

## Foreword

Dear readers and colleagues,

It is with great honor and pleasure for us to present this special issue of *Croatica Chemica Acta* dedicated to Professor Emerita Kata Mlinarić-Majerski on the occasion of her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday as well as to celebrate her recently awarded title of Scientist Emerita at the Ruđer Bošković Institute, Zagreb. This *Festschrift* was made possible through the dedicated joint efforts of many people who share the admiration and respect for Professor Kata Mlinarić-Majerski and her lifelong dedication to chemistry and science in general. We are convinced that the mark she left in Croatian scientific landscape, especially in the field of synthetic and physical organic chemistry, will serve as a motivation for many young scientists in times to come.

Professor Mlinarić-Majerski is one of Croatian pioneers in the field of synthetic and physical organic chemistry of polycyclic molecules. Together with her late husband, Professor Zdenko Majerski, they changed paradigms in structural and physical organic chemistry by synthesizing for the first time a propelane molecule with an inverted carbon atom. Her scientific work spanned for decades and led to many new insights in the field of strained polycyclic molecules and other cage compounds, such as adamantane and PCU derivatives. She also made contributions to supramolecular chemistry of macrocyclic crown ethers, thioethers, and cryptands that incorporated polycyclic cage scaffolds and in recent years she made an impact with designing guest molecules capable of forming ultrastable supramolecular complexes. Her scientific achievements have been recognized both nationally and internationally, as reflected by her numerous collaborations as well as memberships in many committees and boards. Professor Mlinarić-Majerski is co-author of more than 170 original scientific papers. She has also been awarded with a prestigious State Award for Science in 2004.

Professor Mlinarić-Majerski's commitment to mentoring and educating students at the Ruđer Bošković Institute and the Faculty of Science of the University of Zagreb has resulted in a truly impressive number of



successful scientists who became leading Croatian organic chemists and she thereby greatly contributed to the promotion of Croatian chemistry worldwide. Even today, after retiring more than five years ago, she still generously shares her knowledge and lifelong experience with her younger colleagues.

It goes without saying that we are very grateful to all the contributors to this *Festschrift*; they made this project possible. As for the achievements of Professor Mlinarić-Majerski, more details about her research, academic activities, collaborations and social impact can be found in the *Curriculum Vitae* included in this special issue. Lastly, we congratulate Professor Mlinarić-Majerski on her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and on being awarded the title of Scientist Emerita; we were privileged to be her students and she will always remain "LSOC lab leader" in our hearts!

Marina Šekutor

In Zagreb, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019