

History of Eurasian Heterocyclic Meetings (brief overview)



Eurasian Meetings on Heterocyclic Chemistry (EAMHC, early name – Eurasian Heterocyclic Meetings, EAHM)¹ are biannual meetings complementary to a number of heterocyclic events such as ICHC, European colloquium, Ibn Sina, Blue Danube and Florida heterocyclic meetings. The EAMHC meetings proved to enhance and improve heterocyclic chemistry by opening the doors for chemists from different places to meet and share their results and ideas.

Launching the Eurasian Heterocyclic Conference of Chemistry (EMAHC) was the idea of Prof. Eugene Babaev (Moscow), who is considered as the founder of this series of meetings. He believed that science and scientists can play a crucial role in creating a better world, and this can be achieved by collaboration in research and exchanging ideas that serve prosperity of mankind, starting with Eurasia (Europe and Asia) which is biggest continent, occupying 1/3 of the earth, 70% of the human world's population living in ~100 countries with vast ethnical diversity.

In August 1999 during 17th International Congress of Heterocyclic Chemistry (ICHC) in Vienna, Babaev discussed the idea of EAHMs with several eminent chemists, who showed a high enthusiasm to the idea expressed and became members of International Advisory Board (IAB). The IAB included Prof. F. Sauter from Austria (who chaired ICHC and co-chaired several Blue Danube and Ibn Sina Heterocyclic Symposiums), Prof. J. Cavaleiro from Portugal (chaired the last European heterocyclic colloquium), Prof. S. Abu-Orabi from Jordan (organizer of few national and international meetings in Jordan) and some other eminent scientists.

In addition, International Society of Heterocyclic Chemistry adopted the initiative of this event: its chairman Prof. Y. Yamamoto (Japan) joined the IAB, and its secretary Prof. H. Neuenhoeffer (Germany) also decided to attend. Several prominent scientists (Prof. L. Harwood from UK, Prof. Ila Hiriakanavar from India, Prof. Sunggak Kim from Korea and others) expanded the geographical location of potential speakers.

The board adopted the “golden rule” of Prof. Fritz Sauter to organize a successful conference (let's call it “the 3 **P**'s” rule): “good **P**rogram (attractive speakers), good **P**lace (tourist attraction with

good transportations), and good **Price** (small registration fee)”. **Suzdal** – an ancient and small Russian town was chosen as the venue of the first meeting in the year 2000.

The EAMHC have the following aims:

- Get better acquaintance with the science of our “continental neighbors”.
- Achieve maximal geographical diversity of the participants.
- Encouraging young chemists and opening better educational and training chances for them.
- Establishing stronger collaboration between Eurasian countries.
- Cultural exchange which brings better understanding and appreciation of diversity.
- Establishing friendships between chemists of different Eurasian countries.

Traditionally, the list of IAB members is slightly modified every meeting according to suggestions of National Organizing Committees (NOC) and activity of the past members. Below is the full list of all scientists ever served as IAB members in the period 2000-2008. (The numbers given in square brackets are the No.s of EAMHC meeting when they provided their kind service.)

Members of the international Advisory Board

Prof. E. Babaev (Russia) [1,2,3,4,5]	Prof. A. Dondoni (Italy) [2]
Prof. S. Abu-Orabi (Jordan) [1,2,3,4,5]	Dr. T.Thieman (Japan) [3]
Prof. Y. Yamamoto (Japan) [1,2,3,4]	Dr. Li Bin (China) [3]
Prof. Hiriyakkanavar Ila (India) [2,3,4,5]	Prof. O. Attanasi (Italy) [4]
Dr. W. Bender (Germany) [1,2,3]	Prof. S. Florio (Italy) [4]
Prof. F. Sauter (Austria) [1,3,4]	Prof. L. Fisera (Slovakia) [4]
Prof. J. Cavaleiro (Portugal) [1,3,4]	Prof. V. Kartsev (Russia) [4]
Prof. Jiayi Xu (China) [1,2]	Prof. H. Van der Plas [4]
Prof. L. Harwood (U.K.) [1,4]	Prof. Biao Jiang (China) [4]
Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman (Pakistan) [1,4]	Dr. K. Saxena (India) [4]
Dr. Shu Kun Lin (Switzerland) [2,3]	Prof. W. Abdou (Egypt) [4]
Prof. A. Geronikaki (Greece) [4,5]	Prof. N. Al Awadi (Kuwait) [5]
Prof. I. Yavari (Iran) [4,5]	Prof. Hala Al-Easa (Qatar) [5]
Prof. Asish De (India) [1]	Prof. Y. Ibrahim (Kuwait) [5]
Prof. R. Varma (India) [1]	Prof. Dawei Ma (China) [5]
Prof. Oliver Kappe (Austria) [2]	Prof. K. Tomioka (Japan) [5]
Prof. J. Becher (Sweden) [2]	Prof. D. Knight (U.K.) [5]
Prof. Iqbal Choudhary (Pakistan) [2]	Prof. A. Katritzky (U.S.A) [5]
Prof. G. Hajos (Hungary) [2]	

Reports of the previous EAHM:

EAHM-1 (Suzdal, Sept. 16-19, 2000).

