

# Otar Chedia

(1954 – 2024)



Otar Chedia was born on May 9, 1954, in Tbilisi, into a distinguished family of Georgian scholars. His mother, Tamar Zurabishvili, was a Georgian linguist and a research fellow at the Institute of Linguistics, while his father was a specialist in Old Slavic languages and a professor at Tbilisi State University. Otar completed his secondary education at School No. 60 and later at the Ilia Vekua Tbilisi Physics and Mathematics Public School No. 42. He subsequently enrolled in the Faculty of Mechanics and Mathematics at Tbilisi State University, from which he graduated with distinction in 1976, earning a Master's degree in Mathematical Sciences.

Following the completion of his university studies, he began his professional career at the Abastumani Astrophysical Observatory, working in the Department of Plasma Astrophysics from the very inception of the department. Mr. Chedia was among the key contributors to the establishment of the Georgian school of theoretical astrophysics. Through his noble character, calm demeanor, and collegial spirit, he enriched the scientific and intellectual life of the observatory. He was renowned for his exceptional erudition and unwavering integrity. In addition to his native Georgian, he was fluent in German, English, and Russian. His knowledge of chess and cinema was comparable to that of seasoned professionals. Alongside these personal qualities,

he was a highly accomplished scholar, holding a Doctorate in Physical and Mathematical Sciences (1998) and authoring numerous scientific publications.

His research activity extended beyond Georgia and included work at the Institute of Space Research of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow, as well as at the University of Belfast in the United Kingdom. His principal research interests lay in the study of magnetic field generation mechanisms in relativistic plasma, with particular emphasis on the magnetic field of the Crab Nebula.

Between 1995 and 1998, he served as a teacher-expert within the TACIS courses for Georgian civil servants. In 1998, he joined the academic community of Caucasus School of Business, later Caucasus University, where he initially worked as a lecturer and subsequently as a professor until the end of his life. He took great pride in being a member of Caucasus University faculty. An exceptional lecturer, Mr. Chedia provided generations of students with rigorous and comprehensive instruction in microeconomics and macroeconomics, leaving a lasting impact on their academic and professional development.

In January 2013, he was awarded the Order of Honor. Around the same period, he was diagnosed with an oncological illness. Despite his condition, he continued to teach as long as his health permitted—spending part of each year teaching and the remainder undergoing treatment in the United States, supported by his wife and son. Until his final days, he firmly believed that he would return to Georgia to bid farewell in person to his family, friends, colleagues, and students. After a courageous twelve-year struggle with the illness, he passed away on December 18, 2024, in the United States, at one of the country's leading clinics, having said his final goodbyes to his wife and son.

In January, through the support of the President of Caucasus University, Mr. Kakha Shengelia, and with the assistance of the Embassy of Georgia—an act for which his family remains profoundly grateful—Mr. Otar Chedia was laid to rest in his native land.

Professor Otar Chedia was distinguished by his diligence, intelligence, professionalism and generosity. He enjoyed well-deserved authority and love among colleagues and students.

The passing of Mr. Otar Chedia is a profound loss for his family and loved ones, for Caucasus University, and for the entire Georgian academic community.