

Way to go, INEOS RAS!

An unusually eventful end of the year led to some rescheduling of our traditional contest-conference —INEOS OPEN CUP, which inevitably affected the publication of the last issues of INEOS OPEN in 2019. Now we are rapidly closing this gap to get back into the swing of things since the second issue of this year. The results of the contest and the whole year will be summarized in the last, sixth issue of 2019, but now let me turn your attention to the anniversary conference "The Chemistry of Organoelement Compounds and Polymers 2019". The word "anniversary" entails at once two landmark events: the 120th anniversary of the birth of the founder of INEOS RAS—full member of the Academy of Sciences of USSR Alexander N. Nesmeyanov, whose greatness only increases since the times when he lived and worked, and the 65th anniversary of our Institute. During his life, Alexander Nesmeyanov established several organizations. To begin with, he put up the new building of Moscow State University. However, we believe that the most important his work is INEOS RAS, for many reasons.

First of all, the foundation of INEOS RAS marked the emergence of the so-called third chemistry—organoelement chemistry. The field is still rapidly growing and developing. To support this statement, I would like to mention a recent review on the chemistry of organoelement compounds, which encompassed a whole issue of *Russian Chemical Reviews*, our flagship scientific journal on chemistry. This review steers for the future. Its coauthors represent seven institutes of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow State University, St Petersburg University, and Lobachevsky University (Nizhny Novgorod). To rephrase a well-known expression of Mikhail Lomonosov, the organoelement chemistry holds out its hands far and wide.

The conference was completely on a par with these anniversaries. The outstanding reports were presented by the recognized experts in organometallic and organoelement chemistry: Prof. Christophe Copéret, Prof. Armando Pombeiro, Prof. Burkhard König, and many others. The polymer chemistry community was represented by the foreign members of the Russian Academy of Sciences Prof. Krzysztof Matyjaszewski and Prof. Martin Möller (also a head of the Laboratory at INEOS RAS), Prof. Sergei S. Sheiko, and Prof. Marina Vamvakaki. Interesting talks were given by the corresponding members of RAS Valentine P. Ananikov and Vladimir P. Fedin. Our Institute was prominently represented by the full member of RAS Alexei R. Khokhlov, Prof. Vadim A. Davankov, and Prof. Natalia V. Belkova. The conference was carried out in the spirit of international cooperation. Our genius founder, Alexander Nesmeyanov always paid particular attention to it. It is important that we nailed it!

Secondly, the foundation of a new institute contrasted strongly with the existing trends. Alexander Nesmeyanov got an opportunity to invite prominent specialists from different fields of chemistry and used it to gather top-class staff members, which included Ivan L. Knunyants, Kuzma A. Andrianov, Alexander I. Kitaigorodsky, Grigorii L. Slonimskii, Dmitry A. Bochvar and many other leading personalities, who were scattered over different institutions for applied sciences but had broad-minded approaches and perception of perspectivity. This created a special atmosphere of robust competitiveness and cooperation. To a certain extent, our open contest-conference and journal have the same goals: the search for new stars and organization of cooperation with them.

There is also a third tradition that distinguished INEOS RAS from many other research organizations of that time: gender equality, although we did not use this term in those days. The group leaders and professors were equally represented by both bright men and fair ladies. How about these names: Tatyana M. Frunze, Silvia A. Pavlova, Nadezhda E. Kolobova, Svetlana V. Vinogradova, Rakhil Kh. Freidlina, Margarita I. Rybinskaya, Zinaida N. Parnes, Tatyana A. Mastryukova, Larisa I. Makarova, Larisa A. Leites, Dzidra R. Tur, Irina L. Odinets, Nina P. and Natalya P. Gambaryan. This list goes on and on. And what about now? The members of INEOS RAS administration and the winners of our contest testify: there are women leaders at our Institute. Hence, INEOS RAS keeps living according to its traditions, which we must remember on the anniversaries, use to coordinate the positions and move ahead.

Sincerely yours,
Editor-in-Chief
Prof., Full Member of RAS
Aziz M. Muzafarov