Venue	Suzdal – an ancient and small Russian town (about 250 km from Moscow), where the atmosphere of old Russia has been preserved for centuries. Famous Suzdal ensemble of monasteries and churches and comfortable tourist center always attract a lot of visitors from abroad. This town is considered as one of the world cultural heritage sites by UNESCO commission. Also Suzdal is a part of famous “Golden Ring” (a set of ancient towns around Moscow), and this name was also featured – it may be symbolically associated not only with a heterocyclic ring, but also with a golden ring coupling East and West.
Accommodation	International Tourist Center, Suzdal (GTK-Suzdal).
Announcements	Conference website (http://www.chem.msu.ru/eng/misc/babaev/Eurasia/1a.html , Feb. 2000). Circulars distributed at ISHM in Alexandria and at International meeting in Jordan. The circulars were published in Indian and Russian journals of heterocyclic chemistry.
Sponsors	Bayer AG.
Registration fee and support	Mostly waived. Registration fee USD500 was taken from business participants. In few cases the flight costs were partially reimbursed.
Participation	70 attendees from Russia, Germany, India, Portugal, Austria, Greece, Japan, Egypt, Belgium, Jordan, Armenia, Netherlands, Latvia, Switzerland, Ukraine, Korea, UK, and Iraq.
Topics	Synthesis of biologically active structures, heterocycles from unusual sources (like sugars and terpenes), asymmetric synthesis, new reagents and catalysts, ring transformations and multicomponent reactions, chemistry of certain classes of heterocycles.
IAB Chair	E. Babaev
IAB Attended	F. Sauter, R. Varma, Y. Yamamoto, L. Harwood, S. Abu-Orabi, J. Cavaleiro, Asish De, W. Bender
Organization	Moscow State University
NOC Chair	E. Babaev
National advisory board	N. Zefirov (Moscow); A. Potekhin (St. Petersburg); O. Chupakhin (Ekaterinburg); A. Tkachev (Novosibirsk); B. Trofimov (Irkutsk)
NOC Members	Dr. N. Vasilevich; A. Nasonov; K. Pasichnichenko; A. Tsisevich
Scientific Program	32 plenary/invited talks and 23 posters
Talks	Harwood L., Ila Hiriakanavar, Bakulev V., Bender W., Abu-Orabi S., Nenajdenko V., De A., Yamamoto Y., Doepp D., Tkachev A., El-Ashry E-S.

H., Kanemasa S., Mihovilovic M., Chandrasekhar S., Neunhoeffer H., Sauter F., Froehlich J., Das B., Babaev E., Varvounis G., Stakemeier H., Kim Sunggak, Charushin V., Chupakhin O., Cavaleiro J., Dehaen W., Gadaginamath G., Rusinov G., Varma R.S., Sharba A.-H.

Cultural and Social Events

Special atmosphere of the meeting was highly democratic; very prominent scientists and less-known colleagues had a lot of informal discussions. The participants highly appreciated rich cultural program, several excursions to Suzdal museums, pre/post-conference tours to Moscow, folklore group, perfect Russian food.

Round Table Meeting

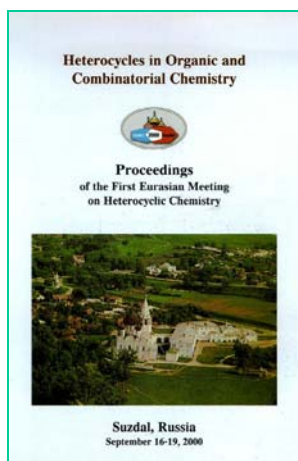
The conference was finished by round table, where the participants claimed the same opinion that this initiative was very important, this meeting should be repeated in 2-3 years, and all participants voted that the next location of the meeting should be (at least for 2-3 next events) again in Russia.

Memorial Features

A night lecture “Organic analysis allows us a look at prehistoric life” given by Prof. Sauter.

