



This year Professor Ionel Haiduc, Member of the Roumanian Academy, celebrates his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. Born in Cluj on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1937, Ionel Haiduc graduated the Faculty of Chemistry of the University of Cluj in 1959. In 1964, he obtained the equivalent of a PhD in chemistry at the M.V. Lomonosov Institute of Fine Chemicals Technology in Moscow under a guidance of the Academician K.A. Andrianov. From 1959 until the present time the scientific life of Acad. Ionel Haiduc was developed at the Faculty of Chemistry of the University of Cluj. Full professor at the age of 36, he completed his formation as a researcher, in U.S.A., between 1966 and 1972, during three postdoctoral stages. Between 1990 and 1993 he

was the Rector of "Babes-Bolyai" University of Cluj-Napoca and the vice-president of National Conference of Rectors. The passion for science in general and for chemistry in particular, the joy of sharing knowledge was appreciated by generations of students who often would have liked the courses to be never-ending stories. He is an outstanding professor and mentor recognized by the whole academic community.

The scientific areas covered by Professor Ionel Haiduc are Coordination and organometallic chemistry of Main Group elements, Supramolecular organometallic chemistry, Inorganic rings, Biologically active metal compounds (including antitumor activity), Inorganic chemistry nomenclature and systematization.

Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering of Babes-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca has now a well known School of Organometallic Chemistry developed by Professor Ionel Haiduc starting the early 70's.

Professor Ionel Haiduc was always connected to the different aspects of the chemists' community life. Like a member of many academic bodies, he was involved in Science policy and management, as an active actor fighting for quality in the academic life and as author of publications.

The scientific work of Professor Ionel Haiduc is covered by 9 books (published in Romanian, Polish, English and Greek), 25 chapters in collective volumes and more than 400 scientific and review articles.

The most recent book published "Supramolecular Organometallic Chemistry" (co-authored by F. Edelmann), with the Foreword written by Jean-

Marie Lehn, Nobel prize winner, describes not only a major field of chemistry, but also a vivid interface between chemistry, biology, physics, and materials science. The prestigious ACS journal *Crystal Growth & Design* quoted: "As a discrete field, supramolecular organometallic chemistry did not exist until the publication of Haiduc and Edelman's book *Supramolecular Organometallic Chemistry*".

His brilliant career received a fully deserved recognition. The Romanian Academy offered him the "Gh. Spacu" prize in 1974 and elected him as corresponding member in 1990 and as full member in 1991. He was president of the Cluj-branch (1995-2006) and vice-president of the Romanian Academy (1998-2000). Starting 2006 he is the President of the Romanian Academy. Many other national and international awards and prizes mark the exceptional carrier of Ionel Haiduc. To name only a few of them: Humboldt Forschungs-aufenthalt (1997), Gauss Professorship, Göttingen Academy (1998-1999), "Pro Colaboratione" Award, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Debrecen Branch (1999), Honour Diploma, Presidium of the Moldavian Academy of Sciences (1999), Honorary Member of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova (2002), elected member of Academia Europaea (London) (2002), *Doctor honoris causa*, Technical University "Gh. Assachi", Iasi, Romania (2002) and Polytechnical University of Timisoara, Romania (2004), Prize of Romanian Chemical Society (2004).

He also was awarded by the Presidents of Romania with "*Star of Romania*" ["Steaua Romaniei"] (2000 – mare ofiter, 2006 "mare cruce") and in 2006 and the "*Order of Honour*," by the President of Republic Moldova.

With his scientific horizon, his sense of humor and his kindness, he was a perfect ambassador of the Romanian school of chemistry.

At his 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Editorial Board of *Studia Universitatis Babes-Bolyai*, Series *Chemia* presents to Professor Ionel Haiduc the very best wishes for a long healthy and fruitful life and many successes in the years to come.

Editorial Board