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Editor's preface



Professor László Markó

This issue of the Journal of Organometallic Chemistry is dedicated to László Markó on the occasion of his 70th birthday in recognition of his well-known achievements in organometallic chemistry, transition metal catalysis and transition metal cluster chemistry.

In this issue presentations by his former students, colleagues and friends at the birthday celebration on October 16–17, 1998 in the mini-symposium “Molecular Engineering in Homogeneous Catalysis” in Veszprém, Hungary, are compiled in the form of papers.

László Markó was born on October 16, 1928 in Debrecen, Hungary. After receiving his Diploma in Chemical Engineering from the Technical University of Budapest in 1951, he joined the Hungarian Oil and Gas Research Institute as a research scientist and became involved in the development of a cobalt-catalyzed oxo processes to produce alcohols from cracked olefins. This work stimulated his interest in the science of organo–transition metal complexes and homogeneous catalysis, which has led in the past decades to more than 280 scientific publications including papers on organocobalt chemistry (80), catalytic hydroformylation (50), catalytic hydrogenation (50), transition metal clusters (45), sulfur-containing transition metal clusters (30), and catalytic olefin metathesis (10). He has been awarded 37 patents.

László Markó received his Ph.D. in chemistry in 1959 at the Veszprém University. The Candidate of Chemical Sciences and the Doctor of Chemical Sciences degrees were awarded by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 1963 and 1968, respectively. He was elected as a corresponding member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 1976 and as a full member in 1987. Between 1988 and 1998 he was the chairman of the Chemistry Section of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

In 1965 he was appointed as a Professor at Veszprém University and Head of the Research Group for Petrochemistry of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. From 1965 until 1986 he served as chairman of the Department of Organic Chemistry at the University of Veszprém. In 1986 he was invited to become the Director of the Research Institute for Chemical Engineering of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Veszprém. Professor Markó with his enthusiastic students established the school of organometallic chemistry in Veszprém, which became an internationally known center of high-quality innovative research.

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