

## FROM THE EDITOR

E. Lukevics (Editor-in-Chief)

Dear Colleagues!

Marking the Seventieth Anniversary of the discovery of the antibiotic penicillin, we decided to devote a special issue of "Khimiya Geterotsiklicheskikh Soedinenii" to this outstanding event in the chemotherapy of infectious diseases. The unexpectedly large number of papers and reviews submitted on the chemistry of heterocyclic antibiotics, exceeding the size of a single issue of the journal, forced us to separate the articles into two groups. The first included papers devoted to  $\beta$ -lactam antibiotics, and the second included papers on other heterocyclic antibiotics. As a result of such a division in the eleventh issue of the journal (the first group of papers) we published papers on the asymmetric synthesis of 3-amino- $\beta$ -lactams using the Staudinger cycloaddition reaction, investigation of the correlation between the biosynthesis of penicillin and the Pummerer reaction, the most recent researches in the region of the chemistry of monobactam, carbapenem, trimemes, and cephalosporins, including their silyl and germyl derivatives, the synthesis and investigation of the properties of  $\beta$ -lactams that inhibit not only  $\beta$ -lactamase but also human leucocytaric elastase and the growth of tumor cells.

The second group of papers began with an examination of the structure of antibiotics from *Xenorhabdus* spp. and *Photorhabdus* spp. and continues in the twelfth issue, which includes papers on antibacterial glycopeptide antibiotics (dalbaheptides), the synthesis of pyrrolobenzodiazepine antibiotics, and the antitumor antibiotics duocarmycins and the analogs of azinomycin.

The editorial board thanks all the authors who submitted papers for these jubilee issues of the journal and reports that it hopes in the future to publish papers and reviews on the latest achievements in the region of heterocyclic antibiotics.

The editorial board also thanks all the authors, readers, and compilers of the journal, who secured the regular publication of the journal "Khimiya Geterotsiklicheskikh Soedinenii" in 1998, and looks forward to fruitful collaboration in the New Year 1999.