

Foreword

Dear readers and colleagues,

It is our great honour and pleasure to present this special issue of *Croatica Chemica Acta* dedicated to Professor Emerita Mirjana Metikoš-Huković on her eightieth birthday after an enduring and auspicious career as a professor and scientist at the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology (FCET), University of Zagreb.

Professor Emerita Mirjana Metikoš-Huković received a graduate degree in chemistry at the Faculty of Science, University of Sarajevo, in 1961. Her research career started at Energoinvest, in the field of corrosion protection. She was simultaneously enrolled in a master's program at the University of Zagreb. Her supervisor was Prof. Branko Lovreček, in the Department of Electrochemistry at the Faculty of Technology (today FCET), with whom she published her first scientific paper in 1968 in the *Corrosion Science Journal* on the impedance of the interface between passive iron and nitric acid. Moreover, her scientific research interests and curiosity took her beyond Croatia. Indeed, during her PhD studies (1967–1970) she worked in the group of Prof. Ewald Heitz at the Dechema Institute, Department of Electrochemistry, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, working in the fields of electrochemistry, corrosion and materials protection.

Prof. Metikoš-Huković has devoted her whole academic career to the FCET, first starting as a Research and Teaching Assistant in 1971 in the Department of Electrochemistry. She became Assistant Professor of Electrochemistry in 1975, Associate Professor in 1984, Full Professor in 1992, tenured Full Professor in 1999, and Professor Emerita in 2008. During her academic career spanning decades, she has left a rich legacy at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels of university studies. Although we greatly enjoyed many subjects during our time at FCET, the *Electrochemistry* course taught by Prof. Metikoš-Huković in the third year of our undergraduate studies defined our subsequent studies and our professional careers. She also taught many other courses related to electrochemistry such as *Theory of Semiconductors*, *Selected chapters on electrochemistry*, *Corrosion protection methods*, *Semiconducting materials*, *Fuel cells*, among others. Prof. Metikoš-Huković

is one of the founders of the *Applied Chemistry* undergraduate and graduate programmes at FCET, and she is the founder of postgraduate studies in *Engineering Chemistry*.

Her enthusiasm and devotion to academia and research have enabled many of her students not only to carry out extensive scientific work in the Department of Electrochemistry at FCET, but also to collaborate with many other researchers at other research and academic institutions (such as the Ruđer Bošković Institute, the Institute of Physics, and the Faculty of Science at the University of Zagreb; the University of Split, the University of Osijek, and the University of Ljubljana), as well as with industry giants (such as Nikola Tesla Ericsson, INA, PLIVA, among others). As her former students, many of us have had first contact and experiences with industry through the seminars and visits she organized. Her commitment to educating students has generated many successful engineers and scientists, who have also contributed significantly to the promotion of knowledge and scientific progress in different areas related to electrochemistry.

During her academic career at FCET, she spent her sabbatical leaves abroad. During 1977–1978, she was Visiting Fellow at the Fritz Haber Institute Max Planck Society, Department of Electrochemistry, Berlin, Germany, where she worked in the research group headed by Prof. Heinz Gerischer and Dr. Karl Doblhofer in the fields of electrochemistry and photochemistry of semiconducting materials. Prof. Heinz Gerischer was one of the pillars of modern electrochemistry, especially in the area of electrode kinetics and semiconductor electrochemistry. During 1993–1994 she was Visiting Professor at Forschungszentrum Jülich, Jülich, Germany, collaborating with Prof. Ulrich Stimming on the application of bimetallic materials for electrocatalysis and energy conversion. She passed on the experience and knowledge she gained during her fellowships at these prominent institutions to us, her graduate students, and she trained us in cutting-edge areas of contemporary electrochemistry.

After almost five decades of rigorous studies, and endless devotion to scientific advancements in different

areas of electrochemistry, Prof. Metikoš-Huković has left a rich research legacy of over 130 scientific papers in reputable peer-reviewed scientific journals, books chapters, and numerous other papers and conference contributions. The importance, and recognition of Prof. M. Metikoš-Huković's scientific work is also reflected in a high international citation index. Further information about Prof. Metikoš-Huković's research, academic activities and collaborations are described in her *Curriculum Vitae* in this special issue.

This special issue is testimony to Prof. Mirjana Metikoš-Huković's great devotion to academic and scientific work at the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology, University of Zagreb. We cordially thank our dear professor for all the teaching, guidance and collaboration that she has given us over the years. We were privileged to be her students, and although we have established our own professional careers, we have forever remained *her students*. She has made an indelible impact on our studies, and influenced our development as scientists, as well as

becoming a part of our personal lives, always ready to share not only happy, but also sad and difficult moments. She can look back on the past with great satisfaction to see the ways in which she influenced the lives and careers of many of her students and colleagues, who greatly respect her as a scientist, academic and a devoted colleague and friend.

We are thankful to all of you who have honoured Prof. Metikoš-Huković's career by contributing to this special issue with your scientific research. We would also like to acknowledge many colleagues who helped us by acting as reviewers. Last but not least, we are thankful to Prof. Olga Kronja, Editor of *Croatia Chemical Acta*, and her team for making this issue possible and for their effort and help.

We congratulate Prof. Metikoš-Huković on the occasion of her eightieth birthday for her life of extensive scientific research and academic achievements. We wish her good health, happiness with her family, and more inspiring scientific ideas to come.

Ingrid Milošev and Saša Omanović