Publication

Book of conference proceedings. The detailed report (in Russian) about this meeting was published².



EAHM-2 (Novgorod the Great, September 14 - 17, 2002)

Venue	Novgorod the Great – city located in the North-Western part of Russia (not far from St.-Petersburg). Citizens of Novgorod developed and used (for about 600 years) the “veche” – ancient parliament of all citizens that took all vital decisions on the life and foreign policy of the city. So, Novgorod is a symbolic cradle of Russian republican and democratic traditions. The ancient republic's special political structure, spiritual freedom and territorial independence were highly favorable to evolve culture and art. Famous Novgorod Kremlin, ensembles of monasteries and churches always attract a lot of tourists from abroad, and this town is considered as another UNESCO world cultural heritage site.
Accommodation	Hotel Intourist, Novgorod the Great
Announcements	Conference website (http://www.chem.msu.ru/eng/misc/babaev/Eurasia/2a.html). Circulars distributed at earlier heterocyclic meetings (Jordan chemistry meeting, Blue Danube symposium in Slovakia) and at another Eurasian event – 8 th Eurasian Chemistry and Industry Meeting in Karachi.
Sponsors	Bayer AG
Registration fee	USD 300/200 Academic/Student for full-board accommodation.
Participation	In spite of the 9/11 and other tragedy events, we were able to organize a very successful conference with high standards. 60 attendees from different places of Russia (many from Siberia), China and Hong Kong, Japan, Egypt, Greece, Hungary, Austria, Belgium, Germany, Latvia and Ukraine.
Topics	The reviews on classical topics of heterocyclic chemistry were complemented by combinatorial chemistry topics – library design, multicomponent reactions, solid phase synthesis.
IAB Chair	E. Babaev
IAB Attended	G. Hajos, O. Kappe, W. Bender
Organization	Moscow State University; St.-Petersburg University, Novgorod University
NOC Chair	E. Babaev
National advisory board	N. Zefirov (Moscow); A. Potekhin (St. Petersburg); O. Chupakhin (Ekaterinburg); A. Tkachev (Novosibirsk); B. Trofimov (Irkutsk); A. Anisimov (Moscow)
NOC Members	Dr. N. Zhokhova (Moscow), secretary; Prof. B. Seleznyov (Velikiy Novgorod); Dr. S. Morozkina (St.Petersburg); Dr. I. Balova (St.Petersburg)
Scientific Program	23 speakers and 20 posters
Talks	Thieman T., Kappe O., Nenajdenko V., Bauser M., Nishiwaki N., Van der Eycken E., Poroikov V., Hajos G., Mikhailov V., Varvounis G., Dai Wei-Min,

Abdou Wafaa, Doepp D., Huebsch W., Dehaen W., Ershov A., Butin A., Ermolat'ev D., Bush A., Zhidovinova M., Morozkina S., Li Bin, Vasilevskiy S.

Cultural and Social Events

Excursions to Kremlin and Novgorod museums, concert of Russian folklore group, pre/post conference tours to St.-Petersburg and Moscow.

Round Table Meeting

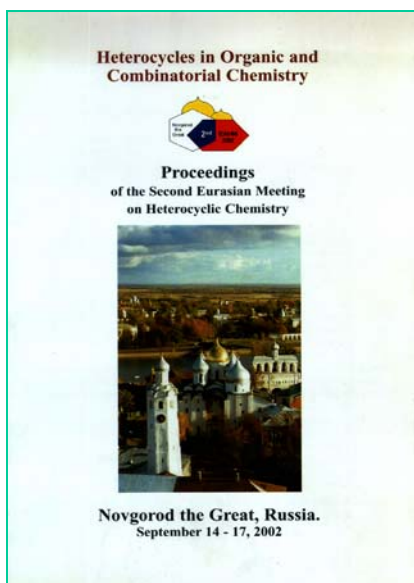
Again participants voted to keep the further event in Russia.

Memorial Features

That year the preference was given to younger leaders (the age of speakers was 30-45 years), and a special session was organized to PhD and undergraduate students.

Publication

Book of conference proceedings. The report about that meeting was published³ and selected materials appeared online as full papers in *Molecules*⁴.



EAHM-3 (Novosibirsk, September 12 - 17, 2004).

