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INTERNATIONAL DNA DAY: A WINDOW INTO GENETICIZATION AND PARTICIPATORY SOCIETY

Today, DNA Day is more than just a historical milestone. It is a celebration of the relentless pursuit of knowledge, the spirit of discovery, and the collaborative efforts of scientists from around the globe [1]. Public awareness of genetics is an important aspect of modern life, prompting teachers to explore new ways of engaging students in the study of genetics [2]. The **aim** to develop approaches to creating new platforms that enable students from all disciplines at Kyiv National University of Technologies and Design (KNUTD) to share their accumulated knowledge and experience and to jointly explore, analyze and establish interdisciplinary links. **Results.** The department of biotechnology, leather and fur 1) has developed and proposed an interdisciplinary course entitled "Design and Mechanics of Living Systems". which resulted in the creation of a) the original "DNA Day at KNUTD" logo, b) a page on the university library website, "DNA Day at KNUTD"; 2) has initiated the project "On the Paths of fellow countrymen Scientists", the goal of which is to popularize the scientific heritage and understand the contribution of Ukrainian scientists to world science. Expeditions were conducted to the homeland of Grigoriy Lewitsky, the founder of cytogenetics, in 2023–2024, Theodosii Dobrzhansky, one of the founders of the synthetic theory of evolution, in 2025, and Mykola Tarnavsky, the pioneer who first discovered the mutagenic effects of exogenous DNA, in 2026. New, previously unpublished biographical facts about the scientists were discovered, and initiative groups were created, involving specialists and volunteers, to promote the names of these fellow geneticists; 3) has organized three international seminars, which served as a platform for discussing the historical legacy (the results of the expeditions) and analyzing modern advances in the fields of genetics in which G. Lewitsky (news page <https://knutd.edu.ua/pod-ta-publkaty/news/16864/>), T. Dobrzhansky (news page <https://knutd.edu.ua/pod-ta-publkaty/news/18388/>) and M. Tarnavsky (news page <https://en.knutd.edu.ua/events-and-publications/news/20195/>) worked. **Conclusions.** "International DNA Day at KNUTD" has become a platform for students to establish interdisciplinary links and analyze the development of genetics. Over the past three years, more than 200 participants have taken part in these seminars.

Keywords: DNA day, KNUTD, biotechnology.

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