

BIOLOGY + MATHEMATICS = LIFE

How can mathematics be used to solve problems in biology? This is one of the main questions discussed at the international conference BIOMATH 2014. More than 80 scientists, coming from more than 20 countries from all over the world take part in it. They present the most recent results from their research. “Biomathematics is a branch of science where many different fields meet—mathematics, biology, physics, chemistry, engineering, etc. It is a comparatively new field of science, which is to develop in the future”, explains Prof. Svetoslav Markov from the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Most of the specialists in the field do not have a degree in biology, but they look for applications of their research in this sphere. Their research can help solving the greatest challenges facing humanity in medicine, ecology, biology.

BIOMATH 2014 is the fifth edition of the conference. It was organized for the first time in 1995. The second edition was held in 2011 due to lack of financial resources. Traditionally, the participation of scientists from RSA and USA is the strongest, explains Assoc. Prof. Nina Pesheva from the Institute of Mechanics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. The interest towards the conference is growing and the main reason for this is the quality of the talks. At the last four forums, 116 scientific talks were delivered and more than the half of them lead to papers in reputable scientific journals.

Together with the forum, a School of Young Scientists is being held. This year, more than 25 young people took part in it. It is integrated in the program of the conference and, thus, scientists from different generation are gathered together. “After we integrated the conference and the School of Young Scientists, it cannot be told anymore who is the teacher and who is the student”, says Prof. Markov. The other nonstandard thing is the structure of the conference—there are no parallel sessions, devoted to special topics. On the contrary, the organizers arrange the talks in such a way that the covered topics are as diverse as possible. Thus, the scientists can hear talks in different fields and get new ideas from them.

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