

# ANNIVERSARY

## Professor **SORIN IOAN ROSCA** accomplished 80 years old



Born on February 13, 1938, in Blaj, Professor Sorin Ioan Rosca became assistant professor in the Department of Organic Chemistry within the Bucharest Polytechnic Institute, in the team led by Costin Nenitzescu (*Magister* for co-workers), the founder of the organic chemistry chair in this prestigious engineering school. Professor Rosca's academic career progressed through the canonic hierarchical stages up to the degree of professor in 1990 and *professor emeritus* from 2012 to present.

A close and valuable collaborator of Professor Nenitzescu, who, together with Professor Margareta Avram, supervised his Ph.D. thesis entitled *Metal - Aromatic Complexes* (whose public defence happened in 1971), Professor Sorin Rosca promoted Romanian chemistry through prestigious missions and collaborations, lectures and co-tutorship PhD supervision at various universities in Romania and abroad.

His extraordinary, multifaceted activity has been recognized by the award of national and international prizes, orders and medals: The Award of the Ministry of Education - in 1984, the Revista de Chimie Award - in 2003, the Politehnica University of Bucharest's *Opera Omnia* in 2007, *Order of Labor* Class III - in 1984, *The National Order of Faithful Service* in rank of Knight - in 2003, the title *Palms Académique* in rank of Knight granted by the Government of France in 2004 for academic merit, the title of Honorary Citizen of Tarnaveni - in 2001. In 2007 he was awarded the title of Doctor Honoris Causa of the Ovidius University in Constanta.

Since 2001 Professor Sorin Rosca has been a member of the Academy of Technical Sciences in Romania, and a member of the Academy of Sciences, *Inscriptions et Belles Lettres*, Toulouse, France since 2009.

As Dean of the Faculty of Chemical Technology in the Polytechnic Institute of Bucharest (1979-1986), Vice-rector of the Polytechnic Institute of Bucharest between 1987-1988 and 1990-1992, Head of the Department of Organic Chemistry in the Politehnica University of Bucharest between 1990-2004 and as a member of the National Council for Higher Education Financing (CNFIS) and a permanent expert of the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS), Professor Sorin Rosca tried to maintain the upper limit of the exigency in the Romanian education in times when professional milestones and dedication to school were critically needed.

As a member of the academic community, and of many educational bodies as well, on various occasions initiated by the Ministry of Education, Professor Sorin Rosca promoted his ideas and principles supported by arguments offered by his whole life dedicated to school, standing for a quality education and acting for the integration of the Romanian school into the international community, being also deeply involved in elaboration of textbooks and didactic books as a starting point for any educational effort.

Teaching chemistry has always been one of Professor Rosca's major goals: generations of students have enjoyed his clear explanations, the *art* of making complicated issues not only perfectly understandable, but more than that, enjoyable and incentive. And this is not only a gift for a teacher, but it is also the result of a huge experience and love for the school's social and educational mission.

Professor Rosca was the initiator of the concept of education in foreign languages (English and French at the beginning) in the Politehnica University of Bucharest, and presently, the initially named Department of Engineering Sciences with its English and French streams has become the Faculty of Engineering in Foreign Languages, offering a modern Chemical Engineering education. Also, starting with 1995, he has introduced Food Chemistry as a new Bachelor and Master specialization within the Faculty of Applied Chemistry and Materials Sciences.

The preoccupation for a thorough education and good teaching of chemistry in school, for the selection of the most promising pupils to represent the country at the International Chemistry Olympiads is evidenced by his activity as chairman of the Committee for Organizing and Preparing the Chemistry National Olympiads and as a member of the Jury of the International Chemistry Olympiad: Budapest - 1987; Helsinki - 1988; Halle - 1989; Moscow - 1996.

He was also the President of the International Jury of the Chemistry Balcaniad in 1986 and 2005, and -since 1993- of the National Chemistry Competition Costin Nenitzescu organized by the Faculty of Applied Chemistry and Materials Science of the Politehnica University of Bucharest.

Numerous higher education and research institutions in Romania and abroad have enjoyed Professor Sorin Rosca's special lectures either on explaining and deepening the concepts of modern chemistry or on topics related to his research in organometallic chemistry, enantioselective reactions, organic synthesis by electrochemistry, elucidation of some organic reaction mechanisms, and more recently, in the field of physical authentication of food products.

The universities of Iasi, Bacau, Cluj, Timisoara, Constanta, Ploiesti, Arad, as well as prestigious universities from around the world, have invited Professor Sorin Rosca as keynote speaker or as visiting professor, such as the universities of Darmstadt, Berlin, Leipzig, Braunschweig, - Germany, the universities of Istanbul and Edirne - Turkey, Halkidiki - Greece, Belgrade - Serbia, the Coventry Polytechnic - UK, the universities of Paris, Lille, Toulouse, Orleans, Clermont-Ferrand - France, the universities of Kyushu, Hiroshima, Saga, Kumamoto, Kitakyushu - Japan, the American Universities Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, and Berkeley University, California. Professor Sorin Rosca was also a honored guest of the American Society of American Chemists' Meeting in New Orleans.

Grace to his solid education and to a deep knowledge of organic chemistry in all its mechanisms and interconnections, Professor Sorin Rosca enjoys the authority to be a valuable member of the editorial boards of some highly-ranked scientific journals: *Molecules* (Switzerland), *Revista de Chimie* (Bucuresti), *Buletinul Stiintific UPB (UPB Scientific Bulletin, Series B: Chemistry and Materials Science)*, *Studii si Cercetari Stiintifice* (University of Bacau), *Analele Stiintifice ale Universitatii Ovidius* of Constanta.

His great experience and scientific prestige, the pioneering work in the field of metal-aromatic complexes, the field in which his works are worldwide recognized, the publication of over 90 original papers and 7 books, were achievements that justified the choice of the Romanian chemists' community to give Professor Sorin Rosca the mandate to internationally represent us as President of the Romanian Society of Chemistry since 2001 until now. In this capacity, the personality of Professor Sorin Rosca made his mark on the objectives and achievements of the Society, successfully achieving the promotion of Romanian research and chemistry at an international level.

Under the aegis of the Romanian Chemistry Society, Professor Rosca initiated and organized meetings and debates with international personalities, with honorary guests representing various other chemistry companies in Europe and the world. He was an active and / or organizing member of numerous international events such as the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences Congresses EuCEMS, the International Conference of Chemistry Societies of the South Eastern European Countries - ICOSECS, the Franco-Romanian Symposiums for Applied Chemistry - CoFRRoCA, the Romanian International Conference on Chemistry and Chemical Engineering (RICCCE) and the National Chemistry Conferences with international participation at Calimanesti-Caciulata, many of them having reached an impressive number of editions.

This too short attempt to present the so very complex personality of Professor Sorin Rosca cannot come to its end without saying that the Romanian education in chemistry owes much of its success and its trajectory to the more than 60 years of endeavor and dedication that our Professor has offered to our school and to our academic community

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