Venue	After two events organized in European part of Russia (in close vicinities to two Russian capitals, Moscow and St.-Petersburg) the meeting was shifted to Asian part. The chosen place was Novosibirsk – the geographical center of Russia, the heart and capital of Siberia. The city is famous for its Scientific Center («Akademgorodok») where tens of academic institutes form a sort of town with quite a unique atmosphere. (Sometimes nowadays this area is referred as “Silicon taiga”.) September in Siberia is mild (Golden Autumn season).
Accommodation	Resort "Forest Fancy" located in beautiful pine woodland on the shore of the Ob Sea (30 km from the downtown).
Announcements	Conference website (http://www.nioch.nsc.ru/conf2004/). Circulars distributed at CTDDR-2004 in India.
Sponsors	Buchi (Switzerland), Russian Foundation of Basic Research, local companies from Novosibirsk.
Registration fee and support	USD350/150 for academic participants/accompanying persons (250/100 for FSU participants) with full-board accommodation.
Participation	130 participants from 25 countries attended the meeting, now not only from Eurasia but also from Africa, Central America and Australia.
Topics	The EAHM meeting was combined with another event - 2 nd International Conference on Natural Products and Physiologically Active Substances. Joining two meetings “in one flask” was beneficial, since heterocyclic chemistry is strongly linked to natural compounds and drugs, and because of broader geography of participants.
IAB Chair	E. Babaev
IAB Attended	Y. Yamamoto, Li Bin
Organization	Novosibirsk Institute of Organic Chemistry, Novosibirsk State University, Moscow Sate University (Russia) and Ghent University (Belgium).
NOC Chair	Prof. A. Tkachev (Novosibirsk)
NOC Members	Dr. V. Khlestkin (secretary), Prof. V. Raldugin, Prof. E. Shultz, Prof. V. Reznikov, Prof. M. Yusubov, Dr. D. Mazhukin, Dr. M. Polovinka, Dr. L. Kozachok, Dr. M. Mitasov, Dr. A. Shpatov, Dr. O. Yarovaya, Dr. E. Romanenko
Scientific Program	22 invited and plenary lectures and oral communications (involving presentations given by young scientists). Swiss company Büchi organized practical seminar to demonstrate its equipment.
Talks	Butin A., Van der Eycken E., Grigor’ev I., Morzherin Yu., Vasilevsky S., Al-Aboudi A., Bakulev V., de Groot A., Bin Li, de Meijere A., Wicha J., Babaev E., Kirilyuk I., Sharba A., Al-Smadi M., Abdel-Hamid N., Leshina T., Lomovsky O., Oliver D., Peter-Katalinić J., Taraban M., Tarabanko V., Taylor

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Cultural and Social Events

City tours, excursions to Novosibirsk museums, pre/post conference tours to Altai mountains, ancient city Tomsk. Acquaintance with Akademgorodok institutes.

Round Table Meeting

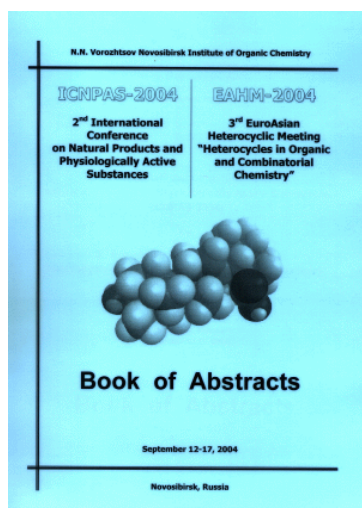
Participants enjoyed combination of two events. The necessity to establish international group for further advanced planning of the event (Eurasian bureau or EB) was adopted.

Memorial Features

The most memorial was that participants were isolated in the forest area and got full taste of virgin Siberian nature and plenty of informal communications. Some scientist enjoyed swimming at night in Ob river.

Publication

Book of conference proceedings. The report about that meeting was published⁵ and selected materials appeared online as full papers in *Molecules*⁶.



EAMHC-4 (Thessaloniki, August 27-31, 2006).

