

**This issue of our journal is dedicated to
Professor Florin Dan Irimie
on His 65th Anniversary**



Professor Florin Dan Irimie was born on March 30th, 1953 in Braşov, where he completed the primary, gymnasium and high school studies. In 1972, he became a student of the Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering of the Polytechnic University of Iaşi, specializing in Technology of Organic Compounds.

He elaborated his diploma project under the guidance of the famous Professor Corneliu Oniscu and he graduated in 1977. During 1977-1982, he was employed as a chemical engineer at Farmec Factory of Cosmetic Products in Cluj-Napoca, first as a coordinator of production activity, afterwards as a researcher of the Research and Development Department. In the period of 1982-1987 he performed research as a chemical engineer at the Biochemistry Department of the University of Agricultural Sciences from Cluj-Napoca. In 1987 he was invited as a teaching assistant to Babeş-Bolyai University (UBB), Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering to hold Chemical Technology seminars and laboratory works.

Under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Sorin Mager, he obtained the PhD title in chemistry (1993) with a thesis on “Aryl-oxy-carboxylic compounds with potential biologic activity”.

From 1990 he joined as lecturer the staff of the Chemical Technology Department at UBB, where he advanced to associate professor (1993) and to full professor (1999).

He was a research fellow at Mans France University, under the guidance of Prof. Eric Brown (1991) and at Michigan State University, invited by Prof. Rawle Hollingsworth (1995).

During the period 1992-2000, he acted as chancellor of the Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering of UBB.

In the early 90's he realized the rapid development of biocatalysis in organic synthesis due to the enhanced chemo-, regio-, stereoselectivities of enzymes. He also recognized the importance of biocatalysis in reduction of environmental impact and also the potential of its contribution to more sustainable chemical industries ranging from pharmaceuticals to biofuels.

For this reason, during his tenure besides teaching General Chemical Technology, he introduced Biochemistry and Biotechnology lectures for existing BSc programs. He was also co-founder of the Catalysis and Biocatalysis MSc programme at the Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering. In 1995 he founded and continuously directed the most appreciated Biochemical Engineering BSc specialization. Also in this period he developed, together with the Faculty of Biology and Geology, a multidisciplinary MSc programme titled Cellular Biotransformations and then the Organic and Biochemical Processes Engineering MSc programme at the Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering. He founded and directed the Department of Biochemistry and Biochemical Engineering during the period 1999-2012. During this time, he developed several new disciplines at the Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering like Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Biocatalysis, Enzymatic and Fermentative Technologies, Bioprocess Engineering, Genetic Engineering, etc. He founded the Bioprocessing of Organic Substrates research group, which in time was transformed into the Biocatalysis and Biotransformation Research Centre, one of the most relevant integrated research units for biocatalyst development and enzyme assisted organic reactions in Central and Eastern Europe. He coordinated more than ten research projects.

From 2001-2002, the group coordinated by Professor Irimie joined to the CEEPUS Network “*Teaching and Learning Bioanalysis*”, led by the University of Pécs, Hungary, a network of universities aimed to establish cooperation in research and teaching activities.

He was invited lecturer at several prestigious universities such as: Karl-Franzens University of Graz, Austria, University Rouen, France, Budapest University of Technology and Economics Hungary, Eötvös Loránd University

of Budapest, Hungary, Ivanovo State University of Chemistry and Technology, Russia, University of Pecs, Hungary, “Constantine the Philosopher” University of Nitra, Slovakia, Charles University of Prague, Czech Republic, “Neofit Rilski” University of Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, University of Zagreb, Croatia and University of Warsaw, Poland, Escuela Superior Politecnica de Chimborazo-Ecuador, Hanoi University of Science and Technology-Vietnam, National University of Laos.

Among his many scientific contacts, the most fruitful collaboration with the Bioorganic Chemistry Group from Budapest University of Technology and Economics should be mentioned, underlined by many common publications.

He is a member of the Doctoral School of Chemistry and he was the scientific supervisor of 13 PhD theses, all in the field of biocatalysis.

Prof. Florin-Dan Irimie, as a devoted researcher, was the corresponding author of several valuable publications dealing with cellular and enzymatic biocatalysis, immobilized enzymes in stereoselective organic synthesis, multienzymatic cascade reactions, enzymatic biofuel synthesis etc. His numerous publications in prestigious journals like *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry*, *Journal of Molecular Catalysis B: Enzymatic*, *Process Biochemistry*, *ChemCatChem*, *Bioresource Technology*, *European Journal of Organic Chemistry*, *ACS Sustainable Chemistry and Engineering*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, *Angewandte Chemie*, etc. played an important role in increasing the international visibility of Romanian science.

He is also author and co-author of five books written in Romanian and three book chapters in English (CRC press, Elsevier, Springer).

In 2018 the Babeş-Bolyai University awarded Professor Florin-Dan Irimie with the title of Professor Emeritus to honor his sustained and distinguished educational and research service brought to the University.

Currently, Professor Florin Dan Irimie is continuing untiringly and with commitment his educational and scientific activity. The guest editors and his collaborators from the Biocatalysis and Biotransformation Research Centre would like to express their best wishes to him. May he continue to enjoy many more years of successful Biocatalysis in good health.

GUEST EDITORS

Prof. Dr. Monica Ioana TOȘA
Prof. Dr. László POPPE
Prof. Dr. Csaba PAIZS

