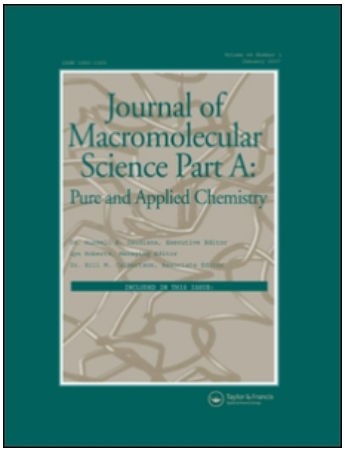

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In Memoriam

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In Memoriam

RADIVOJE VUKOVIĆ (1937–2007)

Dr. Radivoje Vuković, the distinguished Croatian chemist and internationally recognized scientist, passed away unexpectedly on September 09, 2007, at the age of 70. He had been vigorously engaged in scientific activities yet several weeks before his death.

He was born on January 14, 1937 and studied chemistry at the Technical Faculty, University of Zagreb, where he received an engineering degree in 1961. Dr. Vuković began his Ph.D. research on the synthesis of optically active 2-phenyl-alkyl vinyl ethers under the supervision of Professor Fleš, and received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Zagreb in 1973.

The research that interested him, mostly toward the end of his professional career, was the study of the miscibility-immiscibility behavior in polymer-polymer blends, and prediction of properties of alloys with use of different models. He had an efficient introduction to this field during a sabbatical visit to the Polymer Science and Engineering Department, UMASS, Amherst, USA, by Professor Frank Karasz in 1977/78; then he was invited there several times as a visiting scientist for a 1–2 month stay. He was a "chemist's chemist", always being ready to help his fellow chemists, physicists, and material scientists with his vast chemical knowledge.

The research work of Dr. Vuković covers a wide field of macromolecular and organic chemistry: synthesis, characterization and application of organic monomers and polymers, especially in the field of alternating polymers, liquid-crystal polymers, polymer blends, polymeric additives as flow improvers for crude oil and derivatives and molecularly imprinted polymers.

Due to his organizational skill and competence, Dr. Vuković was a member and president of INA-INDUSTRIJA NAFTE, Research and Development (R&D) Managing Board, the group leader of a joint research project in INA-R&D, the principal investigator in the joint international project: "The influence of chemical structure on the miscibility of polymers", NSF, JFP 551 (1985–1998) and JFP 902 (1989–1994), the director of the international project "Development of new materials based on polymer blends and composites", UNDP/UNIDO (1987–1991), coordinator of all projects dealing with polymeric field

co-financed by MoSES CR (1988–1990), the principal investigator in the national research projects co-financed by MoSES CR: “Polymer blends of the reactive alternating and statistical copolymers”, MoSES CR, (1991–1996); “New polymers for special application”, MoSES CR, (1997–2001); “Reactive polymers for special applications”, MoSES CR, (2002–2006). After his retirement in 2002 and until his death, Dr. Vuković participated in all INA-R&D programs.

Scientific results of Dr. Vuković have been published in more than 130 scientific papers, professional and review articles, mainly in leading international journals, 11 patents and over 80 scientific and review articles published in proceedings of international and domestic conferences and symposia. It should be emphasized that one of the most significant features of his activity was the ability to incorporate fundamental research into industrial application.

His energy and charisma are legendary. An unusually well-centered person, he had a great presence. His lively wit, personal warmth, and mental acuity made him seem larger than life. He rarely thought of himself; he consistently put collaborators and his colleagues on the first place. He was permanently cheerful, enthusiastic, and always ready to be engaged with a new set of ideas.

He will be long remembered by the many coworkers, colleagues and friends from Croatia and abroad, by INA-R&D, and most of all, by his family.

Grozdana Bogdanić
Ana Erceg Kuzmić