The Novosibirsk State Medical Institute was founded within the Tomsk Institute of Postgraduate Education in 1935, and renamed the State Medical Academy in 1999. Prof A. Triumfov - a pupil of the famous Russian scientist Prof V. Bechterev - was invited to come from Saint Petersburg to found the Neurological School, and was head of the Neurology Department for 4 years. From 1940 to 1970 the Department was headed by Prof D. Kuimov - a pupil of the outstanding neurologist Prof A. Kojevnikov from the large neurology school in Moscow. In 1970 the management of the Neurological Department was handed over to his student Prof A. Ierusalimsky, who is still a respected Professor of the Department of Clinical Neurology and Neurosurgery and head of the Novosibirsk Neurology School.

In the pre-war years, the Department of Neurology did not have any well-defined scientific direction. At the time of World War II a military hospital was set up in the Neurology Clinic and all the staff engaged in the problems of military neurology. Scientific research concentrated on the most pressing problems of that time: ascending traumatic neuritis, closed head injury, surgery of traumatic peripheral nerve injury, and the treatment of causagia. Prof D. Kuimov wrote the widely circulated monographs, 'Spinal epiduritis' (1947), 'Subdral haematoma' (1961) and ‘Paroxysmal paralysis’ (1966).
In 1940 a new scientific direction started – neuro-infections – because of the discovery in Siberia of a tick-borne encephalitis by D. Kuimov. But in-depth study of this problem only began later, in 1959, when the morbidity of this encephalitis began to increase and the Ministry of Public Health organized an epidemiological team with a virology laboratory headed by A. Ierusalimsky. The detailed analysis of the immunological, clinical and biochemical parameters of this disorder helped develop a novel method of treatment of nervous system virus infection by fragments of nucleic acids – nucleases [this work was awarded the medal of the Exhibition of Achievements of National Economy (USSA) in 1974].

Specialists in the Department of Clinical Neurology and Neurosurgery, jointly with the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, are still analysing genetic defects and heritable predisposition to the development of tick-borne encephalitis, and correlation with the severity of its clinical forms and immunity.

In 1966 a 'Stroke team' was created in the ambulance service and an intensive care unit for stroke patients was organized in the Neurology Clinic. ‘First care for the patient with stroke and treatment in the acute period’ was published in 1975 by A. Ierusalimsky and E. Ponomareva, later updated by A. Ierusalimsky, B. Doronin and V. Feigin in 1981. From 1971 to 1977 the Department took part in a multicentre epidemiological investigation of cerebrovascular pathology organized by Academician E. Shmidt (Institute of Neurology of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences). The City Angioneurological Centre for treatment of cerebrovascular pathology was established in 1980 and a stroke register was set up as part of the WHO multinational monitoring of trends and determinants in cardiovascular diseases, ‘the Monica study’. This gave, for the first time in Russia, a complete, integrated estimate of the burden of acute cardiological and cerebrovascular pathology. Twenty years of moni-
Twenty years of monitoring the incidence, mortality, prevalence and risk factors for stroke, and the medical care of stroke, has revealed both a high level of cerebrovascular pathology and the need to improve care.

Department of Neurology with Medical Genetics and the Department of Clinical Neurology and Neurosurgery. The former deals with medical education. The Head is Prof B. Doronin who has worked for many years on neuromuscular disorders and some years ago created a register of patients with muscular dystrophy. He is also the Head of the Scientific Students Group, which aims to improve their knowledge of neurology and to involve them in research that helps discover those with particular talents.

The Department of Clinical Neurology and Neurosurgery is headed by Prof P. Pilipenko. He was the first in Russia to use transcranial magnetic stimulation for investigation of the pyramidal tract in different neurological diseases: tick-borne encephalitis, multiple sclerosis, stroke and cerebral palsy. Nowadays we organize a certified teaching course in clinical neurophysiology. Evoked potentials, EEG and electromyography are more widely applied with each year for intraoperative monitoring. This has allowed us to investigate the influence of diabetes on the functional activity of the corticospinal tract; for the first time central motor conduction time delay was demonstrated.

The neurosurgical section of the Department of Clinical Neurology and Neurosurgery is headed by Prof A. Krivoshapkin. Postgraduate students are trained in a well-equipped neurosurgical clinic. Non-invasive neurosurgery is one of the main techniques nowadays, and operations using frameless neuronavigation, intraoperative electrophysiological monitoring and Doppler sonography are all routinely performed.

At the moment the population of Novosibirsk is about 1.5 million. Neurology and neurosurgery are amongst the most successful developing fields of medicine and we are using modern international approaches to the management of neurological problems. There are many clinics with magnetic resonance imaging as well as computerized tomography, well-equipped laboratories of haemostasis, and also where anticonvulsant blood levels can be measured. We are developing scientific collaboration with colleagues all over the world. In December, 2003, we organized a teaching course for the European Federation of Neurological Societies. The Novosibirsk Neurological School is one of the oldest and authoritative scientific schools in Russia and successfully combines experience, accumulated over decades, with the achievements of evidence-based medicine.