

in memoriam

Prof. Dr. Miha Žumer

Prof. Dr. Miha Žumer was born in Ljubljana in 1937. After classical education at »Klasična gimnazija« in Ljubljana, he started studying chemistry at the Department of Chemistry at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology in 1955. He graduated in 1961. After graduation he worked as a technologist at the Chemical Factory Moste for a year and in 1963 he was appointed assistant at the Department of General Chemical Technology. In 1965, he started studying at the McGill University in Montreal, Canada. In 1967 he graduated with the degree of Master of Engineering. He was promoted Doctor of Science in 1972 at the University of Ljubljana. In 1973, he studied further in Great Britain, at the Department of Chemical Engineering of the Bradford University. In 1974 he returned to University of Ljubljana and was appointed as Assistant Professor; in 1980 as Associate Professor; and in 1985 as Full Professor in Chemical Engineering.

He held lectures for undergraduate and postgraduate students of chemical technology and chemical engineering in: Fluid flow and hydrodynamic operations, optional subject Chemical Engineering I, Selected chapters in hydrodynamic operations, Scale up methods in chemical engineering, and the subject Technology Operations at Biotechnical Faculty.

He was the Head of the Chair of Chemical Engineering for seventeen years, the President of the diploma commission for fifteen years, and a member of the habilitation commission for two mandates. He was mentor to many graduates (nearly fifty), to seven master graduates and six doctors of science.

Dr. Žumer's research fits in the area of mass transfer in fluidized systems, solid-liquid systems, in which the solid phase is represented by ion exchanger and the liquid phase by electrolyte. He and his associates published 26 scientific articles on this research. His hard work and successful professional cooperation with late Prof. Tine Koloini is of special importance in this period. Their joint efforts and research represents an exemplary contribution to the understanding of engineering problems at ionic exchange in fluidized layers, and a useful tool for rational scale up of relevant industry devices.

The other two areas of Professor Žumer's work are the areas of mixing and rheology of complex fluids such as highly concentrated suspensions and highly viscous polymer solutions. For this specific research he founded a rheological laboratory with modern equipment, which gained fame at home and abroad. The special mission of this laboratory was performing demanding rheological tests for industry users. Professor Žumer was the President of the Rheological Society from the very beginning in 1993 and he organized and managed various symposia in chemical engineering. A special mention goes to two Alpe-Adria Conferences in Chemical Engineering, his cooperation on organizing the 5th European Rheological Conference in Portorož in 1998, and his active participation in working groups of the European Federation of Chemical Engineering in fluids mixing. He was the Boris Kidrič Foundation laureate together with his associates. In 2007, he was awarded the title of Professor Emeritus of the University of Ljubljana.

Prof. Miha Žumer contributed significantly to the reputation and development of modern chemistry in Slovenia. His heart was dedicated to teaching and education, to enthusiastic and fair contribution for professional development of the discipline. His colleagues we will always value and appreciate his work and input to the scientific research in the wider area of chemical engineering, especially his activities towards foundation and development of research in rheology.

Dear Miha, in this moment of parting, I recollect our personal encounters, not always only professional. Our conversations revealed your warm and friendly heart, which you reluctantly and rarely revealed. You rarely revealed other emotions or troubles that bothered your mind and soul and occupied your inner world. But when you opened up, you also lightened up my horizons and possibilities. On behalf of all our associates, I am expressing our sincere gratitude, dear Miha, for all you have done, and I wish you had heard our thanks more often while you were still with us.

Prof. Dr. Stane Pejovnik

