

International conference
‘Charles Darwin and Modern Biology’
St. Petersburg, Russia, 21-23 September 2009

The Organizing Committee:

The President of the Organizing Committee:

Zhores I. Alferov, a full member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Vice-President of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Chair of St. Petersburg Scientific Centre

Co-chairs of the Organizing Committee:

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Eduard I. Kolchinsky, doctor of science in philosophy, professor, the director of the St. Petersburg branch of the Institute for the history of science and technology, the Russian Academy of Sciences

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Members of the Organizing Committee:

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Vladimir O. Samoilov, a corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Professor of the Military-Medical Academy, the dean of the Medical Physiology and Bioengineering Department, St. Petersburg State Pedagogical University

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Zoological Institute, St. Petersburg

Institute of Cytology, St. Petersburg

I.M. Sechenov Institute of Evolutionary Physiology and Biochemistry, St. Petersburg

ST. PETERSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Biology and Soil Sciences

Vavilov Society of Geneticists and Breeders

ST. PETERSBURG SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS

International conference

CHARLES DARWIN AND MODERN BIOLOGY

St. Petersburg, Russia, 21-23 September, 2009

The conference is convened to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin and the 150th anniversary of the first publication of his famous book '*On the Origin of Species*'. It is intended to discuss theoretical problems and the history of modern evolutionary biology, the impact of Darwin's ideas upon science and humanity in the 19th-20th centuries and the key role, which evolutionary theory continues to play in responding to the challenges of the 21st century.

The conference seeks to address the following issues:

I. The development of modern evolutionary theory and its prospects; recent discoveries in the fields of molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics, ecology, ethology, physiology, developmental biology, morphology, palaeontology, anthropology and theory of evolution.

Correlation between micro- and macroevolution: evolution on the molecular and phenotype levels; the regulation of genome and the origin of higher taxa; the role of duplication and mobile genetic elements in the regulation of genome and in the evolutionary process, the evolution of functions and functional evolution, molecular evolution and phylogenetics.

Species and speciation: various concepts of species, their genetic and ecological structure, the founder principle and the species selection.

Microevolution: genetic drift, natural, sexual and other types of selection; behaviour as a factor of evolution.

Macroevolution: saltationism and gradualism, the speciation and the origin higher level taxa, individual development and evolution, symbiogenesis.

Megaevolution: the origins of life and the interaction of evolutionary transformations on different levels of the organisation of life - from molecular one to the level of biosphere, the origins and evolution of biosphere.

Anthropogenesis and the problem of human evolution in contemporary biology.

II. The 'Darwinian revolution' in historical perspective, its impact upon science, philosophy, ideology, society and politics in the 19th-20th centuries.

Charles Darwin and the making of the theory of natural selection.

"Darwinian" and "Non-Darwinian" revolutions in biology of the late 19th – early 20th centuries.

Multiple paths of the evolutionary synthesis in the 20th century.

Evolutionary theory in the 'divided world' between liberalism, communism and national-socialism.

Creationism and evolutionism in the early 21st century.

The languages of the conference are Russian and English.

Newsletter 1

The Organizing committee is happy to provide more details concerning the conference:

1. The conference venue is St. Petersburg State University
2. There is NO registration fee
3. Regrettably, but the organizing committee is not able to cover participants' travel and accommodation expenses.
4. The organizing committee will provide only the lift from the St. Petersburg (Pulkovo) airport to a hotel for foreign participants. Arranging a return trip from a hotel to the airport is the participants' responsibility.

5. Booking a hotel is the responsibility of the participants. The organizing committee, however, will provide a list of hotels located at a reasonable distance from the conference venue - see the website of the St. Petersburg branch of the Institute for the history of science and technology, RAS: <http://ihst.nw.ru/>.
6. The application should include: personal data (first name and surname, institutional affiliation), the title and an abstract of a proposed paper (800 signs approx.). See the attached application form. Applications should be submitted by October 1, 2008.
7. Successful applicants are requested to submit their papers by February 15, 2009. They should not exceed 2 pages (approx. 4000 signs with spaces). Please, send the papers as rtf file, Times New Roman, 12 pt, 1,5 space between the lines, first line of a paragraph indented at 1.25 cm, endnotes. Following these guidelines will greatly facilitate the publication of the conference proceedings. A sample paper can be found on the website of the St. Petersburg branch of the Institute for the history of science and technology, RAS: <http://ihst.nw.ru/>.

Mikhail B. Konashev
Vice-chairman of the Organizing committee

Anastasia A. Fedotova
Secretary

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