

## The winners of the contest “Crystals” were awarded

On May 18, 2019, at the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, the winner ceremony of the all-Ukrainian contest for schoolchildren “Crystals”, named after Evgen Gladyshevskii, took place. The already traditional competition (10<sup>th</sup> edition) had this year attracted more than 3,500 schoolchildren from all over Ukraine.

The organizers of this large-scale competition for very young scientists are the Department of Inorganic Chemistry of the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, the Junior Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, and Lviv Regional Junior Academy of Sciences.

This year the schoolchildren aged 6-12 years had grown crystals of potassium dihydrogen phosphate ( $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$ ), and those aged 13-18 had carried out research work on the topic “Anisotropy of crystals”. The finalists of the senior category presented their works in the form of poster presentations during the final stage of the competition.



The contributions were evaluated by a jury consisting of Zofia Rzączyńska from the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland, and representatives of the Faculty of Chemistry at the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv.

The young researchers were warmly welcomed by the organizers from the university and by Valentyn Frechka and Nataliya Panasenko from the Junior Academy of Sciences of Ukraine under UNESCO. Nataliya Panasenko read greetings from the Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine, Liliya Hrynevych, who emphasized the importance of research in crystallography in the modern world of innovative technologies: “If we think of a science to which all breakthrough technologies of modernity are related, our first thought goes to crystallography. It has become a powerful interdisciplinary science that combines physics, chemistry, materials science, mineralogy, molecular biology, and others. And, as you know, the most daring, truly innovative solutions arise at the intersection of different branches of knowledge.”

In his written greetings, the Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine, Maksym Strikha, pointed out the great contribution of Evgen Gladyshevskii to the development of crystal chemistry and emphasized the importance of the contest: “This is a valuable scientific event that motivates gifted pupils to carry out in-depth studies in chemistry and other natural sciences.”

The director of the Department for Education and Science of *Lviv Region State Administration*, Lyubomyra Mandziy, joined the congratulations and wished the participants new achievements on their path to scientific knowledge.

Zinoviy Nazarchuk, head of the Western Scientific Center, noted the enthusiasm of the participants: “If enthusiasm is now burning in the eyes of the participants, then science has a bright future, in spite of the difficulties they may meet.”

Lyudmyla Hayday read a message from the President of the *Junior Academy of Sciences of Ukraine*, Stanislav Dovggy, who underlined the persistence and creative approach shown by the young participants. “These are attributes that characterize a true researcher.”

The chairwoman of the jury, Zofia Rzączyńska, drew attention to the cooperation between Ukraine and Poland in the framework of the contest “Crystal” and its positive influence on students’ interest in science.



The youngest children competed in four categories: “The largest crystal”, “The most perfect crystal”, “The most original crystal”, and “Crystal growth”, which was presented in the form of a short video. The winners were, for “The largest crystal”: Alina Dmytruk, Lviv, and Anna Ettikh, Kharkiv Region; for “The most perfect crystal”: Diana Dzhanieva, Kirovohrad Region, and Vyacheslav Karpenko, Luhansk Region; for “The most original crystal”: Veronika Meshchyshyna, Donetsk Region, and Viktoriya Tkachenko, Donetsk Region; for “Crystal growth”: Valeriya Dzyubynska, Ternopil, and Markiy Muts, Lviv. The winners were awarded

with diplomas and prizes, and also the teachers of secondary schools, who had prepared participants and winners, received honorary diplomas.

The culmination of the award ceremony was the celebration of the winners of the second age group, who had carried out their first independent research in the field of crystal chemistry. The final winner of the competition in this category was Dmytro Skorubskyy from Volyn Region, and the second place was taken by Anastasiya Melnytska from Ivano-Frankivsk, and Pavlo Turchynyak from Lviv. The third place in the competition was shared by Bohdan Kucher from Rivne, Dmytro Sydorчук from Lviv, and Anna Kholyavinska from Kirovohrad Region.

At the end of the ceremony, the dean of the Faculty of Culture and Arts, Roman Krokmalnyy, said a few words about the University of Lviv, the history of its foundation and development, and the dean of the Faculty of Chemistry, Hryhoriy Dmytriv, invited the students to study science at the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv.

During the day, the participants had the opportunity to admire the exhibition of the best crystals grown by the schoolchildren. A collection of the abstracts of the contest has also been published.

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