

LITHUANIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

3 Gedimino Ave, LT-01103 Vilnius, Lithuania

Tel. +370 5 261 3651; fax +370 5 261 8464

Email: prezidiumas@lma.lt

<http://lma.lt/>

The Lithuanian Academy of Sciences (LAS) was founded on January 16, 1941. In its activities, the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences is guided by its Charter ratified by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania and other legal acts. The Lithuanian Academy of Sciences is a budgetary institution that brings together the most distinguished Lithuanian scientists and foreign scientists whose academic activities are related to Lithuania. The LAS is an independent expert and consultant of the Seimas, the Government and its agencies on research and higher education, culture, social development, economy, environmental protection, health care, technology, and other issues.

The Academy is implementing collaboration agreements with 26 foreign academies and other research centres; together with its partners, it carries out projects financed by the EU Structural Funds important for Lithuania's R&D. The LAS is the founder of the Wróblewski Library; it publishes research proceedings, academic journals, and informational publications. The Academy often plays host to national and international conferences, seminars by foreign scientists, scientists' meetings, academic readings, and exhibitions. On the assignment of the Government, the LAS organizes the activities of the Lithuanian Commission for Science Prizes; it has established 18 commemorative science prizes; it encourages young scientists and students to engage in scientific research by awarding each year 10 prizes to young scientists and 15 prizes to university students. Since 2010, the Academy has been giving 15 annual grants to young researchers.

According to its Charter, the LAS has the right to elect 120 full members (under 75 years of age) by open competition. The number of emeriti (over 75 years of age) and foreign members is not limited.

THE PRESIDIUM

The Presidium of the LAS includes: President Prof. VALDEMARAS RAZUMAS, Vice-President Prof. DOMAS KAUNAS, Secretary General Prof. VYTAUTAS BASYS, Members Prof. VLADAS ALGIRDAS BUMELIS, Prof. ALGIS PETRAS PISKARSKAS, and Chairs of the Scientific Divisions.

SCIENTIFIC DIVISIONS

The Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences (Chair Prof. ALEKSANDRAS VASILIAUSKAS) assesses the state and prospects for the humanities and social sciences; promotes the ideas of the harmonious development of Lithuanian studies, nationality and statehood; fosters the traditions and heritage of humanistic culture; upholds the values of law, justice and civic responsibility; determines priorities in Lithuania's economic and social progress. It also provides expertise in developing tasks, projects and strategies for the humanities, examines their state and exchanges with other cultures.

The Division of Mathematical, Physical and Chemical Sciences (Chair Prof. FELIKSAS IVANAUSKAS), jointly with other national and foreign research and educational institutions, deals with the problems of probability theory, mathematical logic, semiconductor and laser physics, theoretical physics and astronomy, electrochemistry and chemical technology, maintains relations with business partners and specialists in other scientific areas. It also formulates research guidelines for exact sciences, presents suggestions and takes an active part in solving the problems of the national knowledge-based economy.

The Division of Biological, Medical and Geosciences (Chair Prof. VYTAUTAS BASYS). The Division members representing major branches of biological, biomedical and geological sciences provide expertise, bring together scientists for closer cooperation, hold young scientists' conferences in the above areas, share their knowledge with teachers of secondary schools at annual conferences; in conjunction with State, science and educational institutions, organize national and international scientific events.

The Division of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences (Chair Prof. ZENONAS DABKEVIČIUS). The Division members address the topical issues of agronomy, forestry, zootechnics, veterinary medicine, environmental engineering, food quality and safety, agrarian economics and rural sociology with a view to solving the problems of national agriculture, forestry, and rural development; promote the expansion of agricultural research, the spread of results achieved and the cooperation with national and foreign scientific and educational institutions.

The Division of Technical Sciences (Chair Prof. GINTAUTAS ŽINTELIS). Its members representing various branches of technological sciences carry out, analyze and assess research programs and results in electronics, power engineering, computer science, mechanics, materials science and construction; they display their expertise in assessing the scientific research, projects, studies, innovations, competitive scientific developments and applications assigned and commissioned by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, the ministries, the Research Council of Lithuania and other institutions, provide consultations and make suggestions, take an active part in devising high-tech strategies and projects, expanding cooperation between scientific, educational and business institutions, stimulating the interest of young scientists in research and solving the urgent problems of science and industry.

THE WRÓBLEWSKI LIBRARY OF THE LITHUANIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (Director Dr. SIGITAS NARBUTAS). A universal library of State significance rendering its services in compliance with the needs of the Academy and other research and educational institutions.

THE EU SF PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY THE LAS

- Publishing scientific periodicals
- Devising and implementing the national system of science popularization

In its capacity as a partner, the LAS contributes to:

- the enhancement of the efficiency of the Centre for Physical Sciences and Technology and the LAS joint activities
- the implementation of the program of the Integrated Science, Studies, and Business Centre (Valley) Nemunas by consolidating partnership and institutional activities

- the expansion of the Lithuanian scientific and educational organizations' thematic networks and development of researchers' competences

