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(RECOMMENDED CITATION)

Prof. Emil Cordoş PhD

Professor Cordoș is part of a student generation that makes the most representative connection between the group of professors that founded the chemistry department in early 1920 and the generation that graduates in early 1960 and developed the chemistry department in both fundamental and engineering chemistry. This generation was the last to have the chance of lectures of great chemists of this country like Raluca Ripan in Inorganic Chemistry, Ioan Cadariu in Physical Chemistry or Ioan Tanasescu in Organic Chemistry. Also, these generation had a very good background in physics with Professor Mercea and mathematics with Professor Chis.

Professor Cordoș became a student of the Faculty of Chemistry in 1954 and graduated in 1959 with a degree of merit (red diploma), specialty Inorganic Chemistry. He became a member of the Department of Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry led by Academician Raluca Ripan in 1960, when he obtained, by competition, a preparatory position followed in 1961 by a promotion to assistant.

His university career unfolded, until retirement, in the same department, by going through the consecrated steps of the academic hierarchy: lecturer in 1968, associate professor in 1976, professor in 1990 and consulting professor in 2005.

Professor Cordoș also occupied leadership positions at the Babeș-Bolyai University, Faculty of Chemistry: Vice Dean, 1977-1981, Dean, Faculty of Chemistry, 1990-1992 and Head of Analytical Chemistry Chair, 1996-2002. As vice dean of the Faculty of Chemistry has contributed to the establishment of departments of chemical engineering. Professor Cordoş was, for a two years mandate, the first Dean of the Faculty of Chemistry after the events from December 1989. Needless to say that it was a much tensed mandate that required determination and very clear objectives. In spite of it, he managed to re-establish the traditional departments of the faculty, ensured a beginning of compatibility with top European university curricula and a smooth continuation, without major shocks, of the teaching process.

Specialization of Professor Cordoş in Analytical Chemistry is the Instrumental Analysis with emphasis on automated analytical instrumentation and its applications, mainly in spectrometric methods. He made the first steps in this field at the University of Illinois, USA, where he worked for three years as Fulbright fellow and postdoctoral research associate. As a matter of fact he defended his PhD in 1969 with a thesis entitled "Contributions to the automation of kinetic methods of analysis" using the experimental work done in the period of Fulbright grant. On those years the scientific research in all fields, including analytical instrumentation was advancing under the flag of computer assisted methods, and electronics on microchips. He understood that valuable research in the analytical instrumentation implies an interdisciplinary approach and proper infrastructure that could not rely only on resources and staff of a department in a Romanian university. Therefore, besides the remodeling of the Instrumental Analysis course he set up and organized research teams and groups within specific projects. In 1990 these collectives merged and, finally, in 1996 they became the Research Institute for Analytical Instrumentation, ICIA, a subsidiary of the National Institute of Research and Development in Optoelectronics. Those teams and the institute could and did address projects on very broad topic including spectrophotometry systems, from simple devices to systems of analysis based on radio frequency generated plasma, sensors based on ceramic semiconductor, robots specialized in automatic analysis and very complex national projects on environment, health, biofuels, and highly specialized methods of control for food and drugs. While the most research institutes from Cluj-Napoca are disappearing the institute founded by Professor Cordoș is growing and providing jobs and attractive professional domains for many talented and hardworking people.

Professor Cordoş achievements in the fields of instrumental analysis, especially in spectrometric methods, are described in 207 papers, 130 of these being published in ISI indexed journals. He published five books: Electronics for Chemists, Ed. Stiintifica (1978), Atomic Absorption and Fluorescence Spectrometry, Ed. Academiei (1984), Analysis by Atomic Spectrometry, Ed. INOE (1998). Analysis by UV- Vis Molecular Absorption Spectrometry, Ed. INOE (2001), Analytical Atomic Spectrometry with Plasma Sources, Ed. INOE (2007); three chapters in books

and a chapter in a megaencyclopedia devoted to analytical chemistry into the third millennium. The encyclopedia had 14 volumes and 700 contributors as experts in their fields. Only two of them were Romanians. To these should be added the studies, methods and instrumentation resulted from more than 100 projects and research contracts or grants covered as project director and 12 patents. A special note for the spectrometric systems based on radio frequency generated plasma sources, made before 1990 and continued through a series of projects to date and for the environmental projects in European programs. Under his leadership were presented 23 doctoral thesis. Regarding the connection with Studia Chemia, Prof. Cordoș, as Dean, was Studia's responsible editor in 1992. He published his first papers in Studia in 1962, volume VII.

Professor Cordoș is member of many professional societies among them stands: American Chemical Society, Romanian Society of Chemistry, Society for Applied Spectroscopy, International Society of Environmental Epidemiology, EURACHEM Romania (founding member). He was president of the first subsidiary in Cluj-Napoca of the Romanian Society of Chemistry and is president and founder of PROANALITICA XXI.

Cluj-Napoca, July, 2016

Prof. dr. Tiberiu Frențiu