

December-January guests of our department.

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Al-Farabi Kazakh National University hosted **Prof. Leonid Omelyanchuk**. He is one of leading Russian researchers in fields of molecular genetics and cell biology. He defended his Ph.D. thesis in 1987 and 10 years later managed to set up own lab on cell cycle at the Institute of Genetics and Cytology of Siberian Branch of Russian Academy in Novosibirsk. Since 2011 the lab belongs to newly created Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology. Dr. Omelyanchuk's major teaching courses at Novosibirsk University are Genetics of Cell Cycle, Molecular Mechanisms of basic genetic processes, General and Molecular Genetics, Practical Course on Drosophila Development and some others. Our guest is involved in Finnish and French bilateral projects. He established two fellowships to Ms. Osada Khamdiyeva and Ms. Marzhan Tazhibayeva, Ph.D. fellow and undergraduate, respectively, which have actively taken part in our guest's workshop on oncology and cell cycle issues.

We have also hosted **Prof. Vladimir Stegnij** from Tomsk University. This was his third visit to our department. His lectures were dedicated to chromosome and systemic mutations, gene and enzyme systematics, as other aspects of cytogenetic mechanisms of macroevolution. Final lectures were devoted to heterochromatin modifications, macroevolutional trends in genetic recombination, genome stability and species formation. Prof. Stegnij offered a fellowship handed the day before yesterday, on January, 12 to Ms. Anna Lovinskaya, Ph.D. fellow, that has participated in our guest's seminars on genome macroevolution and cytogenetic studies.

Prof. Dos Sarbassov visited the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics again in the end of November, 2014. This time he met the students through the Association of Faculty Graduates (see picture enclosed).

Yesterday, on January 13, we met **Dr. Robyn A. McCutcheon**, Officer of Environment, Science, Technology and Health for Central Asia, US Embassy, Kazakhstan. It was fine opportunity to tackle issues of scholars and teachers exchanges via using the ongoing Fullbright Programme, individual grant activities as future collaborative plans to be drafted after forming special US-KZ working groups for science and technology. Dr. Robyn A. McCutcheon has made very positive impression in terms of future prospects for diverse levels of collaboration in Kazakhstan and regionwide. Drs Aizhan Zhussupova and Erica Dzhangalina, department readers, told about their American experience by Fullbright program at the University of Michigan, and bean as other department's germplasm collections as possible collaboration in this direction as Biomuseum's development.



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