Venue	In early 2005 Prof. Athina Geronikaki from Thessaloniki (Greece) suggested to Prof. Babaev her desire to host the next event. The chosen place, Thessaloniki is one of the oldest cities in Europe. Many things there and around (during conference tours) memorized the name of Alexander the Great: the name Thessaloniki (originated from the name of his sister), the ancient city Pella (his birthplace), and the city Vergina (with fascinating grave of his farther Phillip). This link of Eurasian event to this famous figure of ancient times is especially symbolic. The Alexander's empire was one of the biggest in human history spreading from Europe to Asia, being the source of strong interaction between Hellenistic and Asian cultures.
Accommodation	Hotel Capsis, Thessaloniki
Announcements	Conference website (http://web.auth.gr/eamhc/) and ISHC website. Circulars distributed at the international heterocyclic meetings (in India, Slovak Republic and Russia).
Sponsors	Sanofi Aventis, ELPEN Pharmaceutical Company, Pharmaserv-Lilly, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Panhellenic Pharmaceutical Association, Elsevier, Pharmaten, Rafarm pharmaceuticals, Vocate, Janssen-Cilag.
Registration fee	EU 300/100/70 for academic/accompanying/students.
Participation	200 participants from 36 countries attended the meeting; the biggest delegations were from Russia and Iran.
Topics	Heterocyclic chemistry topics complemented mainly with medicinal chemistry issues.
IAB Chair	A. Geronikaki, E. Babaev (co-chair)
IAB Attended	W. Abdou, S. Abu-Orabi, O. Attanasi, Biao Jiang, J. Cavaleiro, L. Fisera, S. Florio, L. Harwood, H. Ila, V. Kartsev, Y. Yamamoto, I. Yavari
EB Attended	E. Babaev, Li Bin, A. Geronikaki, G. Hajos, Cirrincione G.
Organization	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
NOC Chair	A. Geronikaki
NOC Members	Vice-rector Gerothanasis G., Ass.Prof. Argiropoulos N., Dr. Eleftheriou Ph., Dr. Gavalas A., Ass.Prof. Kamoutsis Ch., Ass.Prof. Kokkalou E., Ass.Prof. Varela E., Ass. Prof. Varvounis G
National Advisory Board	Prof. Chiotellis E., Prof. Kordopatis P., Prof. Nikolaidis D., Assoc. Prof. Rousis V., Prof. Varvougliis
Scientific Program	59 invited, plenary and oral reports and 142 posters
Talks	Biao Jiang, Charushin V., Harwood L., Ila Hiriyakkanavar, Kartsev V., Yamamoto Y., Abu Orabi S., Baraldi G., Cavaleiro J., Cirrincione G., Dehaen W., Florio S., Giannis A., Gracza T., El Kashef H., Fisera L., Frohlich J.,

Gleiter R., Halazy S., Knight D., Koutentis P., Attanasi O., Poroikov V., Shah A., Spinelli D., Stanovnik B., Vasilevskiy S., Yavary I., Yus M., Wermuth C. and others.

Cultural and Social Events

Thessaloniki city tour, conference tours (to Olympus, Meteora, Vergina-Pella), folklore groups.

Round Table

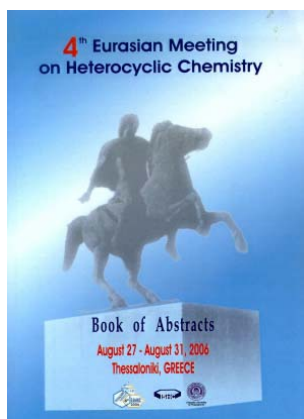
Announcement of the next meeting to be held in Kuwait.

Memorial Features

This year three best posters were awarded. At the opening ceremony the International Scientific Foundation has awarded the Aristotle University with crystal globe, and School of Pharmacy (and its Head) with medal on occasion of the 50th anniversary. Participants will also remember fascinating Greek dancing with organizers at the closing ceremony.

Publication

Book of conference abstracts. The report about the meeting was published⁷.



EAMHC-5 (Kuwait, March 1-6, 2008). [To be filled by LOC]

Venue	
Accommodation	
Announcements	
Sponsors	
Registration fee	
Participation	
Topics	
IAB Chair	
IAB Attended	
EB Attended	
Organization	
NOC Chair	
NOC Members	
National Advisory Board	
Scientific Program	
Talks	
Cultural and Social Events	
Round Table	
Memorial Features	
Publication	

References

1. For more information see the conference website:
<http://www.chem.msu.ru/eng/misc/babaev/Eurasia/>
2. Babaev, E. V. *Khim. Geterotsikl. Soedin. (in Russ.)*. **2000**, *11*, 1573.
3. Babaev, E. V. *Khim. Geterotsikl. Soedin. (in Russ.)*. **2003**, *1*, 148.
4. Special issue: *Molecules* **2003**, *8*, N6, 459-519 (<http://www.mdpi.net/molecules/list03.htm>)
5. Babaev E. V.; Tkachev, A.V. *Khim. Geterotsikl. Soedin. (in Russ.)*. **2005**, *1*, 148.
6. Special issue: *Molecules* **2005**, *10*, 1021-1168 (<http://www.mdpi.net/molecules/list05.htm>)
7. *Khim. Geterotsikl. Soedin. (in Engl.)*. **2006**, *11*, 1753.