

## Welcome Address of the President of the Union of Bulgarian Mathematicians

On behalf of the Union of Bulgarian Mathematicians, I would like to welcome the participants in the International Conference on Biomathematics - 2015.

Biomathematics is an important and rapidly developing cross-disciplinary scientific area. Working in biomathematics is a difficult task as it needs a basic preparation in mathematics, computer science and biology. Such a preparation can be achieved with serious effort and devotion. I am happy to see so many young scientists coming from distant parts of the world to present their work at this conference.

The UMB unites more than 1800 Bulgarian mathematicians who are actively involved in education. Looking at the scientific program I am happy to observe that education and science are integrated in this conference in a unique way. From the point of view of young scientists, this meeting looks like a School for young scientists resembling the classic "summer schools". On the other side, from the point of view of senior scholars, the meeting is a classic scientific conference with the presence of many doctoral students - nearly half of all the participants. I am also pleasantly surprised by the high scientific level of the meeting, ensured by the presence of the many established scholars, acting as plenary and keynote lecturers as well as coordinators of the young scientists' panel discussions and award jury members.

The Union of Bulgarian Mathematicians comprises 50 sections organized on regional or - topic principle. I am glad to observe that the organizers of the meeting belong to two of our especially active sections - the regional "Blagoevgrad" section and the research oriented section "Biomathematics and Scientific Computing". Both sections unite members of many distinct scientific and educational Bulgarian Institutes and Universities. These institutional units actively conduct education and research in a number of related scientific fields such as biomechanics, biophysics, bioinformatics,

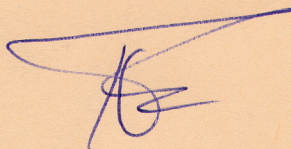


biotechnology, bioengineering, molecular biology, neuroscience, ecology, plant sciences, to mention a few of them. It is also remarkable to see that the two UMB sections collaborate in such an effective way - one section being basically involved in education and the other one in research.

The BIOMATH 2015 international biomathematical conference takes place for the 6<sup>th</sup> time in Bulgaria. I am very happy to welcome in our country so many renowned scholars as well as young scientists from so many different countries. This year for the first time the Biomath conference has a satellite edition in South Africa, which will follow in July 2015 and I would like to welcome this development - an excellent idea.

As a President of the Union of Bulgarian Mathematicians I am happy to see such a successful cooperation between the Bulgarian organizers from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the South-West University on one hand, and their colleagues from the University of Pretoria in South Africa on the other hand.

I wish to all the participants in the BIOMATH 2015 conference in Blagoevgrad, as well as the satellite BIOMATH 2015-S conference in Pretoria–South Africa, very fruitful conference work. I hope that you all will also enjoy your stay in this nice part of Bulgaria.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, elongated horizontal stroke with a loop and a vertical stroke intersecting it.

The President of the Union of Bulgarian Mathematicians