

# Letter from Russia.....

The prestigious Russian Lomonosov State University (MSU) was the venue for an international symposium on biodiagnosics. The event held late last year was a collaboration between the university and the SETAC Russian Language Branch (RLB). A resounding success, the winning formula integrated presentations from scientists eminent in their field and student researchers yet to make a mark for themselves.

The winter snow was just beginning to fall on Moscow, and a spirit of jovial and enthusiastic buzz was apparent amongst the delegates. Some of whom had travelled from as far a field as Vladivostok; a flight to Moscow of 9 hours and time difference of 7 hours. This illustrated the vast geographical catchment for one of SETAC Europe's newest branch.



Keynote speakers included Diane Henshel (US), Kirit Wadhia (UK) and Anne Kahru (Estonia). Vera Terekhova (RLB president) presided on the proceedings and co-ordinated the activities. The success of the event indubitably was attributable to the excellent organisation implemented by the local organising committee.

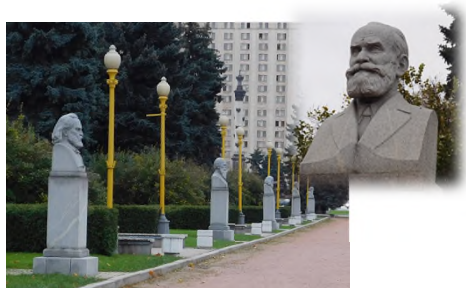


Event's program ensured the inclusion of diverse and pertinent presentations covering aspects of traditional strategies and cutting-edge developments. This due in no small part to the sterling work of the science committee. Interestingly, host facilities at MSU provided an inspiring ambience of ultra-modern and pre-perestroika. Programme duration of 4 days incorporated prominent research findings, student focused presentations and workshops. Exhibits from sponsors generated additional interest. The SETAC drive to enthuse, inspire and involve young scientists was definitely apparent. A dedicated poster session provided a platform for vibrant interaction. Furthermore, flash presentations provided the opportunity to enhance delivery skills.



MSU is named after the famous Russian writer and scientist, Mikhail Vasilyevich Lomonosov. The corridors of this grandiose establishment has witnessed many more scientists of notable fame and also claims to house the tallest educational building in the world. Affiliated with the university are 11 Nobel laureates. MSU is the alma mater of Anton Chekhov and Mikhail Gorbachev.

The line of prominent busts in the gardens of MSU is a vivid reminder of the formidable accomplishments attributed to Russian scientists.



LMSU is not only a centre of excellence but houses a wealth of artefacts in its unique and opulent museum.



LMSU's main building façade is a landmark in the Moscow skyline. The rotunda chamber in the topmost floor of the building provided a grand setting for the discussion forum for the RLB. Discussion matters included the forthcoming SETAC Europe meetings in Brussels (2017) and Helsinki (2018), RLB council composition, development of sub-branches and the event's outcome and implications for the future.



It was fitting that in this setting at some elevation, the sterling work of president Vera Terekhova was given a deserving salute.



Whilst Vera as immediate past president will continue to provide the momentum for continuity, in-coming president Kamila Kydralieva having played a significant role in organisation and success of the symposium and RLB proceedings is set to take RLB to greater heights. Kamila will be supported by Vice-president George Pushkov as the next chapter opens in the progress and growth of RLB.