



Professor Vasile PÂRVULESCU
Corresponding member of the Roumanian Academy



TO PROF. VASILE PÂRVULESCU ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 70th ANNIVERSARY

On the occasion of his 70th birthday, *Revue Roumaine de Chimie* celebrates the long fruitful carrier of Professor Vasile Pârvulescu, corresponding member of the Roumanian Academy.

Professor Vasile Pârvulescu was born in Bucharest, on the 25th of August 1954. He attended the pre-university studies at the “Mihai Eminescu” High School in Bucharest, then the courses of the Faculty of Chemical Technology, Polytechnic University of Bucharest. He continued his specialization in the same institute with a master's degree in catalysis and then with doctoral studies. The latter were completed in 1986, with a thesis entitled “*Study of the correlation between the physical-structural properties and the activity and selectivity of supported bimetallic catalysts*” under the guidance of Prof. Doc. I. V. Nicolescu, the founder of the Catalysis School in Roumania. The postdoctoral studies consisted in two projects obtained through European international competition, PECO and NATO, respectively, in the prestigious research center Unité de Catalyse et des Matériaux Divisés from Université Catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, in the period 1993–1994, under the guidance of professors Bernard Delmon and Paul Grange. The training phase was completed with an “Alexander von Humboldt” fellowship in 1997, under the guidance of Prof. H. Bonnemann, at the Max Planck Institute for Kohlenforschung, Mülheim, Germany.

His scientific research activity started at the Institute of Nonferrous and Rare Metals in Bucharest (IAMN/IMNR) where, in particular, he developed cosmetic pigment synthesis projects, with applications in the cosmetic and pharmaceutical industry. All this research was completed through patents and the production of compounds resulting from a facility designed and built under his guidance. The most important beneficiaries were the “Miraj” Cosmetics Company Bucharest and the Bucharest Medicines Company. During this period, he was promoted, through a competition, from the position of chemist to the position of principal researcher I. Since 1993, he is a teacher at the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Chemistry, where he has been promoted from the position of Lecturer to that of Professor (1999). He was director of the Department of Organic Chemistry, Biochemistry and Catalysis within the faculty. He was also a member of the founding group of the Catalysts and Catalytic Processes Research Center, of which he is still the director.

Prof. Pârvulescu was visiting professor of several educational institutions: Institute of Coal Chemistry, Taixuan (China), Laval Université de Quebec (Canada), Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium), RWTH Aachen (Germany), Université de Lille and Université Toulouse III – Paul Sabatier (France). The time spent in these research groups allowed him not only to exchange valuable scientific ideas, but also to establish valuable cooperation relations in the catalysis research field and related fields. Such cooperation enabled exchange of students at various education levels, access to international grants and joint publications, as well as an increased visibility of the Roumanian science and of the University of Bucharest at international level.

The contributions of Prof. Pârvulescu within the field of synthesis of catalysts, catalysts characterization, asymmetric, environmental, oxidation, plasma catalysis, green chemistry, biomass valorization, nanomaterials, etc. are reported in more than 440 research articles and reviews, which have been cited over 15,000 times, leading to a Hirsch index of 56. He is the co-author of 31 patents, of which 2 are international (all applied), 9 books, of which 6 have been published by international publishing houses and 18 book chapters. The significant number of invited lectures presented at prestigious conferences throughout Europe, North America and Asia also reflects the value of his recognized contribution to these fields in the scientific community.

Over the whole career Prof. Pârvulescu concentrated his efforts to develop modern research laboratories, equipped at international standards, to attract talented and dedicated students and co-workers, thus succeeding in a performing research activity. In recognition of his valuable scientific contributions in the field of catalysis, Prof. Vasile Pârvulescu was awarded with the Prize of the Roumanian Academy of

Sciences and “Grigore Moșil” Award for exact sciences of the National Grand Lodge of Roumania, and Proclaimed Knight of the National Order for Merits by the Roumanian President.

Besides the professional activities, Prof. Pârvulescu served as Secretary of the European Federation of the Catalysis Societies (EFCATS, 2011–2015), member of the ESF COST (CMST) Chemistry and Molecular Science and Technology Board (2000–2014), International Association of Catalysis Societies Board (IACS, 2014–present), President of the Division of mathematics and nature sciences CNCSIS (National Council of the Scientific Research of Universities, 2003–2011) and of the Division of chemistry CNCSIS (2016–2017). He is also involved in editorial activities, as member of several Editorial Boards (*Appl. Catal. B*, *Appl. Catal. A*, *ChemCatChem*, *Chemistry*, *Rev. Roum. Chem.*, *Current Catal.*) and Associate Editor at *Frontiers in Green and Environmental Chemistry*.

Currently, Prof. Pârvulescu serves as President of the Roumanian Catalytic Society and he is Director of the Research Centre of Catalysis and Catalytic Processes, University of Bucharest.

With the occasion of the 70th anniversary of Prof. Vasile Parvulescu, the Editorial Board of *Revue Roumaine de Chimie* along with the community of Roumanian chemists is honored to wish him many happy returns of this day and a further fruitful activity.

The Editorial Board