

Dear Colleagues!

On behalf of the Russian Federation's Agency for Science and Innovations, I would like to congratulate each and every one of us on the first issue of the journal *Acta Naturae*, which is a radically new and totally unique journal in our country.

The modern post-industrial world is interested in those areas of knowledge which are related to both the fundamental problems in biological sciences, as well as to the practical applications of biology. Biotechnologies have not only become a priority for scientific development, but they also encourage significant growth in new economic sectors of the leading countries in the world. Applied problems solved with the help of biotechnologies have an effect on several industries and, on a different level, affect the country's national security.

The field of "Living Systems" represents one of the most important priorities for the research and engineering development of our country. The state reasonably considers it one of its major tasks to encourage the development of this sphere, both from the standpoint of developing science-driven and competitive economic branches and from the standpoint of bolstering security. The development of this priority direction is actively supported by the Federal Target Program Research and Investigation of First-Priority Aspects of Russian Science and Technology in 2007-2012.

The "Living Systems" priority direction is second only to the Industry of Nanosystems and Nanomaterials in terms of the amount of financing within the framework of the Federal Target Program. We assume that this direction will become the first priority for the state, since its development can positively serve a social purpose. It is biotechnology products that have such a great influence on the quality of life of the population.

Let us briefly consider some indicators that can reflect the activity of the Federal Agency for Science and Innovations within the framework of the Federal Target Program Research and Investigation of First-Priority Aspects of Russian Science and Technology in 2007-2012 devoted to the priority direction of "Living Systems."

Currently, work is being conducted under 299 state contracts within the framework of the "Living Systems" direction (as a whole, 7 different priority directions are being developed under 1,361 state contracts within the framework of the Federal Target Program). Some 403 organizations (1,391 in all) are named in the contract for the "Living Systems" direction as the lead organization or as co-executors. Some 939 applications for theme formation (3,180 in all) and 396 competition applications (1,957 in all) were registered and logged. Organizations representing 23 different departments took part in the competitions within the framework of the "Living Systems" priority direction. Some 17 departments on.

As for the financial support for projects within this priority direction, in the period from 2005 to 2008 the budgetary funds spent for this purpose increased from 1,168.7 to

3,242.6 mln roubles (23.5% of the total sum spent on the financing of projects on behalf of the Federal Target Program).

One of the factors that favor the rapid development of the biotechnologies is the interdisciplinary nature of the projects being conducted in this sphere. Not only biologists, but also specialists from different fields of science, such as physicists and chemists, are involved in these projects.

Therefore, when we speak of creating a unique journal, it is because this journal will foment improved relations between representatives from different fields of science. Moreover, by virtue of the fact that research projects under the priority direction of "Living Systems" are carried out within institutions or organizations with different departmental affiliations, we hope to see this new journal as a unique vehicle for interdepartmental exchange of information, which will be of interest to scientific organizations, investors, and federal departments involved in the development of the state, innovative policy in those spheres being profiled.

We hope that *Acta Naturae* will be useful to both representatives of basic sciences and to specialists within applied sciences. It is quite possible that applied sciences will be the object of greater attention, since the journal is devoted to technologies. Therefore, we would like to see the results of work which will find practical use in the materials published in our journal. In our opinion, the information policy of our journal shall pay significant attention to analytical industrial surveys focused on the development of different spheres within the living systems, their condition in Russia and in the world, the mechanisms of the commercialization of products produced during the course of conducting projects within the framework of the "Living Systems" priority direction. This approach will increase the interest paid by investors to this priority direction.

In conclusion, I would like for *Acta Naturae* to create its own particular niche within the range of modern scientific and engineering periodicals, while contributing to the progress of Russian biotechnologies and helping them become one of the fundamental pillars of Russian innovative economics.



Inna Bilenkina: "Biotechnologies are one force driving the intense growth of new types of economies in advanced countries"

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