

Prof. Dr. Alexey Potekhin, born in 1975, Saint Petersburg (ex Leningrad), USSR. Obtained his Ph. D. in Cell Biology (2002) in St Petersburg State University. Since 2007 – associate professor, since 2015 he worked as a full professor at the Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Biology, St Petersburg State University, Saint Petersburg, Russia. Since summer 2022 he is a senior researcher at the Department for Limnology, Mondsee, University of Innsbruck, Austria. His research focuses in ciliates, and his main interests are *Paramecium* genetics, epigenetics and speciation, and diverse symbioses between ciliates and bacteria.

Prof. Potekhin is an author of more than 50 publications in the peer-reviewed journals, including Nature, Nature Communications, ISME Journal, Genome Biology and Evolution, Microorganisms. He worked as an Invited Professor in Ecole Normale Superieure, Paris, France, at the University of Pisa, Italy, and at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. In last 10 years he was a principal investigator in a number of research grants, and his group participated in several European international network projects. His group collaborates with the groups from Ecole Normale Superieure, Paris, France; University of Pisa, Italy; University of Wuppertal, Germany.