



**PROFESSOR BOGDAN C. SIMIONESCU AT HIS 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Professor Bogdan C. Simionescu, member of the Romanian Academy, celebrates his 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. His personality and scientific activity are well recognized and widely appreciated in the polymer science national and international scientific community.

The scientific career of Bogdan C. Simionescu began when he graduated from the Faculty of Industrial Chemistry of the Polytechnic Institute of Iasi, in 1971. He obtained his PhD degree a few years later, in 1975, with a thesis on polymer induced aggregation of dye molecules, elaborated under the guidance of Prof. Georges Smets in the Department of Organic and Macromolecular Chemistry of the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. Soon after, he started his teaching career in Organic and Polymer Chemistry in the Department of Macromolecules at the Polytechnic Institute of Iasi, where he became full professor in 1992. He also acted, temporarily, as visiting or research professor in France (Université de Haute-Alsace, Mulhouse – 1991; Centre de Mise en Forme des Matériaux, Sophia Antipolis – 1992; Université du Littoral, Dunkerque – 1995; Université Montpellier 2 – 2001; Université d’Angers – 2005; Université de Rouen – 2007), Germany (Freiburger Materialforschungszentrum – 1996), Japan (University of Kyoto – 1988, Society of Polymer Science – 1996) and Poland (Centre of Polymer Chemistry of Polish Academy of Sciences, Zabrze – 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003 and 2005; University of Czestochowa – 2014). Thus, he had the opportunity to develop collaborative and interdisciplinary work with different universities and research institutions. Later on, his former students and co-workers would take advantage of such connections and perform PhD theses or other studies in those research units. Professor Bogdan C. Simionescu guided and supervised 43 PhD theses in polymer science, with subjects on unconventional or combined polymerization techniques, solution properties of ultrahigh molecular weight polymers, plasma-induced polymerization, siloxane-based block copolymers, N-acetyliminoethylene-based block and graft copolymers, biocompatible or biodegradable polymeric materials, polymer carriers for drug/gene delivery, complex supramolecular architectures. Some of his former PhD students continue now their research career at the “Petru Poni” Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry in Iasi or in well-known centers from abroad (France, US, Canada,

Switzerland, Germany, Japan). In his capacity of Head of the Department of Macromolecules at the “Gheorghe Asachi” Technical University (1996-2003), he established and promoted the Centre of Excellence “Polymers” and the Interdisciplinary Platform “Multifunctional Polymeric Materials” at this university, thus creating an appropriate environment for high education and research in polymer science and engineering.

In his early years, Professor Bogdan C. Simionescu started a very productive cooperation with “Petru Poni” Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry, where he became Director in 2000, holding this position until 2014, thus taking over the leadership of this Institute after the retirement of a prestigious scientist, Professor Cristofor I. Simionescu. In this position, he proved to be an exceptional organizer and manager of scientific activity, skills that brought this research institute to the “excellence” level in Romania and abroad. Dividing his efforts between the Department of Macromolecules at the “Gheorghe Asachi” Technical University and the “Petru Poni” Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry, Professor Bogdan C. Simionescu initiated and developed with his co-workers intensive research on a large variety of topics, such as combined polymer synthesis techniques, macromolecular radical initiators, radical ring-opening polymerization of vinyl substituted cyclic monomers, functional oligomers, organic-inorganic copolymers and, more recently, on new topics such as nanosized or nanostructured and bio-oriented materials, supramolecular and biomimetic chemistry and others. At the same time, he involved the “Petru Poni” Institute in relevant European projects, aiming to support the acquisition of modern equipment and to promote completely new and hot research topics, as well as to attract young researchers, some of them highly specialized abroad.

Today, the “Petru Poni” Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry is listed in international rankings as the main Romanian actor on the scientific international scene.

The scientific activity of Professor Bogdan C. Simionescu is illustrated in more than 400 scientific papers, books and book chapters and more than 270 plenary/invited lectures in Europe, USA, Canada and Japan. He is member of the Editorial Board of *Revue Roumaine de Chimie*, *Materiale Plastice*, *Carbohydrate Polymers* a.s.o.. He was the Romanian organizer or co-organizer of different international scientific meetings/symposia, such as ten editions of the “Cristofor I. Simionescu” *Symposium on Frontiers in Macromolecular and Supramolecular Science* and twelve editions of the *Colloque Franco-Roumain sur les Polymères*. In 2000, Professor Bogdan C. Simionescu was elected corresponding member and in 2009, he became full member of the Romanian Academy. Since 2007, he has been member of the European Academy of Science and Arts. He was elected as President of the Iasi Branch of the Romanian Academy (2012-2014), became honorary citizen of the City of Iasi (2013), honorary citizen of Dumbraveni, Suceava (2014), received the “Cristofor I. Simionescu” Medal from CHIM – INVENT – “Petru Poni” Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry, Iasi (2013), the “Cristofor Simionescu” Medal for Excellence in Macromolecular Chemistry from the American Chemical Society in association with the Romanian International Chapter (2015). He is honorary member of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Moldova (2015) and Vice-President of the Romanian Chemical Society. In 2015, Professor Bogdan C.

Simionescu received the "Steaua Romaniei" National Order – Knight. He is *Doctor Honoris Causa* of the Polytechnic University of Bucharest (2016), of the "Vasile Goldis" West University of Arad (2016) and of the "Dunarea de Jos" University of Galati (2017). In 2018, he received the *Nihil Sine Deo* Royal Medal from the Romanian Royal House and the "Dimitrie Cantemir" Medal from the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Moldova.

Since 2014, he has been Vice-President of the Romanian Academy and has been actively involved in optimizing research in the institutes/centres of the Romanian Academy and establishing Romanian research strategies.

The scientific competence and the valuable contributions of Professor Bogdan C. Simionescu led not only to his personal prestige in the international scientific community, but also to the international recognition of the Romanian polymer science all over the world.

*Editorial Board*