

Informational note

From 22 June to 28 June 2009 the Fifth Congress of the Vavilov Society of Geneticists and Selectionists at the Russian Academy of Sciences was held in Moscow. The congress was dedicated to the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin. To participate in the congress more than one thousand leading scientists and specialists in genetics and selection from 56 cities of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Uzbekistan and Ukraine registered to get an opportunity to discuss advances and difficulties in resolving key problems of genetics. Participants of the congress represented 180 institutions, two thirds of them belonging to state academies of sciences: to the Russian Academy of Sciences (55), Russian Academy of Medical Sciences (25), Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences (32) and about one third to higher school institutions (68). Participants of the congress included 15 Academicians (Members of Academies), 10 Corresponding Members of Academies, 67 Professors, 116 Doctors of Sciences, and 147 Candidates of Sciences. One third of the participants were young scientists (up to 35 years old). As the congress of geneticists was dedicated to the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin and 150th anniversary of publication of Darwin's "Origin of Species" the plenary reports represented on the first day of the congress dealt with the evolutionary theory. Prof. P. Borodin (Institute of Cytology and Genetics of the Siberian Branch of RAS, Novosibirsk) presented a report "Origin of Species: 150 Years Later"; Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences I.A. Zakharov-Gezekhus (Vavilov Institute of General Genetics, RAS, Moscow), "Evolutionary Theory after Darwin: Russian Contribution"; Academician C.G. Inge-Vechtomov (University, St. Petersburg), "Ecological Genetics and Evolutionary Theory"; Academician N.A. Kolchanov (Institute of Cytology and Genetics, Siberian Branch of the RAS, Novosibirsk), "Evolution of Molecular-Genetic Systems". The talk about the evolutionary theory continued at the afternoon integration lectures that completed every day of the congress. Among those were lectures of Academician E.D. Sverdlov (Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, RAS, Moscow), "Evolution Viewed in the Distorting Mirror of Cancer" and Academician S.V. Shestakov (Moscow State University, Moscow), "Evolutionary Genomics: the Role of Horizontal Gene Transfer". The scientific program of the congress included 15 symposia that allowed the participants to exchange experience and to conduct scientific discussions, among them, symposia "Evolutionary Genetics", "Population Genetics", "Cytogenetics", "Genetics of Man", "Neurogenetics and Genetics of Behavior", "Genetics and Plant Selection", "Genetics and Animal Selection", "Genetics and Selection of Microorganisms", "Genetic Engineering", "Ecological Genetics", "Genetics of Plant Development", "Genetics of Animal Development", "Molecular Mechanisms of Genetic Processes", "Genomics and Bioinformatics", "Symbiogenetics". For the first time within the framework of the Vavilov Society of Geneticists and Selectionists an attempt was undertaken to synthesize natural science and humanitarian knowledge at the round table discussion "Genetics, a Bridge Between Natural Sciences and Humanities" (coordinator, Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences N.K. Yankovsky).

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Scientific Secretary of the Joint Congress

Dr. I.V. Goldenkova-Pavlova