the Foundation for Youth Tournaments, Honorary Vice-President of the IYPT, and Chairman of the General Council of the IYNT.

### Career highlights

- 1979 Conceived, pioneered the format of Young Physicists' Tournament;
- 1979 Launched the first local YPT in Moscow with 7 teams;
- 1980 Described the new format in an article *Turnir junyh fizikov* in *Kvant* 8, 57–58 (1980);
- 1988 Launched the first global IYPT in Moscow with 31 teams;
- 1989 Awarded with Lenin Komsomol Prize in Education "for great achievements in the field of education and in promoting creative abilities and intellectual capacities of young students" for creation of the IYPT;
- 1994 Lifetime position of IYPT Vice-President awarded by the International Organizing Committee;
- 2013 Celebrated the International Commission on Physics Education Medal 2013 "for outstanding contributions to international physics education" awarded to the IYPT;
- 2013 Launched the first global IYNT in Eskişehir with 16 teams.

ПРОЛЕТАРИИ ВСЕХ СТРАН, СОЕДИНЯЙТЕСЬ!

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ЦЕНТРАЛЬНЫЙ КОМИТЕТ ВЛКСМ  
присудил премию Ленинского комсомола

*ЮНОСОВУ Фаису*

ЗА БОЛЬШИЕ ДОСТИЖЕНИЯ В ДЕЛЕ ВОСПИТАНИЯ,  
РАЗВИТИЯ ТВОРЧЕСКИХ СПОСОБНОСТЕЙ  
И ИНТЕЛЛЕКТУАЛЬНЫХ ВОЗМОЖНОСТЕЙ  
УЧАЩЕЙСЯ МОЛОДЕЖИ

Копия верна:  
Директор  
школы-интерната № 20  
*В. И. Николаевко*  
"13" мая 2005 г.



**Translation:**

Central Committee of All-Union Leninist Young Communist League  
has awarded the Lenin Komsomol Prize to  
Fais YUNOSOV

for great achievements in the field of education and in promoting creative abilities and intellectual  
capacities of young students

**Citation for the Presentation of the 2013**

**ICPE Medal to**

**The International Young Physicists'  
Tournament**

**At the ICPE-EPEC Conference,  
Prague, Czech Republic**

**August 2013**



The ICPE Medal for 2013 is awarded to the International Young Physicists' Tournament (IYPT) in recognition of its inspiring and wide-ranging contribution to physics education that has touched many lives and countries, over the past 25 years.

IYPT is a team-oriented competition between secondary school students. It is sometimes referred to as the Physics World Cup. Each of its annual Tournaments consists of a series of "disputes" in which competing teams present and defend their previously prepared reports on challenging, open-ended physics problems that are set and publicised well before the week-long Tournament begins. The members of each team take on the roles of Reporters, Opponents and Reviewers throughout the successive rounds of the competition, thus gaining insight into the nature of scientific debate and the process of peer review. The outcome of each round and hence, ultimately, of the whole Tournament is decided by a panel of expert judges.

The idea behind the IYPT originated in the former Soviet Union, and the first Tournaments were held there, starting in 1988. Since then the movement has been successful in attracting increasing international interest and support. In 1994 the Tournament moved to Groningen in the Netherlands, and from there to other European cities. In 2004 the host city was Brisbane in Australia, and since then IYPT has become a truly global event with host cities in South Korea, China, Iran and, this year, Chinese Taipei. Each Tournament now involves hundreds of participants, young and old, novice and expert but also of great importance are the many thousands of individuals taking part worldwide through national heats and preparatory events.

IYPT has become a major landmark in the international physics education calendar, and ICPE is delighted to recognize its influence and celebrate its success with the award of the 2013 ICPE Medal for outstanding contributions to international physics education.