

A Tribute to Professor Valeriu Șunel, Ph.D.

Born on November 11, 1939, in Cotești, the county of Vrancea, Professor Valeriu Șunel completed his gymnasium studies at the highly-reputed „Unirea” Lyceum of Focșani, graduating in the year 1957.

Attracted by the cultural prestige of the Iași city, in 1958 he became a student of the Faculty of Chemistry, at the „Al. I. Cuza” University of Iași, which he successfully graduated in 1963.

Along his student years, a special part in his intellectual training was established by some exceptional professors, such as Constantin Budeanu, Magda Petrovanu, Eugen Papafil, Vasile Ababi, Radu Ralea and, especially, acad. Ion Zugravescu.

By the decision of the Ministry of Education, on finishing his university training, Valeriu Șunel became a chemist at the Antibiotice Company Iași and, after one year, he competed for and gained the position of university assistant at the Department of Organic Chemistry of the Faculty of Chemistry, „Al. I. Cuza” University of Iași.

Eager to acquire a deep scientific knowledge, to apply the most modern investigation methods, the young assistant Valeriu Șunel intensified his professional training, in 1975 becoming Doctor in Organic Chemistry, with the thesis entitled „The synthesis of new derivates and peptides from asparagic acid”.

This thesis, based on minute laboratory experiments and on the competent advice of his *Ph. D.* thesis supervisor, prof. Constantin Budeanu, contributed to the synthesis of the several new substances with biological experimental potential.

In 1984 Valeriu Șunel became lecturer and, six years later, in 1990, assistant professor. At the age of 55, in 1994, Valeriu Șunel is already full professor at the Department of Organic Chemistry, Faculty of Chemistry and, starting with 1996, he became *Ph.D.* thesis supervisor in organic chemistry and chemistry of heterocyclic compounds.

As a professor, his rigor is already well-established: the lectures he used to deliver came to represent a model, expressing the rich scientific material offered to the students, an equally impeccable logics and form, thus challenging their interest for the fascinating world of organic chemistry.

Among the lectures delivered along the years, special mention should be made of those on: Organic Chemistry, Chemistry of Heterocycles, Chemistry of Natural Compounds, Heterocyclic Compounds with Biological Activity, Synthesis Drugs with Heterocyclic Skeleton.

Along his more than 45 years of scientific activity, Professor Valeriu Șunel published 17 books (6 multiplied and 11 in central Publishing Houses), he was elected as a member of several commissions for the analysis of handbooks, as a scientific reference of the international publication „Chemistry an Indian Journal”, etc. Along this whole period, he

supervised numerous diploma works, dissertation works; he supervised 4 PhD Thesis and was an official referee for more than 30 *Ph. D.* theses in chemistry.

Since 2005, Valeriu Șunel is consulting professor, he delivers masterate lectures, supervises dissertation works, diploma works and the scientific theses of 7 candidates for the doctor degree, some of them in cooperation with other universities from Romania.

As to the scientific research side of his career, worth mentioning here are the exceptional results attained by professor Valeriu Șunel in various domains, such as: synthesis of some derivatives of amino acids or of heterocyclic derivatives with therapeutical potential, or obtaining of polymer – biologically active principle systems with controlled release of drugs.

The results of the laboratory investigations were materialized in 245 scientific papers (67 of them ISI-cited), published in prestigious Romanian and international journals.

One should also mention here the 60 research projects (of which 21 as manager) and the 16 patents (8 of which already applied in practice) to which Valeriu Șunel participated as an active part.

Another part of the undertaken researches were communicated at some international symposia from Romania and abroad. As a result of his international recognition, Professor Valeriu Șunel was invited to cooperate with Prof. Jacques Desbrieres (Université du Pau - France), Prof. Marc Abadie (Université Montpellier - France), Prof. Alain Perichaud (Université de Provence – Marsilia, France), Prof. Didier Le Cerf (Université Rouen - France).

By his didactic and scientific activity, Professor Valeriu Șunel came to be unanimously recognized as a distinguished scholar and a researcher with outstanding achievements, many of them the results of a genuine creativity. Mastering several investigation techniques, and many domains of organic chemistry, Professor Valeriu Șunel remains a model of scientific integrity, an assiduous and curious researcher, familiar with the most modern investigation techniques, highly interested in their immediate practical application.

Happy anniversary, dear Professor!