



Dear friends!

In this issue of the journal we present a wide range of the latest research in various knowledge areas, from astronomy and geology to archaeology and medicine, that involved Siberian scientists.

Twenty years ago, an outstanding discovery was made by Russian archaeology on the Ukok Plateau in the Altai Mountains: an intact “frozen” burial ground belonging to the Pazyryk culture containing the mummy of a noble-born woman (5th – 3rd cc. BC). In archaeology, “frozen graves” are a most singular phenomenon. Thanks to the permafrost, not only the buried bodies but the things made of organic material are very well preserved. The discovery of the unique burial grounds in the Altai Mountains had an international public response, and in 1998 UNESCO decided to include the Ukok Plateau in the List of World Heritage Sites.

An event of the century not only for the Russians but for the entire world community was the unique event observed in February 2013 – the fall of the Chelyabinsk meteorite, the largest of all the celestial bodies that have fallen to the ground after the famous Tunguska meteorite. Until recently, the construction of large area telescopes able to detect a relatively small asteroid approaching the Earth has been considered extravagant spending; the Chelyabinsk meteorite, however, will make many people revise their opinion.

Novosibirsk biochemists have discovered substances with anti-tumor activity in human milk. The genetically engineered analog of one of such proteins, lactaptin, can induce “suicide” of tumor cells, hampering the growth of metastases in the case of breast cancer, a leading cause of death in females. This potential antitumor drug is undergoing preclinical trial.

The journal has given the floor to an outstanding specialist in geology and oil and gas geochemistry, A.E. Kontorovich, an expert in global energy security, which is the focus of attention of the governments of all the leading countries. As is known, Russia has huge explored energy resources. In the future, Russian oil will come predominantly from East Siberia, where several gigantic and large oilfields are to be developed in the Krasnoyarsk Krai, and West Siberia with its enormous resources of the slate oil of Bazhenov group.

Academician N.L. Dobretsov,
Editor-in-chief

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N.L. Dobretsov', written in a cursive style.