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### Dedication

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## DEDICATION

### **To Professor Cristofor I. Simionescu on the Occasion of His 75th Birthday, July 17, 1995**

Cristofor I. Simionescu is a scientist of unique personality and vision. His distinguished career is an example of hard work, perseverance, creativity, dedication and leadership.

Professor Cristofor I. Simionescu was born on July 17, 1920, in Dumbraveni-Suceava, Romania. He studied at the Faculty of Industrial Chemistry of the Polytechnic Institute of Jassy from which he graduated magna cum laude in 1944. In 1948 he was awarded a Doctoral degree in Organic Technology from Polytechnic Institute of Jassy and in the same year he became Associate Professor at the same institution. Three years later he was promoted to Full Professor and was appointed to the Chair of Natural and Synthetic Macromolecules. From 1953 until 1976 Professor Simionescu was Rector of the Polytechnic Institute of Jassy.

In 1955 Professor Simionescu was elected a corresponding member of the Romanian Academy and, in 1963, a full member. In the same year he was elected President of the Jassy branch of the Romanian Academy. He held this position until 1974. In 1989 he was reelected President of the Jassy Branch of the Romanian Academy and he holds this position presently. For more than two years he was acting President of the Romanian Academy, and from 1974 to 1990 he was Vice President of the Academy.

Professor Simionescu is the founder of the school of polymer science in Romania. He introduced and taught the first polymer chemistry and polymer physics courses at the Polytechnic Institute of Jassy. Under his guidance, more than 100 students have prepared their Doctoral theses. In 1964 he transformed the Institute of Chemistry of the Romanian Academy in Jassy into the first Romanian institute dedicated entirely to research on natural and synthetic polymers. Since 1970 he has been Director of the "Petru Poni" Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry in Jassy.

Professor Simionescu has dedicated his career to the creation of a modern school of polymer science in Romania. He initiated undergraduate and graduate programs in natural and synthetic polymers at the Polytechnic Institute of Jassy, initiated long-term research projects, and organized international symposia and meetings. Many of his former students hold academic positions in Romania and other countries around the world.

Professor Simionescu's personality, his numerous and important scientific contributions, and his involvement in education and science have been recognized and highly appreciated worldwide. He is a member of several international scientific organizations including the Societe Chimique de France (1963), the American Chemical Society (1965), was elected a Honorary Member of the Societe de Chimie Industrielle de Paris (1970), and is a member of the International Society for the Study of the Origin of Life (ISSOL). For many years he has been a national representative of Romania to the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), and a member of both the IUPAC Macromolecular Division and of the IUPAC Committee for the Teaching of Chemistry.

In recognition of his scientific accomplishments, Professor Simionescu was elected a member of the International Academy of Wood Science (1979), and a foreign member of the Academy of Sciences of the former German Democratic Republic (1982), of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (1986), and of the Academy of Sciences of Moldavia (1991). He is a member of the New York Academy of Sciences and was elected a foreign member of the American Chemical Society at its centennial (1976). He is doctor honoris causa of the Polytechnic School of Sofia, Bulgaria (1986).

Professor Simionescu is the founder and Editor in Chief of the international journal *Cellulose Chemistry and Technology* (since 1967) and is the Editor in Chief of the *Scientific Memoirs of the Romanian Academy* (1977). He was or is a member of the editorial/advisory boards of *Acta Polymerica*; *Revue Roumaine de Chimie*; *Synthetic Polymer Journal*; *European Polymer Journal*; *Journal of Polymer Science, Polymer Chemistry Edition*; *Polymer Bulletin*; and *Polymers for Advanced Technologies*.

Professor Simionescu's scientific activities cover a broad area in the natural sciences. His papers and books illustrate his interest in macromolecular, organic, and applied chemistry. He has published more than 800 scientific papers in Romanian and foreign journals and holds more than 50 patents. He has co-authored 25 books, some of which were also published in foreign languages. He has also published more than 1000 articles and notes, most of them collected in three books entitled *Thoughts*. These contributions reflect his views on education, science, chemistry, the history of science, his precursors, and the main topics of our time.

More than 100 young scientists from Romania and abroad have completed their Ph.D. studies under the guidance of Professor Simionescu on research subjects ranging from wood chemistry, the chemistry of polysaccharides, the synthesis and polymerization of new monomers, polymer mechanochemistry, photo- and semi-conducting polymers, plasmachemistry, multifunctional polymerization initiators, electroinitiated polymerization, macromolecular charge transfer complexes, ultra-high molecular weight polymers, polysiloxanes, thermally stable polymers, biologically active polymers, to the origin of life.

Since 1964, Professor C. I. Simionescu has been actively involved in the organization of numerous national and international scientific meetings including ten International Symposia on Cellulose Chemistry and Technology, the 39th International Congress of Industrial Chemistry (Bucharest, 1970), the 29th International Symposium on Macromolecules (IUPAC Macro'83, Bucharest, 1983), several joint USA-Romania and Freiburg (Germany)-Jassy polymer science seminars, and the

17th Meeting of the Commission of Macromolecular Compounds of the Academies of Central and East European Countries (Jassy, 1985).

As an educator, colleague, teacher, and scientist, Cristofor I. Simionescu is an example of opened mind, perseverance, and tenacity. In spite of the difficult situations he had to face many times during his career, he introduced and maintained a stimulating, creative atmosphere at the Polytechnic Institute and at the "P. Poni" Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry in Jassy. Both institutions benefited from his inspiration and devotion to teaching and research, as well as from his energy in multifaceted activities—including the construction of the new campus of the Polytechnic Institute of Jassy.

Professor Simionescu is Scientist Emeritus (1969) and Professor Emeritus (1973). He has been awarded more than 20 national medals and awards. His public activities have included such positions as a member of the Great National Assembly and a member of the State Council of Romania. He has facilitated conditions for international scientific collaborations among scientists. In recognition of his efforts, he received the Centennial Medal of the American Chemical Society as well as many diplomas from different prestigious institutions and organizations.

After 50 years of teaching and research, Professor Simionescu continues to be an example for his colleagues, co-workers, and students, and he remains an enthusiastic and optimistic personality. On the occasion of his 75th birthday, his students, colleagues, and friends from Romania and abroad wish Professor Cristofor I. Simionescu a Happy 75th Birthday and a long and happy life, with continued good health.

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