

## Foreword

At the beginning of 2012, the board of the Estonian Association for the History and Philosophy of Science put forward an initiative to establish a new open-access journal titled *Acta Baltica Historiae et Philosophiae Scientiarum* (*ABHPS*). The idea was welcomed by associations in Latvia and Lithuania and several other academic organizations of other countries working in the field of history and philosophy of science. The idea was inspired by the success of the special issue of the *Baltic Journal of European Studies* (*BJES*), which was dedicated to the 24<sup>th</sup> International Baltic Conference on the History of Science, and thus could be regarded as the predecessor of the new journal. The current issue is already the second issue of the semi-annually published journal and includes mostly (but not exclusively) articles written on the basis of papers presented at the 25<sup>th</sup> International Baltic Conference on the History of Science, held in October 2012 in Vilnius. The editors believe that the new journal will continue its close cooperation with the traditional Baltic conferences on history of science by offering a place for discussion for the best outcome of these meetings, promoting the quality of papers and contributing to the expansion of the conferences' geographic reach. We also welcome the idea that the next, 26<sup>th</sup> International Baltic Conference on the History of Science in August 2014 will be held in Helsinki, as it helps encourage cooperation between scholars from other Baltic Rim countries. The Helsinki conference will be supported by several academic societies and universities in Finland and most certainly will give new impetus for cooperation between historians and philosophers of science in the wider Baltic region.

The journal's editorial policy has evolved with our growing experience over the last couple of years, during which the two issues of *ABHPS* and its predecessor, the special issue of *BJES*, have been compiled. *ABHPS* tries to promote international cooperation between scholars working in the field of history and philosophy of science in every possible way. We share the idea that the fruitful development of these two major fields is possible only if they are addressed as being closely related or at least complementary to each other. The primary aim of the journal is to offer Baltic and non-Baltic scholars a platform for the publication of a wide range of studies in the fields of history and philosophy of science. By Baltic we mean a wider region—the Baltic Rim including also Poland, Germany and Russia in addition to Baltic and Nordic countries. In any case, the rich legacy of Baltic research (both in the broader and stricter sense) in the fields of history and philosophy of science deserves to be made available in English and thus better known outside the Baltic area.

We, the editors of *ABHPS*, see it as our mission to improve the academic level of Baltic research in different areas of history and philosophy of science by publishing high-quality papers and to establish contacts between researchers from Baltic and other countries. Therefore the journal is open to contributions from other countries, even beyond Europe. We happily acknowledge that the articles published in *ABHPS* are of more lasting value, as studies into history and philosophy of science generally

are, and remain relevant for a longer time than research articles in some other disciplines. In addition, we intend to give forum to younger and less experienced scholars in the field, and the opportunity to publish results of their research, which still has to meet the basic standards of an international peer-reviewed journal. Papers by the leading authors in their respective field, such as Helge Kragh in the first issue or Rein Vihalemm in this one, serve as models for the younger generation. Hereby we would like to take the opportunity to congratulate Prof. Rein Vihalemm on the occasion of his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday!

*ABHPS* primarily intends to publish articles corresponding to the requirements of a research paper on various aspects of the history and philosophy of natural and social sciences. The journal values first of all articles of academic merit with a novel element, such as new insights, concepts, approaches, angles, or hypotheses, also facts yet unknown, and thus contribute to the present knowledge of the topic under study. In order to ensure the quality of contributions, the journal's Editorial Office follows unconditional and strict international double-blind peer-review process, which applies also to invited authors. In some cases, including, for example, some contributions to the current issue, we have consulted with more than two reviewers per article.

The journal also publishes selected short communications, such as brief inquiries, historical overviews, historical accounts of the activities of scientific institutions, reviews of conference proceedings, chronicles of academic life, discussions, book reviews and others. The final decision regarding whether a short communication paper is acceptable for publication remains with the Editorial Office and short communications may be subjected to peer review should the editors find it necessary (as a rule they do). Overviews of current research can be published in the journal for the purpose of exchanging ideas, but only on condition that they are carefully reviewed by multiple reviewers and eventually recognized as overviews which present more or less exhaustive discussion of the topic under consideration.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the members of the journal's Editorial Board and the scientific community who have rendered assistance in finding competent reviewers, especially in the case of very specific issues (e. g., the history of psychiatry in Latvia). We would also like to give our special thanks to Dr. **Winfried Julius Schoeller** and Dr. **Alida Zigmunde** for their valuable financial contribution to the journal and their assistance in disseminating the journal in Latvia as well as to Prof. **Anto Leikola**, who wrote about the launch of the new journal in the Finnish press, and **Tarmo Tuisk** for his effort in indexing *ABHPS* in different databases, which has greatly facilitated the journal's online accessibility. We truly hope that in addition to scholars from the Baltic states, our colleagues from the Nordic countries (especially Finland), Germany, Poland, Russia and other countries will find the new journal a serious and reliable cooperation partner. The working experience gained during preparing the first issues has induced optimism.

*On behalf of the Editorial Office,  
Peeter Määrsepp and Mait Talts*