

PRESS RELEASE of the V INTERNATIONAL WINTER SCHOOL “PHOTODYNAMIC THERAPY AND PHOTODIAGNOSTICS”

From 11 to 15 February 2019, the V International Winter School, traditionally devoted to the use of photodynamic therapy (PDT) and fluorescent diagnostics (FD) in practice, was held on the basis of P. Hertsen Moscow Oncology Research Center and Prokhorov GPI RAS. The school was organized by Russian Photodynamic Association, FSBI NMRRC of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation, FSAEI HE National Research Nuclear University MEPhI and Federal Publicly Funded Institution of Science Prokhorov GPI RAS.

The winter school on fluorescent diagnostics and photodynamic therapy has widely established itself as a research and practice event for students, postgraduates, research scientists, physicists and medical specialists working in the field of medical photonics and who want to improve their knowledge and practical skills.

In 2019, more than 80 specialists from the Central (Moscow, Obninsk, Tula) and the North Caucasus (Makhachkala) federal districts of the Russian Federation took part in the winter school. Among the participants were representatives of the following scientific areas: oncology, surgery, dermatology, urology, endoscopy, pharmacology, biology, biophysics, biochemistry, veterinary science. Specialists from practicing medical organizations (clinical oncology dispensary of Moscow and Tula, the Republican Clinical Hospital of Makhachkala, the Republic of Dagestan, State Budgetary Healthcare Institution Family Planning and Reproductive Moscow Health Department, Clinic of Modern Medical Technologies (KST-group), State Budgetary Healthcare Institution The Moscow State Public Health Institution of Health Moscow Scientific and Practical Center for Dermatovenereology and Cosmetology of Moscow City Health Department; scientific research institutes (P. Hertsen Moscow Oncology Research Center and A.F. Tsyb MRRC – branches of FSBI NMRRC of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation, NIOPIK SSC FSUE, National Research Nuclear University MEPhI, Prokhorov GPI RAS); business (LLC “Veta-Grand”, LLC “Company OPT-MMOL”) and educational centers (Pirogov Russian National Research Medical University, FSAEI HE National Research Nuclear University MEPhI).

The program of the winter school consisted of lectures and seminars. Part of the classes was conducted in a joint mode, for medical specialists and physicists the other part was divided by specialties.

The program of the school’s lecture sessions a wide range of issues was discussed, including analyz-

ing the market for Russian photosensitizers, developing and testing new photosensitizers (including from those made of natural raw materials), instruments and tools for conducting PDT and FD. Special attention was paid to modern development directions and the latest achievements of PDT and FD, as well as promising approaches in clinical practice. Lectures were given by leading Russian and foreign experts in the field of photodynamic therapy and photodiagnostics. Among others the following messages were read: “Russian photosensitizers in clinical practice”, “Targeted photosensitizers based on porphyrins, chlorins and their metal complexes”, “Photosensitizers based on natural pigments”, etc. Some reports were presented in English (“Immunological aspects of PDT”). Upon registration all participants were provided with the materials, including guide on photodynamic therapy.

In the framework of skills building session, students were introduced to device and operating principles of the equipment for FD and PDT of various localizations, with the peculiarities of their use in laboratory and clinical conditions. Specialists had the opportunity to get acquainted with the methodology of fluorescence microscopy, as well as work of a video fluorescence analyzer, installations for determining the concentration of photosensitizer in vivo, and other equipment. Also, seminars included the analysis of private clinical cases of the use of PDT and FD in practice.

During breaks students of the school had the opportunity to ask lecturers and class leaders questions of their interest, clarify technical details and features of the use of specific photosensitizers, devices and methods.

Listeners noted the high level of reports and skills building session at the School. A large number of questions asked and the interest shown to the event reflect the relevance and practical significance of conducting such educational programs.