

FROM DE EDITORS

It is with great pleasure that we present this special issue dedicated to Professor Emeritus Enrique J. Baran, which can be properly named Baran` festschrift.

The papers included in this issue are mainly related to Inorganic Chemistry which is the science field where Prof. Baran has made remarkable contributions.

The successful scientific career of Prof. Baran has been extensively covered by Dr. Etcheverry and Dr. Botto in the Preface of this issue. Therefore it would be redundant to further elaborate on the matter.

We thank to all the colleges that immediately accepted our invitation to celebrate this occasion. We also thank the excellent job done by the reviewers of the papers because they did it rigorously and without delays.

Dr. Josè A. Caram and Dr. Mario R. Fèliz
Editors-in-Chief

PREFACE



As an homage to one of the most relevant inorganic chemists of our country, the Argentine Chemical Society (Asociación Química Argentina) has decided to publish a special issue devoted to the trajectory of Professor Dr. Enrique José Baran. The invited Editors responsible for this special issue of the Journal of the Argentine Chemical Society convoked many friends, colleagues and disciples to contribute with scientific articles to this tribute.

Dr Enrique J. Baran started his research in Inorganic Chemistry under the direction of Prof. Dr Pedro J. Aymonino when this Discipline was at its beginning under a modern scope in Argentina. His Doctoral Thesis on spectroscopic properties of tetraoxometallates established the bases of a research line with interesting applications for the future.

After finishing the Doctoral Thesis, Baran travelled to Germany on behalf of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. He returned to Argentina with a deep experience as well as new ideas and projects. Above all, his versatility and interest on how everything works attracted his interest on new Chemistry fields.

Therefore, he began to develop the Bioinorganic Chemistry in the country. In this way, the apatites and related compounds constituted the first subject of interest in the, up to that moment, unknown discipline. He was the first inorganic chemist that taught the bases of Inorganic Biochemistry to the students of the Chemistry and Biochemistry Carriers in Argentina.

Dr Enrique J. Baran kept active collaborative relationships with different universities of Europe and South America. Moreover, he encouraged the formation of new research groups in different universities of Argentina and neighboring countries, promoting enthusiastically their research in the synthesis, crystal-chemistry and thermal and magnetic properties of inorganic compounds, molecular spectroscopy, theoretical chemistry and the study of biological and pharmacological inorganic systems.

He was Director of CEQUINOR (2001-2006), a Center that is always visited by students from different universities of Argentina and other countries. His scientific work is comprised of more than six hundred and fifty papers including numerous articles and reviews on the synthesis and spectroscopic properties of pharmacological compounds. He is also the author of the first book on Bioinorganic Chemistry published in Spanish language. More recently, and beyond the mentioned areas, his attention is focused on the contribution of spectroscopic methods to the study of botanic taxonomy.

To complete this brief presentation, it is necessary to mention other scientific-academic achievements of Prof Baran: Emeritus Professor of the National University of La Plata (since 2009), member of the National Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences (since 1996), Academic and member of the Third World Academy of Sciences-TWAS (since 1997), member of IUPAC committees (1984-1992). In addition, he has been a member of advisory commissions of scientific organisms (UNLP, CONICET, CICPBA) and he has taken part of the editorial boards of many scientific publications specialized in the areas of his expertise.

On the other hand, it is worth mentioning that Dr Enrique J. Baran was awarded the Prize "Hans Schumacher" of the National Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences (1993), the Prize "Rafael Labriola" (1982), the Meritorious Diploma and the Platinum Prize of the KONEX Foundation for the most relevant personality in Physicochemical and Inorganic Chemistry (1983-1992), the TWAS Award in Chemistry (1996), the Prize "Cincuentenario de la Asociación Química Argentina para el Progreso de las Ciencias" (1997), the Prize "Horacio Damianovich" in Inorganic Chemistry (AQA, 2004), Special Mention from the Culture Secretary of the Argentine Government for his book "Química Bioinorgánica" (2004).

Dr Enrique J. Baran has been a Superior Researcher of CONICET since 1993. What is more, he has supervised more than fifteen works of Doctoral Theses and has taken active part in a large number of national and international meetings as well as in the organization of distinct scientific events in Argentina and abroad.

Besides devoting his time to research and teaching in Chemistry, Dr Baran is also a very enthusiastic person with a broad range of interests that include classic music and opera, universal history, philosophy and sports (with a particular devotion to Athletic Quilmes Club). He was accompanied in his prominent research and academic career by his dear family: his father Jose Baran, his mother Anna Windisch, his wife Claudia Marcón, his daughters

Gabriela and Veronica, his sons in law Matías and Alan, and his grandsons Federico and Joaquín.

Finally, his friends, disciples and colleagues consider this homage not only fair and deserved but also an essential demonstration of fondness, gratefulness and respect.

Irma L. Botto
Susana B. Etcheverry
Guest Editors



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