CROATICA CHEMICA ACTA
CCACAA **80** (2) A27 (2007)

# OBITUARY

## István Lukovits (1945–2007)

Dr István Lukovits, a senior scientist at the Chemical Research Center of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest, a member of the International Academy of Mathematical Chemistry and a member of the Advisory Board of this journal since 2002 passed away after a long and fatal illness on March 12, 2007.

Dr Lukovits was born on January 8, 1945 in Bärwalde (Germany). His parents were Ilse Malzahn and Pál Lukovits. He achieved all his education in Budapest. He graduated in chemistry in 1969 from the Eötvös Loránd University; he got his Ph.D. in chemistry in 1973 and became Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 1995. After graduation, Dr Lukovits joined for a year the Research Institute of Organic-Chemical Industry in Budapest. He spent another year at the TUNGSRAM Research Institute, also in Budapest. Finally, in 1971 he joined the Chemical Research Center of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences where he gradually advanced to the position of Senior Research Scientist. Dr Lukovits was married to Ilona nèe Zergi and had two children – son Milán (b. 1970) and daughter Klára (b. 1976).

Dr Lukovits' research interests were in chemical graph theory with special emphasis on enumeration problems, relationships between the chemical structure and efficiency of corrosion inhibitors, computational quantum chemistry, chemical modeling. He told me that his interest in chemical graph theory was initiated by lectures delivered by Professor Tomislav Živković and me on graphs in chemistry at the Quantum Chemistry Meeting held from May 6 to 9, 1974 in Mátrafüred. Professor Živković and I produced a joint paper based on our lectures that were translated into Hungarian by Professor Gábor Náray-Szabó. This paper entitled (in Hungarian) *A gráfelmélet az elméleti kémiában* (Kémiai Közlemények **44** (1975) 437–526) appears to be the first paper on chemical graph theory published in Hungary, a country with great tradition in formal graph theory (the very first book on graph theory *Theorie der endlichen und unendlichen Graphen*, published in 1936 in Leipzig, was written by the Hungarian mathematician Denes König). Our talk and paper stimulated Dr Lukovits to start his research in chemical applications of graph theopry. This was also the starting point of our collaboration that extended over thirty years and resulted in 12 publications, numerous letter exchanges, visits and joint research projects sponsored by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. The last project on which we worked together was an attempt to quantify the notion of complexity for molecules based on canonical numbering. Collaboration with Dr Lukovits was a pleasant experience because he was a true intellectual and a gentleman.

As I have already said, Dr Lukovits was a member of the Advisory Board of this journal and was a devoted contributor – he published 10 papers in this journal and his 11$^{th}$ paper *Aromaticity of Carbon Nanotubes* is in print. Over the years he also refereed more than 100 manuscripts for our journal. He was a fair but strict referee.

I will always remember him with fondness. Let him rest in peace!

*Nenad Trinajstić*