
WELCOME ADDRESS

Dear colleagues!

The Forum “PROTIST–2016” aims at gathering the researchers in all protistological fields, from molecular biology to ecology, to stimulate cross-disciplinary interactions and establish long-term international scientific cooperation. The conference will cover a wide range of fundamental and applied topics in Protistology, with the major focus on evolution and phylogeny, taxonomy, systematics and DNA barcoding, genomics and molecular biology, cell biology, organismal biology, parasitology, diversity and biogeography, ecology of soil and aquatic protists, bioindicators and palaeoecology.

The Forum is organized jointly by the International Society of Protistologists (ISoP), International Society for Evolutionary Protistology (ISEP), Protozoological Society affiliated with Russian Academy of Sciences, and Protist action group within the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative (GSBI).

The Forum is hosted by the leading academic center of Russian Federation – Lomonosov Moscow State University. The University is well-known for its strong natural sciences tradition: 11 Nobel Prize winners and 6 Fields medalists were alumni or academics at this University.

The program of the Forum is going to be informative, dynamic and highly interactive. In total, we will have more than 130 oral presentations and about 100 poster presentations. I believe that our diverse group of speakers and panelists will provide profound insight into the various issues in different areas of Protistology.

This meeting aims at presenting some cool and intriguing, cutting edge basic research. At the Opening Plenary Session, Frederick Speigel (University of Arkansas, United States of America) will give a talk entitled “Finding a Place for Protistology in Biology, in General”, which will be followed by a lecture of Julius Lukeš (Institute of Parasitology, University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice, Czech

Republic) entitled “Diplonemids – new kids on the block”. The third lecture will be given by Alexey Smirnov (Saint Petersburg State University, Russia): “Phylogeny, diversity, and evolution of Amoebozoa: new findings and new problems”. Then Sandra Baldauf (Uppsala University, Sweden) will make a plenary presentation “The search for the eukaryote root, now you see it now you don’t”, and the fifth plenary lecture “Protist-based methods for assessing marine water quality” will be made by Alan Warren (Natural History Museum, United Kingdom).

There will be two symposia sponsored by ISoP: “Integrative co-evolution between mitochondria and their hosts” organized by Sergio A. Muñoz-Gómez, Claudio H. Slamovits, and Andrew J. Roger, and “Protists of Marine Sediments” organized by Jun Gong and Virginia Edgcomb.

The primary goal of this Forum is to bring together the globally renowned research leaders in all protistological fields, as well as invite the beginners and young scientists, friends, colleagues and project-partners from around the world to participate in an open discussion under the roof of the oldest Russian University, in the wonderful city of Moscow.

Finally, I can’t but mention genuinely that it has been a privilege and honor for me to serve as an organizer of the Forum PROTIST-2016. In particular, I thank all the colleagues who have provided help and assistance in organizing this conference. Also, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of the Forum attendees: you have traveled thousands of miles to come and join this conference, and we hope that you will find the meeting informative and worthwhile attending. Your presence at the Forum helps to make this event a real success, and your enthusiasm and positive spirit make the Forum days both productive and enjoyable.

Wishing you a successful Forum PROTIST-2016!

Sincerely,
Professor Yuri Mazei
Vice-Chairman