

PROFESSOR PAUL ȘERBAN AGACHI



Born in Bucharest on October 21st, 1947, the personality of Professor Paul Șerban Agachi has become outlined already from the High School period spent at the National College "Sf. Sava" and then it gained value by attending the courses of the Faculty of Control Engineering and Computer Science of the Polytechnical Institute of Bucharest, graduated in 1970 on a highly ranked position obtained as an outstanding student.

From the early beginning of the career, his professional interests have been placed under the view and vision on the future role and great potential that the computers will have during the next decades, a prediction that has been fully confirmed by most features of the contemporary life.

The PhD degree obtained in 1985 in the field of Control has emerged from both wide and thorough theoretical and practical experience gained at the Design Institute for Organic Chemistry and the Computer Centre of the Ministry for Chemical Industry in Bucharest.

In 1978 Professor Agachi received the *Teclu Award* of the Romanian Academy as an early recognition for the value of scientific and technical work performed during the first years of his career. His future research interests have roots in this period and they will be constantly developed during the next years in the very attractive fields of modelling, simulation, control and optimisation of chemical processes.

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The scientific contributions of Professor Paul Șerban Agachi are the result of his multidisciplinary education covering different engineering fields, such as: electrical, chemical and control fields. Integrating process control in successful applications is a task that involves both profound theoretical knowledge and comprehensive practical skills and both of them have been extensively proved by the theoretical developments of the Model Predictive Control algorithm and by the industrial applications achieved by Professor Agachi. Data acquisition and processing, modelling, control and optimisation have been investigated and implemented in a large number of processes, such as: polyvinylchloride production, volatile oils distillation, polyvinylacetate production, brine electrolysis, hydrazine production, fluid catalytic cracking or soda ash production.

The scientific research work performed during the 37 years of devoted efforts has emerged in 13 books and textbooks, over 200 articles in scientific journals, national or international scientific events and 6 patents. The most recently published book "Model Based Control - Case Studies in Process Engineering" at Wiley-VCH Verlag is a reference work in the control field, worldwide addressed to researchers, engineers and students.

A different but perfectly harmonizing facet of the scientist Paul Șerban Agachi is revealed by his gifted vocation for teaching, which finds its fulfilment starting with 1982 when he becomes member of the teaching staff of the Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, at the Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering. The steps of the academic degrees are completed in short time and starting 1994 he becomes Professor of Control, Modelling and Optimisation.

The always enthusiastic and determined force and energy he generously invested in national or international research and education projects have shown important results. Invited Professor at Universities all around Europe, Professor Paul Șerban Agachi was awarded in 1992 with a Fulbright Scholarship at California Institute of Technology, Department of Chemical Engineering, as Visiting Associate in the Control group of Professor Manfred Morari, where he brought an important contribution to the Project of Modelling and Control of a Fluid Catalytic Cracking Unit for Chevron Research & Development.

Professor Paul Șerban Agachi has constantly been a pioneering messenger for the ideas of implementing information technology in education and research activities. His computer application projects have been proved to be successful first in the Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical

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Engineering and then extended throughout the Babeş-Bolyai University, becoming a reference model for the Romanian higher education network.

The development of a new school of Computer Aided Process Engineering is a recognized contribution of Professor Agachi of which generations of professional highly trained students are grateful.

As a natural consequence of experience accumulation, the polyvalent personality of Professor Paul Şerban Agachi has also shown its quality at the level of leadership, first as Head of Chemical Engineering Department, then as Chancellor and eventually as Vice-rector of Babeş-Bolyai University. Recognized as a reformer and developer of the education and research systems, the results of his work in this field have achievements both in Romania and abroad; his participation in 2000 and 2001 as an UNESCO Higher Education consultant in the UN program "Oil for Food" in Iraq is a significant example. The critical analyses followed by the proposal of reforming solutions are results of his vigorous activity performed in the academic and management of the research, both at the Babeş-Bolyai University and at national level.

His scientific and management merits are worldwide recognized and he became member of prestigious international professional organizations, such as the American Institute of Chemical Engineers or DECHEMA, but also member of the Romanian Academy of Technical Sciences. Being an ambassador of the Romanian school of Computer Aided Process Engineering, he organized for the first time in Romania Cape Forum 2005 and ESCAPE 17, scientific events of high international standards.

In recognition of his research and institutional management contributions Professor Agachi was awarded by the President of Romania with the award *Ordinul National "Pentru Merit" în grad de Comandor*.

At his 60th anniversary, the teaching staff community of Babeş-Bolyai University and Editorial Board of *Studia Chemia* addresses to Professor Paul Şerban Agachi the appreciation for his entire activity along with the best wishes for a long life of successful future achievements.

The Editorial Board