

# Krešimir Jakopčić

## (1930 – 2016)

**P**ROFESSOR Krešimir Jakopčić, retired professor of organic chemistry at the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology, University of Zagreb passed away on February 25, 2016 in Zagreb.

Krešimir Jakopčić was born in Zagreb on November 30, 1930. He passed his Matura exam at the elite First Masculine Gymnasium in Zagreb in 1949. In 1956 he graduated in chemistry from the Chemical Technology Department of the Technical Faculty, University of Zagreb. He won his doctoral degree in 1963 from the Faculty of Technology, University of Zagreb with the thesis dedicated to the chemistry of thioamides of amino acids.

In 1957 he was employed as an assistant in the Laboratory for the Preparative Organic Chemistry of Ruđer Bošković Institute in Zagreb. At that time head of this laboratory was Dr. Viktor Hahn, Professor of Organic Chemistry at the Chemical Technology Department of the Technical Faculty, University of Zagreb. From 1957 to 1968 Krešimir Jakopčić acted as the assistant, higher assistant and the head of this laboratory. In the years 1966–1967 he spent a specialisation year by Professor Andrew Pelter in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Manchester. At the Faculty of Technology, University of Zagreb Krešimir Jakopčić was elected for docent (1967), assistant professor (1973) and professor (1978). In 1968 he started his activity as a docent at the Department of Organic Chemistry at the Faculty of Technology, University of Zagreb. After too early death of Professor Viktor Hahn, in 1970 he was elected for the head of the Department of Organic Chemistry and stayed at this position for seventeen years. In the period 1977–1979 he was dean of the Faculty of Technology, University of Zagreb. He retired in 1997. Nevertheless, he stayed professionally active after his retirement.



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His scientific interest was devoted to the synthesis and research of organic compounds. More precisely to the chemistry of different thioamides (especially amino-, hydroxyl-, nitro- and halogen-) with the potentially cytostatic, radiomimetic and radioprotective activity, to the heterocyclic chemistry (different furan, thiazole, 4-pyrane and 4-pyridone derivatives), to the synthesis and application of chelatogenic compounds with the polyamine polyacetic acid and 3-hydroxy-4-pyridone structures. Research of furan compounds was especially devoted to intramolecular Diels-Alder reactions of tertiary aryl furfurylamines, and to IMDAF reactions supported by

microwaves. He dedicated considerable interest to the research of diaryl ethylene derivatives, as well as photochemical transformations of different compounds with aryl ethylene, 4-pyrone and furan structures. He published about sixty scientific papers.

Krešimir Jakopčić was a dedicated teacher of Organic Chemistry and related courses of Modern Methods in Organic Chemistry, Structures and Mechanisms of Organic Chemistry, Organic Photochemistry, Organic Syntheses and Chemistry of Heterocycles at all study levels. He acted as a mentor for over twenty MSc and PhD students.

Professor Krešimir Jakopčić was an active member of the society who participated in numerous public and professional activities. To name a few, he was the president of the Croatian Chemical Society (1986–1987), a member of the Croatian Society of Chemical Engineers, the European Photochemistry Association, the International Society of Heterocyclic Chemistry and the New York Academy of Sciences. He took part in the contemporary editions of the Croatian version of IUPAC Organic Chemistry Nomenclature. Professor Jakopčić was a member of scientific committees of numerous domestic and international congresses. In order to promote interests of scientific community he was a member of different councils of the Republic of Croatia and the University of Zagreb.

Professor Krešimir Jakopčić was aware of the significance of a comprehensive understanding of chemical aspects of the production processes for their chemical engineering development. On the other hand, thirty years of his academic lecturer activity were characterised by the intensive development and introduction of numerous new methods in everyday practice of organic chemistry. In order to enable his students to exploit these new approaches in their professional activities, he continuously introduced contemporary achievements of organic chemistry in his lectures. Furthermore, he persistently learned his students and co-workers about the importance of integrity and exactness in the practical scientific work. These attitudes of his, have greatly helped his students to perform their professional tasks in a proper way.

And at last but not at least, he was a member of the Croatian Chemical Society for 66 years.

All of those who knew Professor Krešimir Jakopčić will remember him as a personality with broad interests in chemistry, art and culture, as well as his firm ethical life approaches combined with his patience and permanent readiness to help his colleagues.

*Nafis Defterdarović  
Marija Šindler*