

Dear colleagues,

This is a special year that marks the 150th anniversary of the discovery of the periodic trends by the eminent Russian scientist Dmitri I. Mendeleev and the establishment of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements. Our fourth issue in 2019 is devoted, first of all, to this significant event. We are also pleased to welcome the full member of the Russian Academy of Sciences Yuri N. Bubnov on the occasion of his jubilee. He headed INEOS RAS for a long time and continues to work actively for the welfare of the Institute, science in Russia and organoelement chemistry. You can find [*a special report*](#) dedicated to his anniversary in this issue, but now let me return to the global scale event.

Among numerous events commemorating the International Year of the Periodic Table in Russia, the recently concluded 21st Mendeleev Congress on General and Applied Chemistry, undoubtedly, appeared to be the most important one. Traditionally the Mendeleev Congress is the biggest chemical forum in our country, which is carried out every five years. This year the forum reached a vast audience from all over the world, including the Nobel Prize winners and full members of the Russian Academy of Sciences along with fledgling undergraduate and graduate students and ambitious PhD students.

This forum appeared to be an event of the national importance. The organizing committee was headed by Dmitry A. Medvedev, who spoke at the opening ceremony and encouraged the audience with the governmental support of the development of science in Russia and wished new high-impact achievements. It is nice to know that the Russian Academy of Sciences headed by the full member of RAS Alexander M. Sergeev and, especially, our colleague from INEOS, the full member of RAS Alexei R. Khokhlov actively contributed to all the commemorative events of the anniversary year to give it international resonance.

The Congress was perfectly organized, in particular, owing to the efforts of the President of the Mendeleev Russian Chemical Society, the full member of RAS Aslan Yu. Tsivadze, the corresponding member of RAS Yulia G. Gorbunova, their numerous assistants and volunteers from Saint Petersburg Mining University and the Chemistry Department of Saint Petersburg State University. The work of the local organizers, our colleagues from St. Petersburg, was coordinated by the heads of St. Petersburg Department of the Mendeleev Society, the members of RAS Anatoly I. Rusanov and Vadim Yu. Kukushkin. I'm going into all these details because I am sure that the country should know its heroes. To carry out worthily such an event that engages so many structures from different state agencies or even beyond any agency is a very complex task. And it is gratifying to note that our colleagues have successfully accomplished it. We congratulate them and thank for the enormous work and self-sacrifice.

I'm not going to analyze the scientific outcomes of the Congress; this is simply impossible to make in a brief introduction. But I would like to note an outstandingly high level of the plenary lectures delivered by prominent researchers, such as Prof. J.-M. Tarascon and Prof. E. Coronado, both from the viewpoint of the presented findings and the presentation level itself.

It was simply impossible to take part in all sessions, parallel symposia, and round table discussions (that is the reason why I don't like huge scientific meetings). INEOS RAS was properly represented at the Congress by the key and invited lectures of Prof. M. Möller, Ya. Z. Voloshin, N. V. Belkova, A. A. Trifonov, and K. A. Lyssenko. Oral and poster presentations were delivered by many scientists from INEOS RAS, including young researchers and PhD students. At the end of the year, I will return to the outcomes of the Congress and its decisions with the more critical analysis, but now I would like to finish my editorial by mentioning one of the international events which took place during the Congress. The associate editor of INEOS OPEN, director of INEOS RAS Alexander A. Trifonov was awarded with a degree of the Officer of Order of Academic Palms (France). We sincerely congratulate him on this event. At the awarding ceremony, A. A. Trifonov made an impressive speech in French, once again confirming the well-deserved honor.

On this positive note, let's proceed to the new issue of INEOS OPEN.

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