



Dear friends!

Among the materials published in this issue of special interest are the sensational results of the examination of the embalmed remains of the famous “Altai princess” discovered in 1993 in the “frozen” grave on the Ukok Plateau, Eastern Altai. The first burials with mummified bodies belonging to Pazyryk culture were found in the middle of the last century. Of all these finds, however, it was the tomb of a young woman in a stand-alone tumulus in Ukok, together with an “accompanying” burial of a man and three riding horses, as well as with some rare foreign artifacts, that came into the public eye. The tomography of the mummified remains, performed in Novosibirsk, has shed light on the details of the life and death of the “Ukok princess,” as it supplied new evidence for the hypothesis offered by the archaeologists that this woman, who had lived two thousand years ago, had a high status of the one “chosen by spirits.”

Noteworthy are publications devoted to the topical problems of medicine including the study done by Novosibirsk researchers of Ku-antigen, the key protein for the “repair” of the DNA double stranded breaks, occurring massively in radiation oncology. Another fascinating issue is non-orthodox medical applications of well-known technologies. For example, today, magnetic resonance imaging is used not only for diagnosing but also for mapping the functional state of neural networks, which allows literally seeing the brain work in real time. The unique computer games developed on the basis of computer biomenagement by Novosibirsk specialists train the players to “manage” the virtual game plot through changing their physiological parameters, thereby revealing the organism’s hidden resources.

Lastly, together with our authors, the readers can go on an exciting journey to the Russian North-East to get familiarized with the traditional education of Evens, a low-numbered nationality of the North, who are distinguished for especial kind-heartedness towards their children, and to wander along the remarkable glaciers of the Barguzin Ridge, North Cisbaikalia, located below the snowline, where in theory no glaciers can form. The most keen travelers can go to remote Ecuador to see the ceramics produced using the technology tracing back to the Japanese culture of Jomon.

*Editor-in-Chief,
Academician, Russian Academy of Sciences*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. A. T. B.' or similar, written in a cursive style.