

Foreword

Dear readers and colleagues,

It is with great honour and pleasure for us to present this special issue of *Croatica Chemica Acta* dedicated to Professor Emeritus Branko Kaitner on the occasion of his 80th birthday. With this *Festschrift* we wished to celebrate his life-long dedication to science and education of younger generations. He has published over 140 papers, was one of the most cited Croatian chemists of the late 20th century and also been awarded the prestigious State Award for Science in 1999. His credit as a teacher and a mentor is best testified by his numerous students who have continued to have successful careers in science and higher education.

Professor Kaitner's research work was primarily focused on chemical crystallography, in particular preparation and structural studies of polydentate ligands and their coordination compounds with transition metals. As a visiting researcher at the at the University of Guelph (Canada) he was involved with some of the earliest structural studies of calixarenes and their complexes. Later, in Zagreb, he has established the study of Schiff bases, in particular salicylideneimine derivatives as model compounds for the research of intramolecular hydrogen bond and hydrogen transfer in the solid state, as well as their use as coordinating ligands, which has become one of the hallmarks of the research in chemical crystallography done at the Division of General and Inorganic Chemistry of the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science at the turn of the millennium.



We are grateful to all the contributors, without whose papers have made this *Festschrift* would have been impossible. The wide scope of the subjects covered, as well as the high quality of the research which is presented are the finest testimonial to Professor Kaitner's contribution and influence on chemical science in Croatia and beyond.

Dominik Cinčić, Tomislav Friščić, and Vladimir Stilinović
