

Biographical notes

Slobodan Davidovic, Research Assistant in the Laboratory for Human Molecular Genetics, Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering, University of Belgrade (IMGGE UB). Education: 2010 – present, PhD student, Molecular biology, Faculty of Biology, University of Belgrade. Research interest: Analysis of molecular diversity in Serbian population based on mitochondrial DNA polymorphisms; analysis of cytotoxic and anticancer potential of bioactive compounds isolated from fungus and plants.

Boris A. Malyarchuk is a head of Genetics Laboratory at Institute of Biological Problems of the North (Magadan, Russia). In 2003, he obtained Doctor of Biological Science degree in Genetics in N.I. Vavilov Institute of General Genetics (Moscow). He studies genetic variation in humans and other animals in order to understand their evolutionary history and adaptations. His current research focuses on understanding the distribution of genetic variation in human populations based on complete mitochondrial DNA, Y-chromosome and whole-genome sequencing. Meanwhile, molecular phylogeography of Slavic-speaking populations is among his major research interests.

Jelena M Aleksic, PhD, Senior Research Associate at the Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering, University of Belgrade. She received her PhD in 2008 in population genetics at the Universität für Bodenkultur (BOKU, Vienna) and carried out post-doctoral research in 2011-2012 in evolutionary biology and phylogeography at the Ludwig Maximilians Universität (LMU), Munich. Working mainly with plant species and populations but applying her knowledge to other systems (humans and animal species and populations).

Miroslava V. Derenko is a Principal scientific researcher in Genetics Laboratory at Institute of Biological Problems of the North (Magadan, Russia). In 2010, she obtained Doctor of Biological Science degree in Genetics in N.I. Vavilov Institute of General Genetics (Moscow). Her background is mainly in human molecular and evolutionary genetics. Her current work focuses on molecular phylogeography of Siberian aboriginal populations, including such problem as human adaptation to extreme cold.

Vladanka Topalovic, Research Assistant in the Laboratory for Human Molecular Genetics, IMGGE, UB. Education: 2011 – present, PhD student, Molecular biology, Faculty of Biology, University of Belgrade. Research interest: analysis of the epigenetic mechanisms involved in the regulation of human SOXB1 genes expression during process of neural differentiation; studying the interplay between Wnt/ β -catenin signaling pathway and SOXB1 genes in NT2/D1 cells; analysis of the molecular diversity of Serbian population based on mitochondrial DNA polymorphisms

Andrey N. Litvinov is a Ph.D. student and junior scientific researcher in Genetics Laboratory at Institute of Biological Problems of the North (Magadan, Russia), where he studies mitochondrial DNA variability in human populations. In 2014, he graduated in Biology from the North-Eastern State University (Magadan, Russia). His current research interests focus on the population genetics and molecular phylogeography of Russians.

Katarzyna Skonieczna Ph.D. is a postdoctoral fellow at the Forensic Medicine Department at the Nicolaus Copernicus University, Ludwik Rydygier Collegium Medicum in Bydgoszcz, Poland. Her current work focuses on analyzing the variation of complete mitogenomes in both human and animal populations.

Urszula Rogalla, PhD, Research Assistant at the Institute of Molecular and Forensic Genetics, Chair of Forensic Medicine, Collegium Medicum in Bydgoszcz, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. She received her PhD in forensic genetics. Her major scientific interests include Y-STR and mtDNA analysis, kinship analyses, biogeographical ancestry testing and forensic genetics.

Professor Tomasz Grzybowski is head of the Forensic Medicine Department at the Nicolaus Copernicus University, Ludwik Rydygier Collegium Medicum in Bydgoszcz, Poland. His research interests include: population genetics, molecular phylogeography and phylogenetics, applied to the reconstruction of the prehistory of human populations. Over the last decade, he has performed many studies on the populations of Western and Eastern Eurasia, employing a variety of genetic markers (mitochondrial DNA, Y-STRs and SNPs and autosomal SNPs). He has pioneered the forensic applications of complete mitogenome analyses in Poland.

Academician Milena Stevanovic is head of the Laboratory for Human Molecular Genetics, IMGGE, UB. She received her PhD in 1990 in Biological Sciences, Faculty of Biology, UB. Her research interests include: studying the structure and regulation of human *SOX* genes expression; identification of control elements involved in transcriptional regulation and analysis of the roles of Wnt and Sonic Hedgehog (SHH) signaling pathways in control of their expression; investigation of the roles of *SOX* genes in maintaining pluripotency, cell fate determination and differentiation; studying the roles of *SOX* genes in oncogenesis; mitochondrial DNA analysis of Serbian population;

Natasa Kovacevic-Grujicic, PhD, is Research Associate in the Laboratory for Human Molecular Genetics, IMGGE, UB. She received her PhD in 2009 in Biological Sciences, Faculty of Biology, UB. Research interests are: mitochondrial DNA analysis of Serbian population; transcriptional regulation of *SOX* genes' expression; testing the bioactive components from edible mushrooms and analysis of their therapeutic potential; analysis of the effect of bioactive compounds on modulation of expression of selected *SOX* genes and well-known tumor suppressors and oncogenes.