

The Journal *Mikrobiologiya* Celebrates Its 70th Birthday

The establishment of the scientific journal *Mikrobiologiya* (Microbiology) dates back to 1932. The journal began to be published under the authority of Narkompros (People's Commissariat of Education), with the prominent Russian scientists E.E. Uspenskii, V.S. Budkevich, A.F. Voitkevich, A.M. Krinitskii, D.M. Novogradskii, and others on its editorial board. It was a recognized journal, which comprehensively covered a wide range of problems in the fields of general, agricultural, and industrial microbiology, in particular, questions associated with the physiology, biochemistry, and morphology of microorganisms and their application in the food, feed, and chemical industries, for instance, for processing plant fibers and wool and for manufacturing dairy products (in modern terms, the application of microorganisms in biotechnological processes). Considerable attention was also given to soil and aquatic microbiology and to microbiological methods of pest control.

It should be noted that the journal *Mikrobiologiya* originated in 1914 as *Zhurnal Mikrobiologii* (The Journal of Microbiology), whose organizer and first editor in chief was Academician G.A. Nadson, a professor at Petersburg University. Although that journal was not translated into foreign languages, each article in the journal was accompanied by a detailed summary (up to two journal pages long) written in English or German. Because of postrevolutionary difficulties and restrictions, the publication of that journal was stopped. The appearance of *Mikrobiologicheskii Zhurnal* (Microbiological Journal), the successor of *Zhurnal Mikrobiologii* and the predecessor of *Mikrobiologiya*, in 1921 was again largely due to Nadson's efforts. *Mikrobiologicheskii Zhurnal* was published by the Pasteur Bacteriological Institute in Leningrad. Finally, in 1932, the first issue under the present name, *Mikrobiologiya*, appeared.

The first editor in chief of *Mikrobiologiya* was E.E. Uspenskii. Since then, this position has been successively occupied by D.M. Novogradskii, B.L. Issatchenko, A.A. Imshenetskii, and, since 1988, by Academician M.V. Ivanov. At different times, the prominent Russian scientists V.S. Butkevich, B.V. Gromov, N.D. Ierusalimskii, E.N. Kondrat'eva, N.A. Krasil'nikov, S.I. Kuznetsov, M.N. Meisel', E.N. Mishustin, G.S. Muromtsev, I.L. Rabotnova, Ya.I. Rautenshtein, V.L. Ryzhkov, V.O. Tauson, V.N. Shaposhnikov, and others served on the editorial board. Members of the present editorial board, S.S. Belyaev, A.M. Boronin, V.F. Gal'chenko, E.L. Golovlev, V.G. Debabov, G.A. Zavarzin, D.G. Zvyagintsev, L.V. Kalakutskii,

G.I. Karavaiko, I.S. Kulaev, V.K. Plakunov, and I.A. Tikhonovich, fruitfully work in various fields of microbiology.

The journal now covers a wide range of problems in both fundamental and applied microbiology. Along with experimental articles, *Mikrobiologiya* publishes theoretical and review papers dealing with present-day trends in microbiological science, which makes the journal interesting for a great number of readers. The *Chronicle* rubric discusses the most interesting events in the scientific world. The *Book Review* rubric deals with the analysis of recently published books. It should be noted that it has always been important to *Mikrobiologiya* not to lose its scientific prestige. Even in the difficult war and postwar years, the journal managed to protect important and promising lines of research by publishing articles on microbial genetics and variability. The journal published principal articles that stimulated the development of fundamental and applied microbiology in Russia. Among these were the works by Academician Shaposhnikov and his colleagues, which provided the basis for the industrial production of antibiotics. Shaposhnikov's ideas of "biphasic" microbial processes considerably stimulated the investigation of microbial secondary metabolites. The works by Academician Issatchenko and Corresponding Member Kuznetsov published in *Mikrobiologiya* greatly contributed to the development of aquatic and geological microbiology. Nowadays, investigations along this line are being continued by Academician Ivanov, Academician Zavarzin, Corresponding Member Karavaiko, and their students.

Among the contributors to *Mikrobiologiya* were the State Prize winners Ierusalimskii, Krasil'nikov, Kriss, Meisel', Mishustin, and Skryabin.

Great attention is given to the development of biotechnological processes. Some microbiological methods of metal extraction from ores that were published in the journal are now used in the mining industry. For a series of articles dealing with oil microflora and the development of microbiological methods for intensification of oil extraction, several of Kuznetsov's students were awarded in 1999 the State Prize of the Russian Federation and the main prize given by the Publishing Company MAIK "Nauka/Interperiodica". In total, articles published in the journal have received awards from the company eight times over the last 7 years.

The cover-to-cover translation of *Mikrobiologiya*, which has been available since 1957, is well known to foreign readers.

It is common practice for *Mikrobiologiya* to invite authorities in particular areas of microbiology to write review articles for the journal. Some issues are devoted to a single topic. To maintain high scientific standards of publication and encourage authors to present new and important results of their research, in 1995 the editorial board established annual competitions for the best articles published in the journal. Competition winners receive a monetary prize from the editorial board, and their names are published in the journal. Since 1995, researchers from about ten Russian and foreign microbiological and related institutions have become winners of these competitions.

Special emphasis is placed on the scientific value of manuscripts, especially review papers, submitted for publication in the journal. All review papers and many experimental articles are reviewed by the editorial board members. If an article has doubtful points, it is

critically discussed at an editorial board meeting and may be recommended for revision or even returned to the author. On average, 15–25% of the received manuscripts annually submitted to the journal are sent back for revision.

Technical assistance to authors in properly preparing manuscripts is provided by E.G. Surovtseva and E.V. Lebedinskaya (who recently have replaced Z.A. Kira-Donzhan and L.S. Parkhomenko in this job) and the scientific editor G.I. El'-Registan.

Presently, the editorial board is striving to further increase the scientific level of publications, facilitate the process of manuscript submission, and accelerate the process of manuscript review and publication with the aid of computers.

Editorial Board