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EDITORIAL

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## Moscow University Biological Sciences Bulletin—A New Era of Evolution (2007–2013)

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**Abstract**—The paper considers the history of how the scientific journal *Moscow University Biological Sciences Bulletin* (MUBSB) evolved during the last 7 years. It is the English edition of the Russian scientific peer-reviewed journal of the School of Biology of Lomonosov Moscow State University *MSU Vestnik (Herald). Series 16. Biology*. MUBSB is published by Allerton Press, a member of the Nauka/Interperiodica International Academic Publishing Company since 2007. The rapid progress of MUBSB in recent years is apparently due to the journal having been distributed since 2007 by the internationally renowned Springer publishing consortium that places electronic versions of all articles on its website, which has, to all appearances, led to a manifold increase in the number of journal subscribers. As a result, the number of downloads of MUBSB papers from the publishing company website also raised by an order of magnitude from 2007 to 2013. The growing popularity of the journal is noted to have led to its inclusion in a number of international databases, and this, in turn, has increased its attractiveness for a large number of authors, including Russian nonmembers of Moscow State University, as well as scientists from research institutes and universities of other countries. The main features of the spectrum of the papers published in MUBSB are briefly considered.

**Keywords:** Moscow University Biological Sciences Bulletin, journal development history, MAIK Nauka/Interperiodica, Springer, Allerton Press, Scopus, papers on biology.

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*Moscow University Biological Sciences Bulletin* (MUBSB) is the English edition of the scientific, peer-reviewed journal of the School of Biology of Lomonosov Moscow State University *MSU Vestnik (Herald). Series 16. Biology*. For many years, MUBSB has been published by the Allerton Press (American publishing house), a member since 2007 of the Nauka/Interperiodica International Academic Publishing Company formed in 1992. The founders of the latter are the Russian Academy of Sciences and American Pleiades Publishing, Inc. Since 2007, MUBSB has been distributed by the internationally renowned company Springer Science + Business Media (which is also known as Springer Verlag or simply Springer) according to the contract between this consortium and Pleiades Publishing, Inc.

The editorial board of MUBSB includes many well-known scientists, among which there are seven full members and four corresponding members of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The editorial board is headed by a full member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Dean of the School of Biology of Moscow State University M.P. Kirpichnikov.

Owing to its specificity, MUBSB is a multidisciplinary edition; therefore, it publishes the works devoted to numerous aspects of both theoretical and experimental biology, which makes it interesting for scientists who belong to the most varied branches of biological science. In particular, papers touch upon the problems of ecology, biomedicine, botany, zoology, molecular biology, embryology, plant and animal physiology, biochemistry, biophysics, genetics, cytology, virology, immunology, microbiology, gerontology, evolutionary biology, biotechnology, bioengineering, etc.

The journal publishes approximately 40 papers per year in total (four quarterly issues).

MUBSB is indexed in many international databases: Google Scholar, CAB International, Academic OneFile, CAB Abstracts, Gale, Global Health, Health Reference Center Academic, OCLC, and Summon by Serial Solutions.

Since 2011, MUBSB is also present in one of the most well-known databases of this type—Scopus. This electronic resource contains both separate papers from the journal and its own page with all scientometric indices [1]. MUBSB also has its own page on the

widely renowned SCImago Journal & Country Rank scientific portal [2].

We would also like to emphasize that the Russian edition of the journal has been a member of the so-called “list of the Higher Attestation Commission” for many years (the list of Russian scientific peer-reviewed journals, in which the main scientific results of dissertations for scientific degrees of doctors and candidates of sciences must be published). This list specially noted the edition as “included in international citation databases.”

The circumstance that MUBSB has been distributed in recent years by the Springer company, as we have already mentioned, is apparently what has played the decisive role in the rapid development of the journal. Now, there are websites in English of both the paper [3] and electronic [4] editions of MUBSB on the Internet, which makes all published papers available to the world scientific community.

In this connection, both the number of papers from MUBSB downloaded by readers of the entire world from the site of Springer publishing house and number of subscribers to the electronic edition of the journal have multiply increased for the past 7 years.

It is necessary to emphasize that if MUBSB earlier published exclusively the works by scientists and post-graduates of the School of Biology of Moscow State University (properly speaking, the Russian edition was created for this purpose as early as November 1946), at present a large number of published papers were created within the cooperation of the School specialists with scientists from other scientific organizations of both Russia and near-abroad and far-abroad countries. In addition, owing to the corresponding changes in the editorial policy, at present we periodically publish papers written by authors who do not deal with the School of Biology of Moscow State University.

In particular, for the period under consideration, it has published approximately 50 works performed in cooperation with scientists from different institutes of the Russian Academy of Sciences, as well as only by them (see, in particular, [5–14]). In addition, papers in MUBSB (2007–2013) were written with the participation of specialists from the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences [15–16], Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation [17], and the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences [14, 18–21].

As for the papers published in MUBSB that were written together with colleagues from other countries, we have taken the first place in this indicator among all the indexed in international databases journals, which are published by Moscow State University [22].

In 2007–2013, our colleagues from Belarus [23, 24], Vietnam [25], Israel [26], Iran [27, 28], China [29–30], Netherlands [31], United States [32–35], and Finland [36, 37] published their works in MUBSB.

To conclude, we would like to emphasize that we do not stop at what has been achieved, and MUBSB continues to develop and change. In particular, in addition to the “classical” headings that have existed in the journal for decades (“Physiology,” “Microbiology,” “Embryology,” “Mycology and Algology,” “Fauna, Flora,” etc.), new headings that reflect the corresponding changes in modern biological science have appeared. Thus, in connection with the sharply increased interest in studying the mechanisms of aging and longevity, we added to the journal the “Gerontology” heading, in which five articles have already been published by early 2014 [13, 30, 38–40]. These papers touch upon both the problems of teaching gerontology and biology of aging in the higher school and methodology of studies aimed at searching of prospective geroprotectors (factors that are able to decelerate human and animal aging) in experiments on cultured cells. Several more papers on the topic have already been accepted for publication.

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