



Acad. Bogdan C. SIMIONESCU
(1948–2024)



DEDICATED TO THE LOVING MEMORY
OF ACADEMICIAN BOGDAN C. SIMIONESCU
(March 16th 1948 – October 24th 2024)

Well known and highly respected in the macromolecular/chemical science national and international scientific communities, Prof. Bogdan C. Simionescu is deeply missed and will forever remain in the hearts of the ones who had the chance to personally meet him.

He graduated from the Industrial Chemistry Faculty of the Polytechnic Institute of Iași, in 1971, and begun the doctoral studies in January 1972 at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, with a prominent scientist – Prof. Georges J. Smets – working on 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 Polymer Physics in the Department of Macromolecules – Polytechnic Institute of Iași, where he became full professor in 1992.

With an obvious pedagogic vocation, respected and admired by his students, he acted for several decades as professor, as head of the Macromolecules Department (1996–2003) – “Gh. Asachi” Technical University –, and Associate Professor at the “Politehnica” University in Bucharest (1994–2006).

In 2003, Prof. Bogdan C. Simionescu became Director of the *Polymers* Center of Excellence of the “Gh. Asachi” Technical University of Iași. Since 2006, he has been the Director of the *High-performance polymer materials for medicine, pharmacy, microelectronics, energy/information storage, environmental protection* (MATMIP) interdisciplinary research and training platform from the same university.

Meanwhile, he also occupied the position of visiting 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 was also involved in developing interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary research studies in collaboration with various research institutions; later on, his former students and co-workers strongly benefiting of such connections and performing PhD theses or research studies in those academic entities.

During his career, Prof. Bogdan C. Simionescu guided and supervised 47 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 careers 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, Prof. Bogdan C. Simionescu started a very productive and long-lasting collaboration with the “Petru Poni” Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry, where he was elected director in 2000, holding this position until 2014. As director, he proved to be a visionary scientific manager and brilliant organizer, leading through personal example, skills that brought the largest Institute of the Roumanian Academy to the “excellence” level in Romania 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 “Gh. 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, Prof. 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 research topics, as well as to attract young and talented researchers, some of them highly specialized abroad.

Today, after the relentless personal involvement of Prof. 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 international scientific scene.

The academic/scientific activity of Prof. Bogdan C. Simionescu is demonstrated in more than 400 papers, books/book chapters and more than 300 plenary/invited lectures in Europe, USA, Canada and Japan. He was also member of the Editorial Board of *Revue Roumaine de Chimie* (Assistant Editor-in-Chief), *Materiale Plastice*, *Carbohydrate Polymers*, etc. Prof. Bogdan C. Simionescu was the Roumanian organizer/co-organizer of different high level international scientific 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, Prof. 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. Was elected President of the Roumanian Academy Iasi Branch (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 Romanian 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 Romanian 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 Bacău (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”. In 2018, Acad. Bogdan C. Simionescu was also elected as President of the Roumanian Committee for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (CRIFST).

Between 2014–2022, Professor Bogdan C. Simionescu occupied the positions of Vice-President of the Roumanian Academy and President of the Doctoral School of the Roumanian Academy (which he co-founded together with Acad. Ionel-Valentin Vlad), from these high positions being strongly involved in optimizing the research quality in the institutes/centers of the Roumanian Academy, establishing Roumanian research strategies and actively helping PhD students, as well.

He has also dedicated his efforts to provide a full and relevant radiography of the “state of the art” research situation in our country, making a realistic, objective and coherent presentation and interpretation of holistic data from the R&D system, based on recent indicators, developments and proposals, with the intention to point out certain anomalies, oversights or potential problems.

He was always concerned about the young’s education, attending school meetings and talking to pupils, organizing more than 50 conferences – at the Roumanian Academy Iasi Branch and at the “Gh. Asachi Technical University”, as well – on the importance of culture, education, science and art.

His entire scientific and academic career and valuable contributions have 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.

Honoring his entire lifework, the “Petru Poni” Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry, through his disciples, named a splendid newly renovated building after him – *Pavilionul Acad. “Bogdan C. Simionescu”* –, the elegant and very emotional ceremony taking place in March 2025, when Professor Bogdan C. Simionescu, mentor of many researchers/scientists, would have been 77 years old. The same date, March 2025, was chosen by the “Poni-Cernătescu” Museum of Iași – a historical place which Prof. Bogdan C. Simionescu loved to visit – to honor his memory by dedicating him a permanent display case filled with some of his personal objects donated to the museum by his family.

Prof. Bogdan C. Simionescu is and will always be remembered not only as a great scientist, visionary leader and manager, but, more importantly, as a true patriot, a generous, gentle, discrete, refined, highly cultivated man, whose life’s purpose/mission was to build a solid and timeless legacy for the generations to come. He has definitely succeeded.