

## THE 15<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ODESSA BRANCH OF THE ISAAC NEWTON INSTITUTE (INI)

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The Isaac Newton Institute (Instituto Isaac Newton) for Astronomical Research (INI) was founded in 1978 by Gonzalo Alcaïno (<http://www.ini.cl/>). The head office is located on the eastern outskirts of Santiago (Chile). Since 1992, the Institute has branched out in several countries of the former Soviet Union in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. The Moscow branch was the first one established outside Chile. As of 2002, there are 14 branches of the Institute in nine countries (see the figure): namely, Armenia (19 members), Bulgaria (28), Crimea (27), Kazakhstan (17), Kiev (11), Moscow (15), Odesa (34), Poland (13), Pushchino (18), St. Petersburg (24), Special Astrophysical Observatory (41), Tajikistan (8), Uzbekistan (19), and Yugoslavia (21). The total number of scientists involved in the project in Eastern Europe and Eurasia is about 300.

INI pursues two major goals, such as offering scientists an opportunity to be published in the most prestigious scholarly journals worldwide and improving motivation to pursue science in the countries with insufficient funding for scientific activities.

As of 2014, there have been 820 articles published. That made INI one of the most productive research centres in the world. Nowadays, more than 300 specialists from nine countries work in INI.

The Odessa Branch of the Isaac Newton Institute was founded in May, 2000, with the aim of contributing to further development of scientific research in observational and theoretical astrophysics in Ukraine. The formal Agreement was signed with Prof. Valentin Karetnikov, the

Director of the Astronomical Observatory of Odesa National University.

Alexandr Yuschenko became the first Resident Director of the Odessa Branch of INI; today, this position is held by Valery Kovtyukh.

The results of the studies conducted by the scientists of the Odessa Branch of the Isaac Newton Institute have been submitted for publication to the four most prestigious journals in astronomy and astrophysics, namely the *Astrophysical Journal* and the *Astronomical Journal* in the United States (2013 Impact Factors were 6.28 and 4.05, respectively); *Astronomy & Astrophysics* and *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society* in Europe (2013 Impact Factors were 4.48 and 5.23, respectively).

Today, 20 research workers make up the Odessa Branch staff. The members of the Isaac Newton Institute Branch are actively involved in the following areas of research: studies of chemical composition of stars at different evolutionary phases, such as Cepheids, nonvariable supergiants and their ancestors, B-type Main Sequence stars, metal-poor stars, blue stragglers and lambda Bootis type stars; determination of evolutionary stages and ages of those stars; investigation of the abundance gradient and chemical evolution of the Galaxy. During the indicated research activities the following methods are employed: high dispersion spectral observations at Western observatories, the LTE and non-LTE chemical composition analysis.

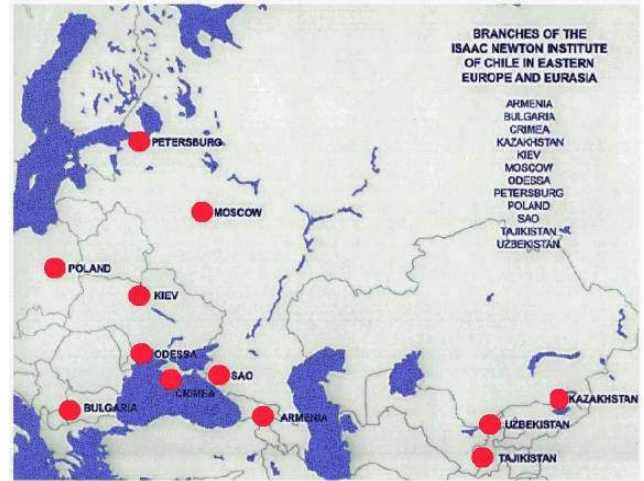
The overview of the papers published by Odessa scientists is given in the table below. As of now, the total number of the articles published is 81.

Being involved in fruitful collaboration with the Isaac Newton Institute of Chile, Odessa Astronomical Observatory has significantly levelled up its scientific studies in modern astrophysics.

Let us quote a saying by Luis Ortiz Quiroga, which gives a representative opinion about this institute: «The Isaac Newton Institute is a source of pride for Chile, indeed. Today, this phantom of Gonzalo Alcaïno's imagination and creative skill became one of the most productive research centres in the world. It has branches in different countries of Eastern Europe and Eurasia, thereby providing jobs and earnings for tens of experts in astronomical observations. All of them are particularly experienced and skilled though most of them had to reap

the bitter fruits of the USSR collapse. The Institute should be able to raise funds to fulfil its obligations towards its research scientists and implement plans for expansion of its activities domestically and abroad».

Besides, the opinion of a famous politician José Miguel Insulza Salinas should not be left unmentioned: «The Isaac Newton Institute is an unpublished experiment which has worked to the benefit of our country and Eastern Europe. When 10 years ago Gonzalo Alcaino opened up the possibility to establish business relations with a part of the world which Chile was related to only a small extent, he apparently could not figure to himself the consequences of his venture. It resulted in the formation of a scientific network consisting of several hundreds of highly-skilled astronomers scattered to more than 15 observatories in Eastern Europe and former Soviet republics».



Surname & First name	The number of articles published within the framework of INI in 2000-2015				
	A&A	ApJ	AnJ	MNRAS	Total
Andrievsky, Sergei M.	29	1	2	8	38
Basak, Nina Yu.	1				1
Beletsky, Yu. V.	2				2
Belik, Stanislav I.	2			4	6
Britavskiy, Nikolay E.	3				3
Chekhonadskikh, Fedor A.				3	3
Chernyshova, Irina V.	1				1
Gorbaneva, Tatyana I	1			1	2
Gorlova, Nadezhda I	2				2
Korotin, Sergei A.	23		1	7	31
Kovtyukh, Valery V.	23	2	2	13	40
Mishenina, Tamara V.	8			4	12
Udovichenko, Sergei N.			1		1
Usenko, Igor A.	3	1		1	5
Yasinskaya, Margarita P.				1	1
Yegorova Iryna, A.	4				4

