



Professor Bogdan C. SIMIONESCU



PROFESSOR BOGDAN C. SIMIONESCU AT HIS 75th ANNIVERSARY

Professor Bogdan C. Simionescu, member of the Roumanian Academy, celebrates this year his 75th anniversary. His personality and scientific activity are well known and highly appreciated in the macromolecular science national and international scientific communities.

He graduated from the Industrial Chemistry Faculty of the Polytechnic Institute of Iași, in 1971, and begun his doctoral studies in January 1972 at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, with a prominent scientist – Prof. Georges Smets – with a thesis on polymer induced aggregation of dye molecules. After returning home, to Iași, he started a long and exceptional teaching career in Macromolecular Chemistry and Physics in the Department of Macromolecules at the Polytechnic Institute of Iași, where he became full professor in 1992. In the meantime, he also acted as visiting/ 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, 2015). During this period, he developed, as well, interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary work with various universities and research institutions. Later on, his former students and co-workers would strongly benefit of such connections and perform PhD theses or research studies in those research centers.

During his career, Professor Bogdan C. Simionescu guided and supervised 46 PhD theses, mostly in polymer science, with topics on unconventional or combined polymerization techniques, solution properties of ultrahigh molecular weight polymers, plasma-induced polymerization techniques, polymer carriers for drug/gene delivery, complex supramolecular architectures, biodegradable polymeric materials, science in conservation of cultural heritage, a.s.o. Some of his former PhD students are nowadays continuing their research career at the “Petru Poni” Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry in Iași or in other important universities/research units from abroad (France, US, Canada, Switzerland, Germany, etc.).

From the beginning of his scientific and academic career, Professor Bogdan C. Simionescu started a very productive collaboration with “Petru Poni” Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry, where he was elected Director in 2000, holding this position until 2014, therefore taking over the leadership of the Institute after the retirement of another prestigious scientist, Professor Cristofor I. Simionescu. As a Director, he proved to be an exceptional organizer and scientific manager, skills that brought the biggest Institute of the Roumanian Academy to the “excellence” level in Roumania and abroad, as well. Dividing his work and efforts between the Department of Macromolecules of the “Cristofor Simionescu” Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Environmental Protection from the “Gheorghe Asachi” Technical University of Iași and the “Petru Poni” Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry, Professor Bogdan C. Simionescu initiated and developed interesting research on a large variety of topics, such as combined polymer synthesis techniques, organic-inorganic copolymers, macromolecular radical initiators, and, recently, on new fields such as nanosized or nanostructured and bio-oriented materials, supramolecular and biomimetic chemistry, a.s.o. At the same time, Professor Bogdan C. Simionescu involved the “Petru Poni” Institute in relevant European projects which he competitively gained, in order to support the acquisition of very modern hard equipment and to start completely new and hot research topics, as well as to attract young, talented researchers; some of them highly specialized abroad.

Today, after the complete involvement of Professor Bogdan C. Simionescu, the “Petru Poni” Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry has become an Institute of Excellence of the Roumanian Academy and has been listed in international rankings as the main Roumanian actor on the scientific international scene.

The scientific activity of Professor Bogdan C. Simionescu is demonstrated in more than 400 papers, book chapters and books and more than 300 plenary/invited lectures in Europe, USA, Canada and Japan. He was/is also member of the Editorial Board of *Revue Roumaine de Chimie*, *Materiale Plastice*, *Carbohydrate Polymers*, etc. Professor Bogdan C. Simionescu was the Roumanian organizer/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*, where three Nobel Prize laureates presented their research, and twelve editions of the *Colloque Franco-Roumain sur les Polymères*, a.s.o.

In 2000, Professor Bogdan C. Simionescu was elected corresponding member and in 2009 he became full member of the Roumanian Academy. Since 2007, he has been member of the European Academy of Science and Arts. He, then, was elected President of the Iasi Branch of the Roumanian Academy (2012–2014), became honorary citizen of the City of Iași (2013), honorary citizen of Dumbrăveni, Suceava (2014), received the “Cristofor I. Simionescu” Medal from CHIM – INVENT – “Petru Poni” Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry, Iași (2013), the “Cristofor I. Simionescu” Medal for Excellence in Macromolecular Chemistry from the American Chemical Society in association with the Roumanian International Chapter (2015). He is honorary member of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Moldova (2015) and has been elected the President of the Roumanian Chemical Society (2021). 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 Goldiș” West University of Arad (2016), of the “Dunărea de Jos” University of Galați (2017), of the “Gr. T. Popa” University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Iași (2022) and of the “Vasile Alecsandri” University of Bacau (2023). In 2018, he received the *Nihil Sine Deo* Royal Medal from the Roumanian Royal House, the “Dimitrie Cantemir” Medal from the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Moldova, the “Costin D. Nenitzescu – Rudolf Criegee” Prize from the Society of German Chemists and the Honorary Medal “Friend of the Jewish Communities from Roumania”.

Between 2014–2022, Professor Bogdan C. Simionescu has been the Vice-President of the Roumanian Academy and the President of the Doctoral School of the Roumanian Academy, from these positions being strongly involved in optimizing the research in the institutes/centres of the Roumanian Academy, establishing Roumanian research strategies and actively helping young PhD students.

His entire scientific and academic career 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 Roumanian macromolecular science all over the world.

Editorial Board