

## PREFACE

Renato Ugo (Palermo 18.6.1938 – Milano 20.10.2020) earned his degree in Industrial Chemistry in 1961 from the University of Milano where he performed his entire academic activity. In 1962, he was Post-Doctoral fellow with Lamberto Malatesta and Lecturer for practical exercise in Chemical Preparations. From 1964 to 1973 he had been Lecturer in Analytical Chemistry. In 1965 he spent one year at the University of Sheffield (UK). He became Full Professor of Analytical Chemistry (1973), Full Professor of General and Inorganic Chemistry (1981), and Emeritus Professor (2013). In 1974, he was visiting Professor at the University of Western Ontario (Canada). In 1988, he received a doctor degree honoris causa from Clarkson College – Potsdam, NY (USA).

Renato Ugo was Editor in Chief of two series of International Advances, i.e. Aspects of Homogeneous Catalysis (7 volumes) and Homogeneous Catalysis in Inorganic and Organic Chemistry, this latter in association with Prof. B. James of the University of Vancouver (18 volumes) published by Kluwer (from 1970 to 1998). He was founder and member of the International Board of the International Symposium on Homogeneous Catalysis, of the International Symposium on Activation of Dioxygen Species and Homogeneous Catalytic Oxidations, and of the International Board of the International Symposium on Relation between Homogeneous and Heterogeneous Catalysis. He also organised many international schools, symposia, workshops and congresses.

Recognition of his scientific achievements appears in a series of lectureships and awards. He delivered many scientific presentations in a large number of international congresses on Coordination or Organometallic Chemistry and Catalysis, and attended invited seminars in many universities and industrial research centres in Italy, Europe, USA, Canada and Brazil. He received various awards, including the gold medal of the President of the Italian Republic for advancement in science (2000), the Piero Pino medal from the Industrial Division of the Italian Society of Chemistry (2006) and the gold medal of the “Accademia Nazionale delle Scienze detta dei XL” for his scientific and organizational commitment both in academia and in industry in favour of the growth of chemistry. In 1984, he became a corresponding member of the “Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei” and since 1988 he had been a national member. From 1984 he had also been the President of the Italian Association for Industrial Research (AIRI).

Renato Ugo's scientific contribution is considerable and is testified by more than 340 publications and reviews published in the most qualified international journals. His research activity was mainly focused on: (i) Inorganic and Coordination Chemistry; (ii) Organometallic Chemistry; (iii) Homogeneous Catalysis; (iv) Relations between Homogeneous and Heterogeneous Catalysis; (v)

Surface Organometallic Chemistry and Surface Mediated Organometallic Synthesis; (vi) Molecular Materials for Non Linear Optics.

In addition to his academic and scientific activities, Renato Ugo had developed an intensive public and professional activity in the fields of research management.

However, it would be meaningless to consider Renato Ugo's achievements and work without mentioning his pleasant character, his hospitality for guests or visitors, and his enthusiasm in anything he was involved in. He was also an extremely fascinating teacher and guide, inspiring and encouraging his students to develop their own ideas. An innumerable number of friends, colleagues and students appreciate him as a man and a scientist. A few could participate in this special issue of *Inorganica Chimica Acta: "Advances in Inorganic Chemistry: from catalysis to material science in honor of Professor Renato Ugo"*, which is organized into 11 reviews and 16 research papers.

We thank all the authors for their excellent efforts and their willingness to shape their contribution by ideally embracing all the research topics carried out by Renato Ugo.

In closing we want to report an excerpt from the interview of 8 June 2011, which in our opinion can be a source of inspiration and support for the entire chemical community.

On that occasion, Renato declared: "this vocation for chemistry was a real discovery for me. In fact, in high school I was good, but not very good. As a chemistry student, however, I was exceptional... When I started a research, I immediately understood how it could be used, what applications could be obtained from it, if it had a future. I understood the problems on the fly. Everyone thinks that chemistry is a mnemonic fact. Instead, chemistry is both a logical and a creative fact. Once you understand the underlying logic mechanisms, the rest are creative elaborations. Neither more nor less than a tailor or a painter."

#### The Guest Editors

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