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29 Aug 2011

Welcome Address

Adriaan van der Meer

Executive Director

International Science and Technology Centre, Moscow

at the occasion of the

2nd Joint NIAID-ISTC Workshop on

Bioinformatics Tools and Innovation Through Collaboration

Moscow, Russia

29 August to 1 September 2011

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the **2nd Joint NIAID-ISTC Workshop on Bioinformatics Tools and Innovation Through Collaboration.**

For many of you I welcome you back to the ISTC once again. It is good that you return. On behalf of the International Science and Technology Center in Moscow (ISTC), I especially welcome those participants who have travelled a long way to reach Moscow.

I especially would like to thank our hosts and co-organizers Dr. Karl Western, from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health (NIH/NIAID), for their scientific, organizational and financial support. I also want to thank Mr. Mike Tartakovsky and his team from the NIAID Office of Cyber Infrastructure and Computational Biology (OCICB) and the many others that were instrumental in organizing this event. Last but not least, I would like to thank all the participants - mainly scientists - for contributing to this event. Many thanks indeed. I am proud that so many experts from all over the world will make their presentations at this Workshop. This workshop is indeed an excellent example of international scientific cooperation. It brings together many scientists from different countries - worldwide.

We had a successful joint Bioinformatics conference last year. This workshop will be four intense days of opportunity for communication and scientific exchange between the NIAID and research institutions of the Russian Federation and Former Soviet Union countries. It is designed to expand on the previously established relationships to identify and discuss collaboration initiatives in the areas of

bioinformatics, computational biology, medical and clinical informatics as related to allergy and infectious diseases.

The ISTC has supported more than 2,900 projects, which have involved more than 90,000 scientists, engineers, and other technical personnel leading to more than 300 patents and numerous publications in prestigious international journals. The funding parties have contributed more than 839 million USD in support of ISTC projects. There was also an additional 170 million USD in supplemental (support) programs. The research institutes and laboratories participating in ISTC projects have provided substantial in-kind resources. Thousands of collaborators from countries around the globe have played a role in ISTC projects and participated in ISTC conferences and workshops. You are now part of these statistics that have made ISTC so successful over the years.

Priorities of this workshop are to showcase your specific initiatives and identify common points for future scientific collaborations. I trust that this Workshop will act as a catalyst to promote these efforts.

I wish you every success in your Workshop.