

The Human Genome Project, started in the year 1990 and accomplished in 2013, had been a major challenge, a great achievement and a fascinating part of never-ending human quest for knowledge about ourselves. In the same year 1990, when the Baltic States declared the re-establishment of their sovereignty, our national research systems faced extreme challenges, too, but the new exciting opportunities were there as well.

These days, genetics is pervading research activities in the Baltic countries. Genetic identification of historic persons, modification of genes for selection and biodiversity, genetic medical diagnostics, and development of gene modification tools are commonly performed tasks. Our proximity to world class science ir this field is an indicator of what we have achieved.

The 16th Baltic Conference on Intellectual Co-operation "Genes: from the Past to the Future" will be held on the premises of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences. It will start at noon on 2 May 2. For 3 May, six speakers have already agreed to talk on various aspects of the formation of present-day population in Lithuania and the Baltics, including data from linguistics, archaeology, human genetics, botany and anthropology.

The working language will be English. In total, eight or more hours of lectures – which will also be accessible to the general public – are expected to be delivered by the top researchers of the Baltic countries. Two types of oral presentations – 15 and 30 minutes – are preferred. Up to 6-7 scientists from each Baltic country are invited to present their research results in agriculture, archaeology, biology, biotechnology, cytology, dendrology, ecology, forensics, forestry, geology, history, horticulture, and other branches of science where gene research is applied.

The leaders of the Baltic Academies of Science are invited to moderate the sections of presentations and to announce the honourable recipients of the traditional Medal of the Baltic Academies of Science.

The representatives of young researcher associations from the Baltic countries are encouraged to hold a satellite discussion on the genesis and development of the Baltic Young Academies.

On behalf of the organizers,

Prof. Vaidutis Kučinskas, full member of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences

Dr Andrius Bernotas, Head of the Organizing Department