

## EDITORIAL

This issue of *Croatica Chemica Acta* is dedicated to Professor Milan Randić on the occasion of his 70th birthday. Many of his early students, former and present co-workers, colleagues and friends have contributed papers dealing with topics from mathematical chemistry.

Milan Randić is one of the leading contemporary mathematical chemists, who entered the field of mathematical chemistry in the early seventies and made his mark in chemical graph theory as one of the very first people who contributed to its rebirth. Randić is also an important person in the modern history of Croatian Chemistry. He was the first scientist that did research in theoretical chemistry in Croatia and he also founded the Theoretical Chemistry Group at the Rugjer Bošković Institute in Zagreb. Milan Randić was also the first professor of quantum chemistry in the Department of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, University of Zagreb. He also organized (1967) the first quantum chemistry school and conference in the former Yugoslavia, at which lecturers were the leading quantum chemists of those days, including Charles A. Coulson, Michael J. S. Dewar, Edgar Heilbronner, John N. Murrell, *etc.* Randić left Croatia in 1971, but continued to visit the Rugjer Bošković Institute on a yearly basis and to collaborate with the members of the Theoretical Chemistry Group.

Randić has published a great number of research papers in three areas: molecular spectroscopy, quantum chemistry and mathematical chemistry. His most important papers belong to the area of mathematical chemistry. This is the reason why this special issue of this journal is entitled *Mathematical Chemistry*.

Milan Randić has received many honours and rewards for his scientific achievements. In 1967, he was awarded the City of Zagreb Prize; in 1987, he shared The Boris Kidrič Award (then the Slovenian national science prize) with Irena Fabič and Borka Jerman-Blažič; in 1989, he got the Governor's Medal for Research (the science achievement award of the State of Iowa), and in 1996, the Herman Skolnik Award given by the American Chemical Society. His role in Croatian science and his outstanding research results were recognized in 1997, when he was elected a corresponding member to the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. His remarkable research achievements in mathematical chemistry can be best summarized by quoting the words accompanying the Governor's Science Medal: »Randić, a world-class research scientist in the application of mathematical graph theory, was cited for outstanding accomplishments in science...«

Both of us have been lucky to know Professor Milan Randić for many years (NT since 1960 and SN since 1985) and we are grateful to him for having patiently collaborated with us during all these years.

We thank the authors for their contributions and we highly appreciate the reviewers' assistance by making prompt and rigorous reports.

Dear Milan, we wish you a happy birthday and many happy returns of the day!

*Sonja Nikolić*  
Guest-Editor

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Editor-in-Chief