



### In Memoriam: **Vasily Ogryzko** (1960–2016)

Vasily Ogryzko, a biologist, researcher at Gustave Roussy Institute (France), tragically and unexpectedly died on March 25, 2016. He was 55 years old. Vasily is survived by his wife Undine and his three sons.

Born in 1960 in Kharkov, Ukraine, Vasily earned his graduate degree from the Department of Biology at Lomonosov Moscow State University (Russia) and his Ph.D. from the Institute of Molecular Genetics in Moscow, where he began his research career. In 1991 he moved to Bethesda, USA, where he worked with Bruce Howard and Yoshihiro Pat Nakatani at NIH. This was a phenomenally successful time in Vasily's career, resulting in the publication of 18 articles in only 8 years, including two *Nature* and six *Cell* papers. At the NIH, Vasily studied mainly transcription and chromatin biology. However, his research interests ranged from quantum biology to pioneering techniques in proteomics. In 2001, Vasily Ogryzko moved to France where he became a research director at the French Biomedical research agency Inserm and later a group leader at Institut Gustave Roussy, a major European cancer research center just outside Paris. In France, Vasily studied chromatin and epigenetics. He designed new proteomic approaches to study protein interactions in the chromatin context. But his real passion during his last years was in quantum biology at the cellular level in relation with evolution. His dream was writing a book where he would express his ideas. No doubt he would have simplified these extremely complicated matters and would have done it with a lot of humor. Unfortunately this dream will not come through.

Vasily was also an active member of the Editorial Board of *Biopolymers and Cell* where his wise advices and helpful suggestions will be remembered.

Vasily or Vasya as everyone called him was a wonderful scholar, mentor and friend. He was extremely kind and good natured, with a great dry sense of humor. For many years, he held a "five-o'clock" tea for his colleagues within the lab. Everyone was welcome, anyone could get tea and chocolate and entertain long, passionate and often funny discussions about science, politics and life.

Vasily will be deeply missed by family, friends and colleagues.

Unfortunately it is the time to say "Good Bye": Прощай, Вася...