

ANNIVERSARIES

50th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Institute of Chemistry of the Slovak Academy of Sciences

At the turn of the 40's and 50's years of the last century some branches of the industry as well as the universities began to develop rapidly in Slovakia and various research establishments came into existence. In 1953 the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS) was founded as an institution integrating the Slovak science. At the same time the Institute of Chemical Technology of Organic Compounds was constituted by fusion of the two until then existing resort workplaces – the Research Institute for Pharmacy and Biochemistry and the Institute for the Research of Carbohydrates.

The first one of the mentioned institutes was directed in its scope to the natural substances interesting for the developing chemicopharmaceutical industry, the second one dealt with the sugar industry problems and saccharides in general.

During the year 1953 the Laboratory for Research of Wood, Cellulose, and Synthetic Fibres and the Laboratory of Inorganic Chemistry originated in the framework of the SAS. The first laboratory was incorporated into the Institute in 1954 and the second one affiliated itself with it at the beginning of the year 1955 - then the name of the workplace was logically changed into the Institute of Chemistry (ICH SAS).

At the beginning of the year 1960 two independent institutes were separated from the Institute of Chemistry: Institute of Inorganic Chemistry and Institute of Wood, Cellulose, and Chemical Fibres. The last organizational change from the beginning of the year 1963 was the separation of an independent Institute of Experimental Pharmacology of the SAS; from the Institute of Wood, Cellulose, and Chemical Fibres the Polymer Institute was separated and the rest was incorporated back into the Institute of Chemistry.

After accomplishing the organizational changes in the ICH, new research directions began to crystallize. In 1962 an outstanding personality, Dr. Ing. *Štefan Bauer*, DrSc. was appointed the director of the Institute of Chemistry. Our honoured and favourite director (1962–1974) gained recognition and esteem for his high-quality scientific and managing work, for education of the young scientific generation but especially for his deeply human qualities, creation of the atmosphere of mutual understanding and good spirit. Owing to his broad scope of scientific knowledge, contacts with the world's scientific community, flexible orientation to the attractive trends abroad, and having in mind also the needs of various branches of domestic industry Dr. Bauer definitely pushed forward fundamental research in this academic workplace oriented to chemistry and biochemistry of saccharides, substances of wood matter, and alkaloids.

Besides the scientific investigation in the above-mentioned field, which is widely interconnected by the agreements between various institutes on an international level mutually solving the foreign grants and the result of which is a large number of original scientific papers (up to now more than 3200 publications and during the last 18 years more than 9000 citations), the Institute is involved in a series of other significant activities.

For the whole forty years a part of the Institute has been represented by the Culture Collection of Yeasts, which is a member of the European Culture Collections' Organization (ECCO), the World Federation of Culture Collections (WFCC), and is listed in the World Directory of Collections of Cultures of Microorganisms under No. 333 and abbreviation CCY.

35 years ago a pilot plant called Realization Centre was established at the Institute. After its modernization, the production of rare saccharides and their derivatives could be launched not only for the use of the Institute but also for commercial purposes. According to the patents of the Institute employees numerous hardly accessible substances are produced, which are of interest for premier foreign research establishments and business companies.

The activities of the Institute at the organization of scientific events are extensive. The most known are the Annual conferences on the yeasts held by the Czechoslovak Microbiological Society (last year the thirtieth), in two-year intervals organized Bratislava Symposium on Saccharides (last year the tenth). Of significance was the French-Czechoslovak Colloquium on the Chemistry and Biochemistry of Saccharides in Smolenice in 1969, grandiose was the VII International Symposium on Carbohydrate Chemistry with more than 500 participants

from all over the world held under the auspices of IUPAC in Bratislava in 1974. The Institute is delegated by the European Carbohydrate Organization to prepare the 13th European Meeting EUROCARB in the year 2005.

In the framework of editing activity, the Institute has been publishing this current journal with a good impact factor for a long time. The periodical was originally founded by the Slovak Chemical Society, under the auspices of which, besides the Institute of Chemistry, it is published up to now. The Editor's Office had been placed at the Institute of Inorganic Chemistry of the SAS for a longer time and the director of this Institute *Miroslav Zikmund* accepted the responsibility for editing of the Journal. He has already been in the Editorial Board for 56 years – from the very beginning; he varied all the responsible functions and nowadays we esteem him as a member of the Honourable Editorial Board of the Journal. The ICH SAS celebrating its jubilee must put a great deal of effort to secure in the present times, adverse in our country to financially demanding activities, the process of reviewing and elaboration of the papers for the press as well as the regular appearing of the Journal. The seriousness, with which the management of the Institute approaches to the Journal, is reflected in the fact that in the function of the Editor-in-Chief took turns the former director *Igor Tvaroška* and the present director *Ján Hirsch*.

In this effort we wish to the Institute and to the Journal much success and recognition by professional community.

K. Babor

Ing. *Karol Babor*, PhD., the former director of the Institute of Chemistry of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, who worked in the above workplace for the full fifty years, has been the Editor of *Chemical Papers* from the year 1970. He celebrated his 75th birthday on March 26, 2003 in the middle of active work. The high standard of the Journal is, first of all, his merit. We wish him good health and many happy years still to come in the circle of his family and amid creative editorial activities.

*Collective of workers
of the Editor's Office*