

Professor Ionel Catalin Popescu on his 70th Anniversary



Professor Ionel Catalin Popescu was born on the 15th of July 1945. After graduating from Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca (UBB) as a chemist in 1968, he became a research assistant at “Petru Poni” Macromolecular Chemistry Research Institute Iasi, until 1969. Back to the Faculty of Chemistry of Cluj-Napoca, he received his PhD diploma in 1976, working under the supervision of the distinguished Professor Candin Liteanu in the field of electroanalytical chemistry.

As Teaching Assistant (1972), Assistant Professor (1976), Associate Professor (1985) and Professor (1995) at the Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Cluj-Napoca, his work continuously contributed to the development and growth of the Departments of Analytical and Physical Chemistry. His courses in the field of applied electrochemistry were highly appreciated by the undergraduate and graduate students. Between 1979 and 1985 he worked as an Associate Professor at the National Institute of Industrial Chemistry, Setif, Algeria. In 1994, Prof. Popescu contributed to the foundation of the master program in Applied Electrochemistry at Babes-Bolyai University, coordinating it until 2008.

The research interests of Professor Popescu span the fields of electroanalytical chemistry, sensors / biosensors, modified electrodes, and electrocatalysis. Among his major contributions, one can count the obtaining and characterization of various non-conventional electrode materials exhibiting electrocatalytic activity and/or selective recognition properties for sensors or biosensors construction, self-assembled electrochemical nanostructures on

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gold, electropolymerization on carbonaceous materials and adsorption on conventional electrode materials. In addition to over 150 scientific papers, and 8 patents Professor Popescu also co-authored 8 books and managed numerous grants and research projects. He counts more than 170 participations to scientific conferences with lectures, posters and oral communications. The research grants he coordinated, substantially contributed to the development of electrochemical and electroanalytical research at the Babeş-Bolyai University.

Professor Popescu was a very active member of the international electrochemical community. He has served two terms as national secretary of the International Society of Electrochemistry and he is member of the Romanian Society of Chemistry and of the Romanian Society of Electrochemistry (elected President).

He has served as the head of Physical Chemistry Department (2004-2008), of Chemistry Department (2008-2012), and of the Center of Electrochemistry and Non-conventional materials (excellence diploma of Babes-Bolyai University, 2010). He was member of UBB Senate (2004-2012) and of the Faculty Council during several years.

For his outstanding achievements, he was rewarded with UBB prizes, such as Prize for the best scientific book - 2005 („Amperometric Biosensors. Theory and applications”), Professor of the year – 2011, Prize of representativity -2009, 2010, Prize of scientific excellence - 2008, and the Prize for didactic excellence - 2006, 2007.

This issue of Studia Universitas Babeş-Bolyai, Seria Chemia is dedicated to Professor Popescu in recognition of his exceptional achievements within the Romanian academic community. The intention of the editors was to bring together contributions from the large international circle of his coworkers, scientists that have close professional contact with him and those working intensively in the field of Electrochemistry.

Now, at his 70th anniversary, we—the colleagues of the Electrochemistry group, as well as all the colleagues and researchers of the Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering of the Babeş-Bolyai University, along with the Editorial Board and all the contributors - wish Professor Ionel Catalin Popescu health and all the best in the many years to come!

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