

3. 2023
popular science journal



SCIENCE

First Hand



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The road to one of the Chinese Altai's main attractions – the Kanas Natural Park – repeats one of the routes of the Great Silk Road, a path followed by ancient trade caravans

Complete regeneration of skin lesions in spiny mice is attributed to the activation of genes operating during embryo development

A Journal
for Inquisitive People

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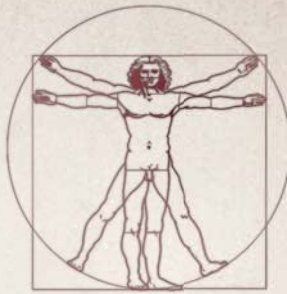
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into English by A. Kobkova



*“The natural desire
of good men is knowledge”*
Leonardo da Vinci

Periodical Popular Science Journal

Published since January 2004
Three issues a year
Founders: Siberian Branch of the Russian
Academy of Sciences (SB RAS)
Rzhanov Institute of Semiconductor Physics
(SB RAS)
Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography
(SB RAS)
Limnological Institute (SB RAS)
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(SB RAS)
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Fundamental Medicine (SB RAS)
Trofimuk Institute of Oil and gas Geology
and Geophysics (SB RAS)
Limited company INFOLIO
Publisher: Limited company INFOLIO

**Address of the editorial office and
publisher:**
11, Zolotodolinskaya Street, Novosibirsk
630090, Russia
Tel. +7 (383) 238 37 25, 238 37 20
e-mail: lidia@info-press.ru,
zakaz@info-press.ru

The Journal is registered
at the Federal Supervision Agency
for Information Technologies and
Communications

Certificate EI No. FS77-37579
of September 25, 2009

ISSN 2310-3000

Date of publication: December 27, 2023

Open price

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Founder and First
Editor-in-Chief
(from 2003 to 2020)
of the journal
SCIENCE First Hand
Academician Nikolay
L. Dobretsov

Dear friends!

*Academician Andrey A. Trofimuk, one of the founders
of the Siberian Branch of the Academy of Sciences, devoted
nearly fifty years of his life to studying the oil and gas
potential of the vast Siberian region. Within a period of only
sixteen years, he took part “in word and deed” in the discovery
of more than three hundred oil deposits in West Siberia!
In particular, he contributed to three major oil discoveries
of the 20th century: the “Second Baku” in Bashkiria, the West
Siberian oil province, and the hydrocarbon deposits of East
Siberia.*

*One can hardly overestimate the significance of these
discoveries. Suffice it to say that during the Great
Patriotic War (1941–1945) in the Soviet Union, a tenth
of the country’s total oil output came from the “Second
Baku”. On the pages of this journal issue, the reader
will find a dramatic story of the discovery of Bashkir oil
fields, including the Kinzebulatovo one, which took place
concurrently with the Battle of Kursk. What makes the story
particularly valuable is the fact that it was written literally
“hot on the heels,” i.e., in 1947.*

*In recent decades, human life expectancy has increased
thanks to advances in medicine and improved living
conditions. However, 120 years is the limit that our species*

*will not be able to cross without the advent of new medical
and biological technologies. A crucial obstacle associated
with restoring organs and tissues might be overcome with
the help of the spiny mouse, the champion of regeneration
among mammals. This small tailed animal is able not only
to heal extensive wounds without scarring and restore injured
muscles and the heart muscle after a heart attack but also
regenerate a damaged spinal cord!*

*The American writer William S. Burroughs said once:
“It is necessary to travel. It is not necessary to live.” In this
new issue, the reader will make an exciting journey, together
with Novosibirsk researchers, through the Chinese Altai
to the final destination – the huge Kanas Natural Park.
This center of Chinese ecotourism simultaneously plays
the role of a nature reserve, a landscape park, and a historical
and ethnographic open-air museum; its main natural
showplace – Lake Kanas, the abode of the mythical monsters
Hu Guai – is called the Enchanting Lake for a good reason.
The valleys around the lake are a real landscape “paradise.”
Here, a modern traveler can experience the magic of nature,
which filled the souls of our ancestors with the joy of existence
and supported them in exploring the great expanses that lay
in front of them.*

*Editorial board and editorial office
of the journal SCIENCE First Hand*

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