

Vitaly Yuryevich Topolov was born in Rostov-on-Don, Russia (former USSR) on November 8th, 1961. He received the qualification “Physicist. Educator” (honours degree) in 1984 along with the degrees “Candidate of Sciences (Physics and Mathematics)” and “Doctor of Sciences (Physics and Mathematics)” in 1987 and 2000, respectively, all from the Rostov State University, Russia. He received the Professor Certificate from the Ministry of Education and Science of Russia in 2011. He has been Corresponding Member of the Russian Academy of Natural Science (Moscow, Russia, 2010).

From 1987 to 1991, Dr. V. Yu. Topolov worked as a Research Scientist of the Institute of Physics at the Rostov State University. From 1991 to 2000, he worked as a Senior Lecturer (1991–1992) and an Associate Professor (1992–2000) of the Department of Physics at the Rostov State University. Since 2000, he has been Professor of the same Department. Since December 2006, after reforming the university, he is a Professor of the Department of Physics at the Southern Federal University (Rostov-on-Don, Russia).

Dr. V. Yu. Topolov was a visiting scientist at the Moscow State University, Russia (former USSR, 1989), University of Saarland, Germany (1994–1995), Aachen University of Technology – RWTH Aachen, Germany (1998), Karlsruhe Research Center, Germany (2002 and 2003–2004), University of Bath, UK (2006, 2007, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), and University of Roma “Tor Vergata”, Italy (2008). His research interests include heterogeneous ferroelectrics, smart materials, domain and heterophase structures, as well as electromechanical effects in ferroelectrics and related materials. He earned the special award from the International Science Foundation (1993) and the Soros Associate Professor title and awards from the International Soros Science-Educational Program and the Open Society Institute (1997, 1998, 2000, and 2001). He presented the best poster at the International Symposium on Ferroelectric Domains (China, 2000), the best oral report at the International Conference on Relaxation Phenomena in Solids (Russia, 2010), the best training aids in the Department of Physics, Southern Federal University (Russia, 2006), and the best research works in the Department

of High Technologies, Southern Federal University (Russia, 2008 and 2011). The author of four monographs published at *Springer* (UK, 2009, Germany, 2012 and 2014, and Switzerland, 2016), seven chapters in monographs published at *Nova Science Publishers* (USA, 2010–2016), three chapters in monographs published at *Springer* (Switzerland, 2014 and 2016), and about 430 scientific papers, reviews, conference proceedings, and abstracts. Dr. V. Yu. Topolov has edited proceedings of international conferences on physics and mechanics of new materials (PHENMA-2013, 2015) and proceedings of regional conferences on modern information technologies in education (SITO-2015, 2016). Dr. V. Yu. Topolov has been included in the list of Active Russian Scientists: papers by Dr. V. Yu. Topolov have been cited over 1200 times in periodicals from 1987 to 2017.

Honorary co-worker of Higher Professional Education of the Russian Federation (Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation, Moscow, Russia, 2009). Wilhelm Leibniz Medal for Achievements in Technical and Physico-Mathematical Sciences (2014), Gold Medal “European Quality” (2014) and Medal to the 100th Anniversary of the Southern Federal University (2015). Member of the International Biographical Centre Top 100 Educators (Cambridge, UK, 2010) and Top 100 Scientists (Cambridge, UK, 2012). Biographical articles by Dr. V. Yu. Topolov have been published in “Dictionary of International Biography” (*IBC*, Cambridge, UK), “2000 Outstanding Intellectuals of the 21st Century” (*IBC*, Cambridge, UK) and “Who’s Who in the World” (*Marquis*, New Providence, USA).