

Winogradsky Institute of Microbiology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Celebrates the 70th Anniversary of Its Foundation



The scientific staff of the Winogradsky Institute of Microbiology, Russian Academy of Sciences (May 2004).

Over the 70-year history of its existence, the Institute of Microbiology¹ was successively headed by Academicians G.A. Nadson, B.L. Issatchenko, A.A. Imshe-netskii, and M.V. Ivanov.

The prominent scientists A.N. Belozerskii, M.N. Bekhtereva, L.A. Zil'ber, N.D. Ierusalimskii, Yu.N. Karasevich, N.A. Krasil'nikov, A.E. Kriss, V.I. Kudryavtsev, S.I. Kuznetsov, M.N. Meisel', E.N. Mishustin, D.M. Novogrudskii, I.L. Rabotnova, Ya.I. Rautenshtein, V.L. Ryzhkov, G.K. Skryabin, V.N. Shaposhnikov, and many others worked at this institute.

Since its foundation, the institute has become a leading research center oriented toward the systematics, ecology, genetics, and biotechnology of microorganisms. Over the period of its existence, the Institute of

Microbiology has trained many scientists in general microbiology, some of whom are now leading researchers and heads of microbiological institutes in Russia and other former Soviet republics. The Institute of Microbiology has always been a foremost scientific institution. It provided the basis for the second most important microbiological institute in Russia, the Institute of Biochemistry and Physiology of Microorganisms in Pushchino, which initially employed many experienced researchers from the Institute of Microbiology. The Institute of Microbiology promotes productive research programs on a grant basis, collaborating with researchers from the Netherlands, Germany, Great Britain, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Finland, Spain, the United States, and China.

In spite of the great difficulties of the last decade, the institute has preserved its research and personnel potential. Fundamental investigations are performed in parallel with studies of applied character. Many of the microbiological inventions made at the institute have found extensive practical application. These are meth-

¹ Institute of Microbiology, USSR Academy of Sciences (1934–1991); Institute of Microbiology, Russian Academy of Sciences (1991–2003); Winogradsky Institute of Microbiology, Russian Academy of Sciences (since 2004).

ods for the extraction of precious metals and polymetals from low-grade ores, for the enhancement of oil recovery, for the treatment of solid domestic and industrial wastes, for the lowering of the methane concentration in coal mines, for the production of drugs of fungal origin, and so on.

The creative research activity of the Institute of Microbiology has been recognized by awarding it the name of the outstanding Russian microbiologist Sergei Nikolaevich Winogradsky by a decision of the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences of December 9, 2003.

This jubilee issue of the journal *Mikrobiologiya* has been timed to the 70th anniversary of the Institute of Microbiology. The issue presents a number of important

experimental and review papers dealing with the basic problems of general microbiology, microbial diversity, physiology, biochemistry, and ecology of microorganisms; microbial biogeochemistry; and biogeotechnology.

Today, a young generation of microbiologists is coming to replace the scientists who have laid the foundation of the Institute of Microbiology and greatly contributed to our microbiological knowledge.

This jubilee issue of the journal is for them, young hunters for microbes.

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