

Preface



We are proud to present this issue of the *Journal of Fluorine Chemistry*, which contains papers describing the latest development in synthetic organofluorine chemistry and dedicated to the memory of Professor Ivan Ludvigovich Knunyants, an outstanding chemist and a wonderful man, whose 100th anniversary was celebrated on June 6 last year.

Due to a heroic effort of the Organizing Committee and the administration of A. N. Nesmeyanov Institute of Organoelement Compounds (INEOS), the Russian Academy of Sciences, an excellent Symposium, the 7th All-Russian Conference “Fluorine Chemistry” dedicated to the centenary of I. L. Knunyants, was held at INEOS in Moscow on June 5–9, 2006. It gathered 224 participants from Belarus, France, Germany, Israel, UK, Ukraine, USA, Uzbekistan and Russia.

Professor Knunyants was a founder of organofluorine chemistry in USSR. In the late 1950s, Professor Knunyants,

who at that time was a world recognized organic chemist and a full member of the Academy of Science of USSR, decided to change the direction of his research. He hired three young graduates, Yuri Cheburkov, Boris Daytkin and Lev German, from Chemistry Department of Moscow State University and offered them to start work in a totally different area—the organic chemistry of fluorine. This experiment was quite successful and in a few years this small group became the Laboratory of Organofluorine Chemistry in INEOS of the Academy of Sciences of USSR, which at one point had over 50 employees. Professor Knunyants had a rare gift to attract wonderful and gifted scientists into the Laboratory, which he created and was head of for many years. Ivan Ludvigovich also established high ethical and research standards in the Laboratory, so it is not surprisingly that soon it became a highly productive and world recognized center of organofluorine chemistry, where many fascinating discoveries were made. More details about Ivan Ludvigovich and the Laboratory can be found in the introductory article written by his former student and colleague, Dr. Yuri Cheburkov, which contains reflections about Ivan Ludvigovich and INEOS.

This memorial issue of the *Journal of Fluorine Chemistry* contains 30 papers which came from all over the world and covering different aspects of the organic chemistry of fluorine, such as cycloaddition reactions, chemistry of polyfluorinated aromatic and heteroaromatic compounds, fluorinated amino acids and optically active compounds, synthesis and application of fluorinated boron derivatives, the development of new sources of fluoride anion and perfluoroalkylating agents, new reaction of polyfluorinated sulfur derivatives, etc., demonstrating amazing progress which has been made within this branch of organic chemistry in recent years. Many of these studies are based on the ideas elaborated by Professor Knunyants and his colleagues.

We would like to thank all authors who submitted papers to this issue and also contributed by reviewing manuscripts. Special thanks go to Nina Delaygina and Victor Cherstkov for the photograph of Professor I.L. Knunyants and Professor W.R. Dolbier for his enthusiastic support of this special issue.

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