**Press release, May 2, 2017.**

**The Yurii Simonov Memorial Prize**

In support of scholars conducting innovative research in Solid State Physics, Crystallography, and Crystal and Structural Chemistry, Yurii Simonov Memorial Foundation and Institute of Applied Physics of Academy of Sciences of Moldova are pleased to announce winners of Yurii Simonov Memorial Prize.

 The Yurii Simonov Memorial Prize for 2017 was awarded Diana Chisca for her contribution in design, synthesis, and X-ray structural study of the Co(II) crystalline coordination polymers of different dimensionality with mixed ligands such as dicarboxylic acids and bis(pyridine) ligands of different rigidity, or nicotinamide-like ligands. Such materials revealed the reversible single-crystal-to-single-crystal transformations accompanied by changing of color under the solvent molecules release/uptake. The synthesis of new materials together with study of adsorption, magnetic, spectral, and mechanical properties represent a valuable step for development of smart materials based on coordination polymers. Diana Chisca has graduated from Tiraspol State University of Moldova in 2004 and currently is affiliated with Institute of Applied Physics, Moldova Academy of Science, where she is in the last stages of her PhD program. The prize awarded partially for the work that is part of her PhD thesis. Diana Chisca combines her research activity with teaching activities in Moldova State University in Chisinau.

**Yurii Simonov** played a crucial role in the developing of crystallography in Moldova, being associated with the Laboratory of physical methods of solid-state investigations of the Institute of Applied Physics. Fifty years of his life were increasingly and fruitfully dedicated to research. His contribution to structural studies of coordination, organic and supramolecular compounds was outstanding. About 600 scientific papers were published in internationally recognized journals; still more than six hundred were presented as abstracts of conferences and reports in local journals. His scientific activity extended across national borders, he established and developed cooperation with chemists, physicists and crystallographers in many countries in Europe, North America, and Asia.

More details about Yurii Simonov Memorial Foundation can be found at [**http://andreisimonov.com/YuriiSimonov/**](http://andreisimonov.com/YuriiSimonov/)