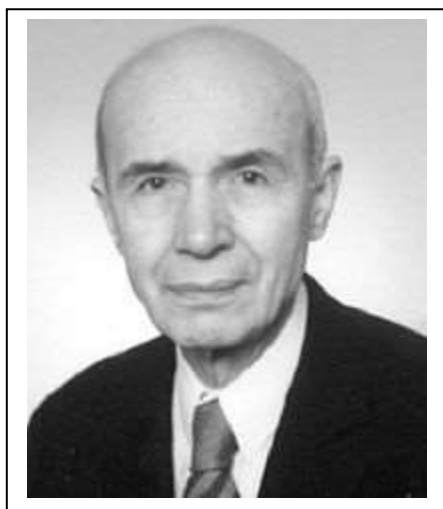


In memoriam
Acad. Victor - Emanuel Sahini
August 30, 1927 - July 14, 2017

Academician Victor – Emanuel Sahini August 30, 1927 – July 14, 2017

Acad. Victor - Emanuel Sahini passed away on July 14, 2017. He was a prominent personality of chemical sciences, a distinguished professor and mentor with a remarkable activity in the complex field of Physical Chemistry, having theoretical and applied studies related to molecular structure.



Acad. Victor - Emanuel Sahini was born on 30 August 1927 in Galați city where he spent his childhood. He graduated the „Gheorghe Lazăr” high school in Bucharest and in 1950 the Faculty of Chemistry of the University of Bucharest. After graduation he was employed as assistant in the Department of Physical Chemistry of the Faculty of Chemistry, University of Bucharest and thereafter as lecturer.

He continued a specialization in the field of spectroscopy in the Dresden Technical High School (1959), in the domain of quantum chemistry at the Institute of General and Inorganic Chemistry in Moscow (1960), Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry of Leningrad and at the Department of

Theoretical Chemistry - University Cambridge. In 1962 he defended the PhD thesis entitled „Contributions to the Theory of the Coordinative Bond”, having as PhD supervisor Prof. Murgulescu (member of the Romanian Academy). Later on he successively occupied didactic positions becoming full professor (1968). In 1970 he obtained the title of docent PhD.

The research activity of Acad. Sahini, was focused on the domains of molecular structure and spectroscopy, quantum chemistry and biophysical chemistry and is reflected by three important books (published in 1966, 1975, 1985), e.g. „Chimie cuantică” (Quantum chemistry), and 152 published papers. The most important scientific papers are: „Asupra unor relații între electronegativitatea și refracția atomică a elementelor” (On some relationships between electronegativity and the atomic refraction of elements) - 1957; „Spectre d' absorption dans l' infra-rouge de quelques oxalates complexes” - 1959; „ Sur le caractère ionique de la liaison coordinative” - 1962; „About the evaluation of the force constants of some tetrahedral molecules” - 1966; „On tetracoordinated complexes” - 1968; „Depolarisation ratio of the Raman lines of molecules containing carbonyl group” - 1970; „Spectrographic determination of traces of copper, lead, chromium, nickel, molybdenum and cobalt in natural waters” - 1974; „Computer program for SCF-CF calculations. I. Closed shell systems” - 1978; „On the significance of the chemical bond concept” - 1984; „Radicalii liberi în țesuturile biologice” (Free radicals in biological tissues) - 1989; Kinetic aspects of glucose γ -irradiated enzymatic oxidation” - 1994; „Oxidation of natural and thermal denaturated bovine serum albumin hydrazyl free radicals in the presence of cyclodextrines” - 2004; „Evidence of changes in hydrophilic/ hydrophobic balance and in chemical activity of HSA induced by thermal treatments” - 2011.

As a recognition of his scientific work, Professor Sahini was elected in 1963 as Corresponding Member of the Romanian Academy, becoming Full Member in 1990. He was president of the Quantum Chemistry and Molecular Spectroscopy Commission of the Academy, Director of the Romanian Academy Library (1980-1994) and Vice-Chief-Editor of *Revue Roumaine de Chimie*.

In his scientific activity, he developed both the experimental and theoretical levels of research, being interested in explaining, on theoretical grounds, the experimental data on molecular structure, spectral properties, chemical reactivity and molecular interactions. Considering the molecular systems, he mainly focused on the charge transfer complexes and radicals having well-known or potential biological activity.

As shown by the data presented his dominant research were directed towards physical chemistry. However, he was also interested in biochemistry issues, by developing studies on free radicals in biology. He also gave physical chemistry courses to students at the Faculty of Biology-Biochemistry and Geology - University of Bucharest.

As concerns the radical species, three main classes can be distinguished: charged radical ions (anions and cations) of different organic compounds, stable nitroxide free radicals and gaseous-phase radicals obtained by fragmentation processes of different organic molecules. Since 1996, he has been Honorary Director of the „Ilie Murgulescu” Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Romanian Academy. Professor Sahini was the vice-rector of the University of Bucharest (1970–1972), member of the United Nations University Council (1971–1977), member of the Board of directors of the Foundation of „M.H. Elias Family” of the Romanian Academy and Doctor honoris causa of the West University of Timișoara (2002). In 2000, Professor Sahini was awarded by the president of Romania with the National Order „Star of Romania” in the rank of Officer, one of the highest civil distinctions in Romania.

The passage into eternity of Acad. Victor-Emanuel Sahini represents a moment of deep regret for colleagues, disciples, collaborators who owe gratitude and respect for his prestigious contribution to the development of scientific knowledge in chemistry.

Zeno Gârban