



IN MEMORIAM Acad. EUGEN SEGAL  
(1933–2013)



With great sadness we announced the passing of Professor Eugen Segal in the morning of October 09, 2013, Bucharest, just a few months after he turned 80 years old. Our most sincere condolences are extended to his family and loved ones.

Born on May 23, 1933, in Iași, Roumania and educated at the University of Bucharest – Faculty of Chemistry in 1955, Eugen Segal began his scientific and teaching carrier in University of Bucharest – Faculty of Chemistry, successively passing through all steps in graduated education, from preparatory to professor (1969). In 1964 he obtained the PhD title with the Thesis “Contributions in the kinetic study of some endothermic decompositions in solid-gas systems”, which was coordinated by Acad. Professor I. G. Murgulescu. From 1964 till 1968, Professor Segal was also the head of Chemisorption Laboratory of the Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Roumanian Academy, remaining as honorary researcher of this institution till his decease.

Professor Segal was an inspiring teacher of generations of graduate and post-graduate students for almost forty years, coordinating 22 PhD Thesis. He liked young people who in turn kept his young-full spirit. Professor Segal exceled not only in his scientific prowess, but also in his infectious enthusiasm, paired with his kind personality. For us he was our friend, our teacher, but a strong mentor. We were blessed by having the opportunity of knowing him, of working with him, of feeling his passion for science and education.

Professor Segal is primarily known as the head of the Roumanian school of “Non-isothermal kinetics” created and developed by him in the Faculty of Chemistry – University of Bucharest. Professor Segal was the soul of the “Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry Commission” (CATC) of the Roumanian Academy, initiated by him 22 years ago. He had also important contributions in other fields of physical chemistry such as adsorption, kinetics of catalytic heterogeneous reactions, formal kinetics.

Professor Segal published more than 500 papers in different scientific journals, papers which are over 2600 cited. He was also author or co-author of 12 patents and 10 books. The two volumes of “Introduction in

Physical Chemistry” (“The Molecular Kinetic Theory of Matter” and “Chemical Kinetics and Catalysis” coordinated by Professor I. G. Murgulescu, 1979 and 1981), the two volumes of “Kinetics of Heterogeneous Catalytic Reactions” (1992 and 1999), and the “Introduction to Non-isothermal Kinetics (co-author regretted Professor Dumitru Fatu, 1983) all published by “Publishing House of Roumanian Academy”, are even today after all these years, some of the most appreciate books of kinetics, catalysis and thermal analysis in Roumania. This summer, under his coordination appeared his last book “Thermal Analysis. Fundamentals and Applications. Kinetic analysis of Heterogeneous Transformations”.

For his significant scientific contributions, Professor Segal received many national and international scientific awards such as “Gheorghe Spacu” Award of the Roumanian Academy (1976), OPERA OMNIA Award of the “National University Research Council” for his entire scientific activity (2003), ICTAC Distinguished Service Award (2010). He was honored as “Doctor Honoris Causa” of several Roumanian universities: West University of Timișoara (1999), Aurel Vlaicu University of Arad (2011) and “Dunărea de Jos” University of Galați (2012).

His appointment in 1977 as regional editor of the *Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry* represents the recognition of the scientific community of his outstanding work in the field of thermal analysis. He also served actively in the *European Society of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry* (ESTAC) and *International Confederation of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry* (ICTAC) Councils (from 1991 to 2000), in editorial boards of different journals (*Revue Roumaine de Chimie*, *Roumanian Chemical Quarterly Reviews*, *Progress in Catalysis*, *Annals of West University of Timișoara* and *Proceedings of the Roumanian Academy*, Series B). He was also reviewer at numerous scientific journals as *Journal of Physical Chemistry*, *International Journal of Chemical Kinetics*, *Journal of Computational Chemistry*, *Chemical Papers*, and *Journal of Natural Science*.

His biography was included in WHO’S WHO in Science in Europe, Francis Hodgson (1972), WHO’S WHO in Roumanian science and technology, Technical Publishing House, Bucharest (1996),

WHO’S WHO in the World (1966, 1997, 1998 and 1999), WHO’S WHO in Roumania (2002), WHO’S WHO in Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry, Akademiai Kiado, Budapest (2004), Enciclopedia of Roumanian Personalities, Hubners Who is Who, Zug, Schweiz (2006).

As a recognition of his important contributions in the field of physical chemistry, in 1991 Professor Segal was elected correspondent member of the Roumanian Academy, and in 2009 full member. On November 2011, in the Hall of Roumanian Academy, he had the Reception lecture entitled “Academician I. G. Murgulescu, Schoolmaster and Creator of Science”. The following conclusive characterization of Professor I. G. Murgulescu life and activity given at the end of this allocution is also valid for Professor Segal: “From my point of view, Professor Murgulescu was a great intellectual of our country doubled by a great man. He realized remarkable things and helped people in their work and to perfect themselves. The obtained results rose his expectations, and therefore his activity was and is a work and life example.”

Professor Segal, you will remain in our memory as our mentor and friend.  
God rest your soul in peace!

*Dr. Oana Carp  
Dr. Petru Budrugaec*