

The 12th International Conference of Physical Chemistry *ROMPHYSCHEM-12*

(Reborn out of wreckage)

The Conference of Physical Chemistry was initiated in 1968 by Academician Ilie Murgulescu, outstanding personality of the Romanian and international scientific community. This event reached its 5th edition in 1976 and, mainly for political reasons due to the Professor Murgulescu's firm position against dictatorship, was afterwards plunged into a long recess until 1992, when the 6th edition took place, followed by the 7th (1994) and the 8th (1996). Starting from 1998 the conference left Bucharest and experienced a long and fruitful journey across Romania (Galati - 1998, Iasi - 2000, Timisoara - 2003).

The 12th edition took place in Bucharest, September 6–8, 2006. At almost the same time, the former building of the Institute of Physical Chemistry, 31 Vasile Lascar Street - specifically designed and built due to Professor Murgulescu's efforts in the late sixties, abusively taken away in 1977 by the communist regime and never taken back into possession after 1990 in spite of sustained administrative requests - was completely demolished by its present owner. In such circumstances, the Conference was a clear sign that the spirit and ideas that resulted in its foundation survived in spite of any destructive forces.

The 12th edition was organized under the patronage of the Romanian Academy (and honored by the presence of its President, Professor Ionel Haiduc) and the National Authority of Scientific Research, by the Institute of Physical Chemistry, the Department of Physical Chemistry of the Bucharest University and the Romanian Chemistry Society. It was hosted by the Faculties of Chemistry and History in the historical building of the Bucharest University, 2-12 Regina Elisabeta Blvd. This was the first *registered* International Conference of Physical Chemistry, with on-line registration and dedicated website and database.

It comprised the following sections and side events:

Sections:

1. Theoretical chemistry. Molecular structure and spectroscopy.
2. Chemical kinetics. Photochemistry. Radiochemistry.
3. Chemical thermodynamics.
4. Adsorption and heterogeneous catalysis.
5. Electrochemistry. Ionic liquids.
6. Corrosion and corrosion protection.
7. Physical chemistry of colloids and macromolecules.
8. Physical chemistry of materials. Chemical engineering.
9. Biophysical chemistry.
10. Physical chemistry of the environment. Physico-chemical analysis.

Symposia, workshop and round table:

11. Fluid Phase Equilibria.
12. Sol-Gel Science and Technology.
13. Oscillatory Reactions.
14. Magnetochemistry.
15. EPR in Nanomaterials (Round Table)
16. Molecular Science and Engineering (2nd Korean-Romanian Workshop)

The scientific program included 6 plenary lectures, 28 keynote lectures, 118 oral presentations and 236 posters. There was a good balance between national and international representation, as follows: Romania – 286, Austria – 1, Bulgaria – 8, Czech Republic – 3, France – 3, Germany – 3, Greece – 1, Hungary – 2, Israel – 2, Italy – 1, Korea – 1, Moldova – 6, Netherlands – 1, Poland – 3, Portugal – 2, Russia – 1, Serb Republic – 1, Slovenia – 1, Turkey – 3, Ukraine – 1, United Kingdom – 5.

A permanent exhibition of several companies dealing with scientific equipment and fine chemicals was organized at the 3rd floor of the Faculty of Chemistry. The technical details of the conference setup were

assigned to InterServ Connect, a specialized company lead by Dr. Calin Sabac, with whom the organizing committee had an excellent co-operation.

A fund raising campaign was an essential step in the conference organization. The following sponsors' contribution is gratefully acknowledged: OMNIASIG SA (main sponsor), VIOLA SRL, AECTRA SRL, ABL&E JASCO Romania SRL, ELDATA Paris, COMPACT Industrial SRL, Dr. Nae Georgescu, Manuela and Cristian Tântareanu. The Romanian Radio Broadcasting Corporation – Romania Cultural was the media partner.

The contribution of the administrative and technical staff and students of both the Institute of Physical Chemistry and the Department of Physical Chemistry of the Bucharest University was also extremely important during the conference days. The *Revue Roumaine de Chimie* editorial board was represented by Ms. Catalina Pacuretu who received manuscripts and offered details for publishing the presented scientific contributions in this journal.

We finally list the whole organizing committee, responsible for a sustained teamwork for the last two preceding years:

Chairman:

Prof. Victor E. Sahini
(Member of the Romanian Academy)

Scientific secretary:

Prof. Eugen Segal
(Corresponding Member of the Romanian Academy)

Members:

Dr. Niculae I. Ionescu
Dr. Gabriel Munteanu
Dr. Mircea Olteanu
Dr. Mihai V. Popa
Dr. Vlad T. Popa
Dr. Speranta Tanasescu
Dr. Maria Zaharescu (C.M. Romanian Acad.)
Prof. Cristina Mandravel
Prof. Tatiana Oncescu
Prof. Dumitru Oancea
Prof. Elena Volanschi

Conference Secretariat:

Dr. Alexandru Bârhală
Dr. Alexandra Barau
Dr. Virgil Constantin
Dr. Nicolae Spataru
Dr. Bogdan Jurca
Dr. Valentina Chiosa
Dr. Teodora Staicu
Dr. Petruta Oancea
Mr. Cristian Hornoiu
Ms. Cristina Stan
Ms. Aurelia Chelaru

Dr. Vlad Tudor Popa
Scientific Director
"Ilie Murgulescu"
Institute of Physical Chemistry