



Editorial

Preface



Professor Wei-Yuan Huang, Academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences, is one of the founders and pioneers of organofluorine chemistry in China. He laid the foundation of Chinese fluorine chemistry with his pioneering work. This special issue of *Journal of Fluorine Chemistry* is dedicated for his 90th birthday.

Professor Huang was born in Putian, Fujian Province in December, 1921, where he received his elementary and middle school education. He obtained his Bachelor's degree in Chemistry in 1943 from Fukien Christian University, and held a teaching position in the same afterward. He received his MS degree in 1949 from Lingnan University where he did graduate study since 1947 and was later admitted into Harvard University as a Ph.D. candidate. Professor Huang received his Ph.D. degree from Harvard University in 1952 under the supervision of Professor L.F. Fieser. Professor Huang had been carrying out his postdoctoral research in Dr. Fieser's group till he returned to China in 1955.

Professor Huang joined Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry (SIOC), Chinese Academy of Sciences as an associate professor when he returned to China, and thereafter promoted as a full professor in 1960. He was elected as an Academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1980.

At the early career in SIOC, he devoted himself in studies of steroid chemistry and natural products chemistry with some

profound discoveries, which laid an important foundation for steroidal pharmaceutical industry in China. But most of his accomplishments were achieved after he committed his primary research interest to organofluorine chemistry in responding to the nation's summon at the end of 1950s when China's organofluorine industry barely existed. He established Department of Organofluorine Chemistry from ground up with his colleagues in 1960 and made groundbreaking contributions for developing an array of fluorine-containing materials. After the interruption of "Cultural Revolution" (1966–1976), Professor Huang made a fresh start in organofluorine chemistry research. Professor Huang and his students discovered a novel reaction (Sulfinatodehalogenation Reaction) in 1981, which converts perfluoroalkyl halides to the corresponding perfluoroalkanesulfinates with sulfinatodehalogenation reagents such as sodium dithionite, etc. This reaction is well documented internationally and has fundamental importance and a wide scope of applications in fluorine chemistry; as a result, it won the Second-Class Award of National Natural Sciences in 1986. Based on this reaction, Professor Huang continued his study in chemistry of perfluoroalkanesulfinates and perfluoroalkanesulfonyl halides. He and his students identified sulfinatodehalogenation as a single electron transfer reaction; they developed a new and practical method for perfluoroalkylation of unsaturated substrates such as alkenes, alkynes and aromatic compounds, etc. with sulfinatodehalogenation reagents. In the past few decades, Professor Huang published more than 200 research papers and mentored twenty Ph.D. candidates, including the first Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry in Mainland China.

Professor Huang served as Deputy Director of SIOC from 1978 and became the Director of SIOC from 1984 to 1987. He was elected as President of Chinese Chemical Society in 1986 (1986–1990) and Bureau Member of IUPAC from 1985 to 1993. Due to his groundbreaking work and great academic attainments, Professor Huang merited wide recognition from both home and abroad. He was awarded prestigious Moissan Medal in 1986 at the special international meeting "Centenary of the Discovery of Fluorine" in Paris. He was also awarded by He Liang He Li Foundation in 1994 and Chen Jia-Geng Foundation in 1997. He was the co-chairman of 17th International Symposium on Fluorine Chemistry, which held in Shanghai in 2003.

I am very pleased to see that this special issue of *Journal of Fluorine Chemistry* is dedicated to Professor Wei-Yuan Huang on the occasion of his 90th birthday. This special issue is composed of many articles on topics of interest to Professor Huang, which were

contributed by his friends, former colleagues and students. I fully believe that the fluorine chemistry will continue to blossom with more and more young scientists following the footsteps of the old generation of fluorine chemists.

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