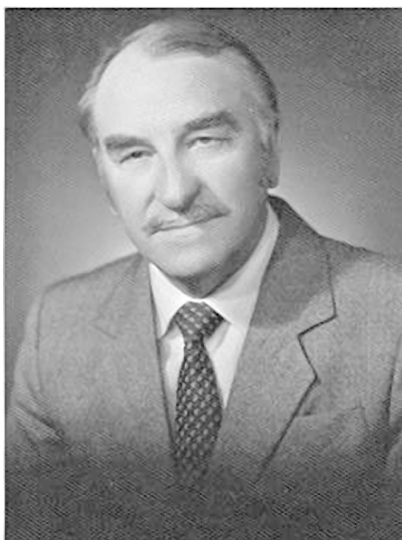


The 80th anniversary of Professor Romualdas Baltrušis



This year, on the 1st of May, the outstanding scientist Professor Dr. Habil. Romualdas Baltrušis celebrated his 80th anniversary. Most part of his life Professor devoted to the Kaunas Polytechnic Institute, now Kaunas University of Technology.

Romualdas Baltrušis was born on the 1st of May 1926 in the Lithuanian town Ukmergė. In 1945, after finishing the Ukmergė A. Smetona Gymnasium, he studied chemistry at Kaunas University and after graduation from it with distinction in 1950 started his scientific career at Moscow D. Mendeleev Institute of Chemical Technology, superintended by Prof., member of the USSR Academy of Sciences V. Radionov. Then, since 1952, he continued his research at the Department of Organic Chemistry of Kaunas Polytechnic Institute under the supervision of the member of the Academy Antanas Purėnas in the field of synthesis of β -amino acids and their derivatives. In 1954 he was awarded the degree of the candidate of chemical sciences for the dissertation "Synthesis and transformations of N-aryl- β -amino acids" and after 16 years, in 1970, he presented the doctoral dissertation on the synthesis of N-aryl-, N-pyridyl, N-quinolyl- β -alanines and their transformations into pyrimidines. In 1973 he was conferred the pedagogic nomination of professor.

In 1980 he was elected Head of the Department of Organic Chemistry. He headed this department until 1990, then until retirement worked as a professor of the department.

During his long pedagogic activity, Professor was giving lectures on organic chemistry, bioorganic chemistry (at the Vytautas Magnus University), polymer physics and chemistry, polymer chemistry, chemistry of wood and cellulose. He co-authored a rather big number of works on teaching methodology, three textbooks, a monograph. Together with F. Staniulis he translated "Practical works in organic chemistry" by V. Radionov, edited the books "Organic macromolecular compounds" and "Physical Chemistry of Polymers" translated from Russian. In 1975, for the "Textbook of Organic Chemistry" R. Baltrušis was given an award of Lithuanian Republic, and in 1986 he was conferred the nomination of honoured scientific person of Lithuania.

Prof. R. Baltrušis started his research in the field of chemistry of N-substituted β -amino acids during his doctoral studies in Moscow, working with the most famous researcher of β -amino acids in those days, Prof. V. Radionov. Later, the research in β -amino acid chemistry was expanded at the Laboratory of Growth-Stimulators established by him at Kaunas Polytechnic Institute in 1980 by a group of scientists under his supervision.

Another field of Professor comprises investigation of polymer stabilizers. The industry of polymers requires additives that could help to retain the initial characteristics of polymers, i.e. mechanical strength, under high temperatures or ultraviolet radiation. At the Laboratory of Growth Stimulators, with the employment of N-substituted β -amino acids, as a result of the transformations dihydropyrimidinediones and their thio-derivatives of a structure allowing to prolong effectively the performance of polymers were successfully synthesized.

During his scientific career, Prof. R. Baltrušis has published 130 scientific papers, around 40 articles of science popularization, authored or co-authored 49 inventions, took part at 38 scientific conferences. Under his supervision 9 doctors working further in the field of the synthesis of the above-mentioned compounds have made their degree.

We would like to take an opportunity to congratulate Professor Romualdas Baltrušis with his honourable anniversary, to wish him good health and great achievements in his multifarious and productive activities.

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