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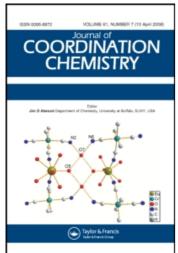
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Tribute to Alfredo Mederos

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It is a great pleasure for us to introduce a collection of papers, as tribute to the wonderful career of Alfredo Mederos, who retired in 2007 from the University of La Laguna (Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain).

Alfredo was born in 1934 at Breña-Alta (La Palma, Canary Islands) and studied in the University of La Laguna, where he obtained his PhD. in 1964. He joined the staff of the Inorganic Chemistry Department in 1961, developing a fruitful and enthusiastic career. He has been a dedicated, inspired and highly organized teacher and researcher. Since the early days, his research focused on aspects of coordination chemistry, including the synthesis, applications and, particularly, the chemical speciation of coordination compounds. Most of the subjects included in this issue are very close to his main field of interest.

Among the multiple scientific activities developed by A. Mederos, he was coordinator of several European networks dedicated to chemical speciation, and the application

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of coordination compounds in environmental and biomedical problems. One was the ALFA network (1995–2002) on "Metals and Environmental Problems" which included five European universities and five Latin-American universities. Ten young PhD. students were formed under this network, and the 10 research groups are still working jointly. Many authors who contribute to this special issue have been related with the original network.

The culmination of his career, as a scientist and Spanish citizen was the Gold Medal for Merit in Work awarded by the Spanish Government in December 2007.

A. Mederos was also a member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal Coordination Chemistry* from 2005 to 2007. The first issue of 2009 is devoted to A. Mederos, our friend, on occasion of his retirement. We hope that the content serves as an inspiration for the new generations to work in the fascinating field of coordination chemistry, especially in the important areas of chemical speciation and solution chemistry.

- J. Costamagna
- S. Domínguez
- C. Kremer

I greatly appreciated Professor A. Mederos's service on the *Journal of Coordination Chemistry* Editorial Board. His experience and insightful opinions in coordination chemistry were valuable to the continued development of the *Journal of Coordination Chemistry*.

Jim D. Atwood

Editor

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