JEAN-JACQUES AARON (FONTAINEBLEAU, 1939 – SKOPJE, 2025) IN MEMORIAM

Jean-Jacques Aaron was born in Fontainebleau near Paris on October 25, 1939. When he was three years old, for safety reasons, in 1941 his mother and siblings moved to Thônes in the vicinity of Annecy where they spent the war years.

Jean-Jacques began his distinguished academic career at the Faculty of Sciences, University of Paris, where he obtained his **Licence ès-Sciences Physique** (Bachelor of Science) in 1960. He continued his studies there with remarkable dedication, earning a **Diploma of Advanced Electrochemistry** (Master of Science) in 1961, followed by a **Doctorat de 3e Cycle** in 1965. His academic achievements culminated in 1968 when he was awarded the prestigious **Docteur ès-Sciences Physiques** (State Doctorate), which he passed with the highest honors—**"Très Honorable avec Félicitations du Jury"**—a testament to his exceptional intellect and scholarly excellence.

Jean-Jacques Aaron began his academic career at the Faculty of Sciences, University of Paris, where he served as Assistant and then Assistant Professor from 1962 to 1971. He then spent five years in the United States: first as a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University of Florida, Gainesville (1971–1973), and subsequently as French Scientific and Cultural Attaché at the French Consulate General in Houston, Texas (1973–1975).

In 1976, he was appointed Associate Professor, later Full Professor, at Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, Senegal, where he founded and directed the Laboratory of Physical Organic Chemistry and Instrumental Analysis within the Faculty of Sciences, Department of Chemistry (1976–1985).

Returning to France, Professor Aaron held positions at Paris Diderot University (Paris 7) from 1985 to 1991, and later at the University of Paris-Est Marne-la-Vallée (1992–2008). Upon his retirement, he was named Emeritus Professor at Paris-Est MLV (2008). He also contributed internationally as Visiting Professor at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, North Macedonia, from 2008 to 2010.

Throughout his distinguished career, Jean-Jacques Aaron was the author or co-author of more than 300 peer-reviewed publications, 25 conference proceedings, and approximately 260 oral and poster communications presented at international and national conferences. He delivered around 50 plenary and invited lectures, directed 30 doctoral theses, and guided about 20 post-doctoral researchers.

Research Interests

Jean-Jacques Aaron's research covered a wide range of topics in physical and organic chemistry, with particular emphasis on environmental and biomedical applications:

- **Analytical chemistry**: Development of new analytical methods for the determination of trace organic compounds, including fluorimetry, phosphorimetry, and photochemically induced fluorimetry (PIF) combined with flow injection analysis (FIA). Applications included molecules of biological, pharmaceutical (phenothiazines, benzophenothiazines, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs), and environmental interest (pesticides).
- **Photochemistry**: Kinetic study of valence photo-isomerization, with applications in photochemical light energy storage.
- **Electrochemistry and polymers**: Electrosynthesis, characterization, and luminescence properties of new conducting organic polymers, with applications in corrosion protection, organized media, and sensors for toxic heavy metals in the environment.
- **Molecular properties**: Physico-chemical, spectroscopic, photophysical, and photochemical properties of nitrogenous heterocycles and other organic molecules of biomedical (phenothiazines, benzophenothiazines) and environmental (pesticides) relevance, studied in organic and organized aqueous media.
- **Environmental chemistry**: Characterization, quantitative determination, toxicity studies, degradation, and destruction of organic pollutants (pesticides, pharmaceuticals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) using advanced oxidation processes (AOP) at trace levels in various environmental compartments (atmosphere, natural waters).

He passed away after a short illness on August 29, 2025 in Skopje. He is buried in at the Père-Lachaise cemetery in Paris.

All of us who had the great privilege to work alongside him will forever hold dear the time we shared. He was not only a brilliant scientist, with a profound understanding of chemistry and the natural sciences, but also a rare soul—someone who radiated kindness, warmth, and humility. His positive spirit uplifted everyone around him, leaving a mark far deeper than words can express. His contributions to the *Macedonian Journal of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering* – as a valued Advisory Board member, a dedicated author of nearly a dozen publications, and a thoughtful reviewer – are a lasting testament to his passion and commitment. His legacy will live on, not only in the pages of the journal, but in the hearts of all who knew him.

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