SCIENTIFIC PERIODICALS

ACTA MEDICA LITUANICA

Editor-in-Chief VYTAUTAS BASYS

Tel. +370 5 261 4011; email: v.basys@lma.lt

BIOLOGY

Editor-in-Chief ALGIMANTAS PAULAUSKAS

Tel. +370 5 327 901; email: a.paulauskas@gmf.vdu.lt

CHEMISTRY

Editor-in-Chief ALBERTAS MALINAUSKAS

Tel. +370 5 264 9214; email: albertas.malinauskas@chi.lt

ECOLOGY

Editor-in-Chief VINCAS BŪDA

Tel. +370 5 272 9242; email: vincas.buda@gamtostyrimai.lt

POWER ENGINEERING

Editor-in-Chief EUGENIJUS UŠPURAS

Tel. +370 5 401 833; email: uspuras@mail.lei.lt

PHILOSOPHY. SOCIOLOGY

Editor-in-Chief ARVYDAS VIRGILIJUS MATULIONIS

Tel. +370 5 275 8667; email: matulionis@ktl.mii.lt

GEOGRAPHY

Editor-in-Chief KĘSTUTIS KILKUS

Tel. +370 5 239 8294; email: kestutis.kilkus@gf.vu.lt

GEOLOGY

Editor-in-Chief DONATAS KAMINSKAS

Tel. +370 5 239 8273; email: donatas.kaminskas@gf.vu.lt

LITHUANIAN JOURNAL OF PHYSICS

Editor-in-Chief EVALDAS TORNAU

Tel. +370 5 261 6915; email: et@et.pfi.lt

LITUANISTICA

Editor-in-Chief EUGENIJUS JOVAIŠA

Tel. +370 5 233 2278; email: lituanistica@gmail.com

STUDIES IN ART

Editor-in-Chief GIEDRĖ JANKEVIČIŪTĖ

Tel. +370 5 275 1898; email: giedre.jank@gmail.com

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

Editor-in-Chief ALBINAS KUSTA

Tel. +370 5 262 5775; email: albinas.kusta@asu.lt

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Director REGINA MATONIENĖ, tel. +370 5 262 4493

Editor-in-Chief AUDRONĖ ŠIMAITYTĖ-RIMKEVIČIENĖ

Tel. +370 5 262 7071; email: zurnalas@ktl.mii.lt

CONTACTS

THE PRESIDIUUM OF THE LAS

President Prof. VALDEMARAS RAZUMAS

Tel. +370 5 261 3651; email: prezidiumas@lma.lt, v.razumas@lma.lt

Vice-President Prof. DOMAS KAUNAS

Tel. +370 5 212 1714; email: d.kaunas@lma.lt

Secretary General Prof. VYTAUTAS BASYS

Tel. +370 5 262 2136; email: v.basys@lma.lt

Member of the Presidium Prof. VLADAS ALGIRDAS BUMELIS

Tel. +370 5 255 9140; email: vladas@bumelis.lt

Member of the Presidium Prof. ALGIS PETRAS PISKARSKAS

Tel. +370 5 236 6051; email: algis.piskarskas@ff.vu.lt

THE DIVISION OF THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Chair Prof. ALEKSANDRAS VASILIAUSKAS

Tel. +370 5 261 9118; email: vasiliauskasaleksandras@gmail.com, a.bagdonaviciene@lma.lt

THE DIVISION OF MATHEMATICAL, PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL SCIENCES

Chair Prof. FELIKSAS IVANAUSKAS

Tel. +370 5 261 3697; email: f.ivanaukas@lma.lt, s.aukstinaitiene@lma.lt

THE DIVISION OF BIOLOGICAL, MEDICAL AND GEOSCIENCES

Chair Prof. VYTAUTAS BASYS

Tel. +370 5 262 2136; email: v.basys@lma.lt, j.olechnoviciene@lma.lt

THE DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY SCIENCES

Chair Prof. ZENONAS DABKEVIČIUS

Tel. +370 5 262 7520; email: dabkevicius@lzi.lt, e.narusyte@lma.lt

THE DIVISION OF TECHNICAL SCIENCES

Chair Prof. GINTAUTAS ŽINTELIS

Tel. +370 5 261 7709; email: g.zintelis@lma.lt, b.jaskelevicius@lma.lt

THE ACCOUNTING OFFICE

Chief Financial Manager RASA ALEKNAVIČIENĖ

Tel. +370 5 212 5544; email: r.aleknaviciene@lma.lt

THE ORGANISING DEPARTMENT

Head Dr. ANDRIUS BERNOTAS

Tel. +370 5 261 3817; email: mos@lma.lt

The International Relations Unit

Chief Specialist VIOLETA SKIRGAILIENĖ

Tel. +370 5 260 8395; email: v.skirgailiene@lma.lt

Chief Specialist MARIJA NIJOLĖ STAČIOKIENĖ

Tel. +370 5 261 4007; email: m.staciokiene@lma.lt

Chief Specialist in Public Relations

Dr. ROLANDAS MASKOLIŪNAS

Tel. +370 698 32360; email: r.maskoliunas@lma.lt

THE PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT

Head ASTA PAŠKEVIČIENĖ

Tel. +370 5 262 6851; email: a.paskeviciene@lma.lt

THE DIVISION “PALACE OF SCIENTISTS”

Head ALDONA DAUČIŪNIENĖ

Tel. +370 5 271 2421; email: a.dauciuniene@lma.lt

THE CENTRE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Head Assoc. Prof. GRAŽVYDAS KIRVAITIS

Tel. +370 5 261 8784; email: gkirvaitis@chi.lt

EU STRUCTURAL FUNDS PROJECT GROUP

Head GRETA TUMKEVIČIENĖ

Tel. +370 5 245 1254; email: g.tumkeviciene@lma.lt

THE WRÓBLEWSKI LIBRARY OF THE LITHUANIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Director Dr. SIGITAS NARBUTAS

Tel. +370 5 262 9537; email: narbutas@mab.lt

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