

Yale *Department of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology*

PO Box 208103
New Haven CT 06520-8103
T 203 432-3460
F 203 432-6161

courier
Kline Biology Tower
219 Prospect Street
New Haven CT 06511

International Advisory Board Statement

Several Members of the International Advisory Board of the Shemyakin & Ovchinnikov Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, Russian Academy of Sciences took part in the **International Conference on Bioorganic Chemistry, Biotechnology and Bionanotechnology dedicated to the 55th Anniversary of the Institute and the 80th Anniversary of Professor Yuri Ovchinnikov** (September 15th – 19th, 2014). The scope of the Conference covered a broad area of subjects in modern biomedical sciences.

The speakers' cohort included **12 heads of institutional laboratories and departments** (*Alexander Arseniev, Dmitry Chudakov, Sergey Deyev, Vladislav Deigin, Alexander Gabibov, Vadim Govorun, Mikhail Kirpichnikov, Konstantin Lukyanov, Alexander Petrenko, Vladimir Pletnev, Eugene Sverdlov, Viktor Tsetlin*), as well as **11 foreign guests as speakers and chair of plenary sessions** (*Sidney Altman, Nadik Abdoulaev, Angelo Azzi, Burkhard Bechinger, Ernesto Carafoli, Norbert Dencher, Ferdinand Hucho, Jean-Luc Imler, Nikolai Modyanov, Richard Pestell, and Joseph Schlessinger*), and **16 speakers from other academic institutions and universities** of the Russian Federation (*Alexey Bogdanov, Olga Dontsova, Pavel Georgiev, Sergey Kochetkov, Sergey Kostrov, Sergey Kozin, Nikolay Myasoyedv, Sergey Nedospasov, Mikhail Ostrovsky, Lev Ovchinnikov, Vladimir Popov, Vladimir Shuvalov, Konstantin Skryabin, Alexander Spririn, Valentin Stonik, Valentin Vlassov*). Moreover, **eleven young scientists** employed at the Shemyakin & Ovchinnikov Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry delivered short **10 min talks** within the framework of the Conference Program. The Conference also included **poster competition of 34 young scientists**.

Most of the talks at the Conference were dedicated to the development of new tools in molecular and cellular biology, protein chemistry, structural biology, RNA world, as well as clinical application of underlying science for developing new treatments and diagnostic tools for cancer and other diseases. Some members of the International Advisory Board had a chance to visit institutional laboratories and were engaged in discussion on topics of mutual scientific interest. Our overall impression from this sight-seeing was highly positive. We came to the conclusion the Shemyakin & Ovchinnikov Institute is a dynamically developing institution integrating a well-established system of education of young researchers. This activity is managed and coordinated at the "Education Center" headed by Professor Tatiana Ovchinnikova.

Studies described in oral and poster presentations show that most of the scientific and research achievements of the Institute's faculty are published in top peer reviewed journals including Science, publications of the Nature or Cell group, and other high visibility journals. We were very impressed with the high quality of the science and presentations of the faculty members of the Shemyakin & Ovchinnikov Institute, including those of highly promising young researchers. We have therefore no doubts that the research environment, intellectual intensity and productivity of the Shemyakin & Ovchinnikov Institute are excellent; we anticipate that during our next visit at the institute more progress will be made. The Institute is also well equipped and benefits from the extraordinary animal facilities of the Pushchino Branch. All in all, we believe that its publication activity will increase and reach new levels to maintain its ranking near the top position among scientific institutions of the Russian Federation.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sidney Altman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

SIDNEY ALTMAN

Yale University, USA