

Preface

It is my great honor and pleasure to edit the submitted contributions in the recognition of **Professor Jacek Młochowski** outstanding scientific and academic achievements on the occasion of his 70th birthday. For many years he was my boss and a special friend, who has generously shared his chemical knowledge, intuition as well as his good sense of humor. Of course, it was not only my privilege. Many of his friends and colleagues were willing to join me in these special birthday greetings, dedicating their papers. I am grateful to all of them. For the readers who do not know the Jubilee Celebrator, below we present his short biographical note.

Jacek Młochowski was born on 12 February 1937 in Warsaw, Poland. After the World War II his family moved westwards, to Lubań Śląski. He received his secondary school education in Jelenia Góra and in 1955 was admitted to first year of study in the Faculty of Chemistry of the Wrocław University of Technology. After 5 years he graduated (M.Sc. in Chemical Technology) and then joined the staff of the Department of Mechanical Engineering of the same University. In 1963 he became a Ph.D.-course student at the Department of Coal Chemistry and Technology, Faculty of Chemistry, Wrocław University of Technology. Four years later he presented his dissertation on the refinement of naphthalene isolated from the coal-tar, prepared under supervision of Prof. Błażej Roga. This topic brought him to organic chemistry, a discipline within which he spent his entire career. Thus in 1967 Dr. Młochowski joined the Chair of Organic Chemistry headed by Prof. Zofia Skrowaczewska. At that time, his main research interest centered on the preparation and analysis of melamine. In the seventies he started a new research project concerning the synthesis and reactivity of azaaromatics, namely naphthyridines, phenanthrolines, and acridines. He also paid research visits to the laboratories at the Moscow Mendeleev Institute of Chemical Technology and the Institute of Organic Chemistry of Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. In 1975, for the research on phenanthrolines, he was awarded a D.Sc. degree (Habilitation) and was appointed as an Assistant Professor (Docent). Since 1983 he was an Associate Professor and then in 1992 he became a Full Professor of Organic Chemistry at the Faculty of Chemistry, Wrocław University of Technology.

In collaboration with the biomedical research laboratories of Prof. Magdalena Fikus and Prof. Anna Ingłot, Prof. Młochowski discovered new derivatives of 1,8-diazafluorene as the interferon inducers and DNA intercalators. The other studies concerned the oxidative synthetic transformations as a tool for the preparation of quinones, epoxides, aldehydes, and ketones. Since the mid-eighties, in the fruitful cooperation with Prof. Ludwik Syper, Prof. Młochowski has made important contributions to the development of synthetically useful organoselenium reagents. Professor Młochowski with his enthusiastic collaborators started the school, now in-

ternationally recognizable, of chemistry of organoselenium compounds. He published over 200 papers, including 34 in the present journal. His books include an excellent textbook on heterocyclic chemistry, a university textbook on general chemistry (with L. Achremowicz) as well as a textbook of practical organic chemistry. He also wrote (with L. Syper) 8 articles on the organoselenium reagents in *Encyclopedia of reagents for organic synthesis* (J. Wiley, 1995). In addition to *Science Citation Index* independent citations (ca. 1000), his papers were cited in various textbooks and monographs, e.g. J. March: *Advanced Organic Chemistry* (J. Wiley) and *Fieser's Reagents for Organic Synthesis* (Wiley).

Professor Młochowski taught several courses in the fields of organic and general chemistry attended by a very large number of students. Nearly a hundred students prepared their Master theses and ten persons received their Ph.D. degree under the supervision of Prof. Młochowski. They were M. Jastrzębska-Głapa, Z. Szulc, E. Kubicz, J. Palus, S.B. Said, S. Mhizha, M. Osajda, M. Brząszcz, P. Potaczek and M. Chojnacka.

He was very active in the academic life, often acting as a reviewer and a member of various task-bodies called for the employment and promotion at the University.

During those years Prof. Młochowski served as a vice-Dean of the Faculty and as a Head of the Institute of Organic and Physical Chemistry, Wrocław University of Technology. He was also an elected member of numerous scientific bodies, including the Committee of Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences. It should also be noted that he was very active in the Polish Chemical Society, working as a chairman of Organic Chemistry Division of the Society. In the recognition of his scientific achievements he was awarded the Kostanecki Medal of the Polish Chemical Society (1995). It supplements many other medals, distinctions, and honors awarded by the State, the Ministry of Education, the Polish Academy of Sciences, and the University.

His friends and colleagues, those who have contributed to this issue, and those who could not, wish him the very best in his continuing chemistry and life. *Ad multos annos!*

*Jacek Skarżewski
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