

## The Conference “Molecular Design and Synthesis of Substances with a Given Physiological Activity”

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In the last twenty-five years, drug design has become an independent field of research with its own specific conceptual apparatus. Following this worldwide trend, ten years ago the Council on Chemistry of the Association on Instructional Methods of the Universities of Russia made the decision to establish a new specialization, medical chemistry. Its task is the preparation of organic chemists in the area of synthesis and design of physiologically active substances and drugs. This new specialization, introduced at the Faculty of Chemistry of Moscow State University (MGU) and at other universities of Russia, has proven over the period of its existence its viability, importance, and necessity.

On November 15, 2006, at the Faculty of Chemistry of MGU, a conference for young researchers was held, “Molecular Design and Synthesis of Substances with a Given Physiological Activity,” organized by the Faculty of Chemistry jointly with the Institute of Physiologically Active Substances of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) and Orkhimed, a noncommercial partnership of institutes of the RAS. The organizing committee of the conference included Academician of the RAS N.S. Zefirov (Chair); Academician of the RAS V.V. Lunin, dean of the Faculty of Chemistry of MGU; Academician of the RAS Yu.N. Bubnov, director of the Nesmeyanov Institute of Organoelement Compounds of the RAS; Corresponding Member of the RAS S.O. Bachurin, director of the Institute of Physiologically Active Substances; and Corresponding Member of the RAS M.P. Egorov, director of the Zelinskii Institute of Organic Chemistry of the RAS (the executive secretary was O.N. Zefirova, associate professor of the Faculty of Chemistry of MGU). The main tasks of the

conference were to summarize the results of the teaching of medical chemistry at the Faculty of Chemistry of MGU, to present studies by young researchers, and to unite the Moscow community of medical chemists.

More than 90 people participated in the conference; 13 reports were heard and 14 poster presentations were made by undergraduate and graduate students of MGU (from the faculties of chemistry, biology, and mechanics and mathematics), the Nesmeyanov Institute of Organoelement Compounds, the Zelinskii Institute of Organic Chemistry, the Shemyakin–Ovchinnikov Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, the Mendeleev University of Chemical Technology of Russia, and the Lomonosov Moscow State Academy of Fine Chemical Technology. All studies presented at the conference were distinguished by a high level of professionalism and attracted the attention of the majority of those present, in this way imparting an exceptionally creative atmosphere to the whole event. The participants noted the high level of organization of the conference.

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Dean of the Faculty of Chemistry,  
Moscow State University  
Academician V.V. Lunin  
Head of the Department  
of Organic Chemistry, Moscow State University  
Academician N.S. Zefirov