

# 100 years of the Croatian Chemical Society and 55 years of the Section for Theoretical and Computational Chemistry

Davor Margetić, Borislav Kovačević and Darko Babić

*borislav.kovacevic@irb.hr*

*Ruđer Bošković Institute, Bijenička 54, Zagreb, Croatia*

The society was founded on 23 January 1926 in Zagreb as the Zagreb Section of the *Yugoslavian Chemical Society*, marking the beginning of organised chemical activity in Croatia. The first president was Vladimir Njegovan. From then on, the Society's main goal is to develop and promote scientific, professional, and teaching activities in all areas of pure and applied chemistry in Croatia.



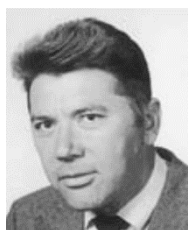
*Vladimir Njegovan*



*Building at Marulićev trg 19, Zagreb,  
where the founding meeting was held*

## Some important years in the history of CCS:

- in 1927, the journal '*Arhiv za Hemiju i Farmaciju*' was started
- in 1939, the society adopted the name **Croatian Chemical Society (CCS)**, further defining its national identity.
- in 1940, the Nobel lecture of Leopold Ružička was organised in Zagreb
- in 1955, the society's journal changed its name to *Croatica Chemica Acta*
- in 1958, the first branch was established in Rijeka
- in 1969, the first HSKIKI conference was held
- in 1971, the Section for theoretical chemistry was initiated
- in 1976, branch in Split was established
- in 1979, branch in Osijek was established
- in 1988, the award *Božo Težak* medal was established and awarded to Linus Pauling
- in 1989, Vladimir Prelog was awarded the medal
- in 1993, society became a member of IUPAC and FECS
- in 1995, the award *Vladimir Prelog* for young chemists in the field of organic chemistry was established
- in 1997, branch in Varaždin was established
- in 2003, the award *Leopold Ružička* for young chemists in the field of chemistry was established
- in 2012 branch in Pula was established



Milan Randić

In 1971 Section for theoretical chemistry has been initiated by Milan Randić, who was at the time a leader of the newly established Theoretical Chemistry Group at the Ruđer Bošković Institute. The Section activities were mostly manifested by organising lectures of the leading scientists in the field, especially of those recognized at the global level. It is worth to mention the visits by E. Heilbronner, H. J. Monkhorst, F. E. Harris, C. Trindle and F. Harary, and later by H. Lischka, Z. Janko, H. Schwarz, H. F. Schaefer III, H. Maskill and L. Radom. Their visits were possible owing to professional connections of the Croatian theoretical chemists (Z. B. Maksić, N. Trinajstić, T. P. Živković, Z. Meić, A. Graovac, S. Bosanac and A. Sabljčić) who started their careers at the same time or soon after. After Randić moved to USA, the Section was led by Nenad Trinajstić, and later by Ante Graovac and Zvonimir Maksić. Through its prominent members, the Section also participated in organising scientific conferences, for example *International Symposium on Aromaticity* (Dubrovnik, 1979.) and *International Symposium on Theoretical Organic Chemistry* (Dubrovnik, 1985.). Since 2011, the Section has been led by Borislav Kovačević. In recent years, through active involvement of the Section members, it has increasingly contributed to the organisation of specialized events in computational chemistry. In 2017 and 2019, two mini-symposia dedicated to radical enzymes were held at Ruđer Bošković Institute. In 2022, Croatia joined the central European countries organising the *Central European Symposium on Theoretical Chemistry* (CESTC), with two appointed representatives (Nada Došlić and Tomica Hrenar). In 2024, the CESTC meeting was hosted in Sveti Martin na Muri. Another meeting series, held under the name *Computational Chemistry Day* (CCD), was established in 2018 and has since been organised on annual basis, with only occasional interruptions.



Ante Graovac



Nenad Trinajstić



Zvonimir Maksić



Participants of the CCD meetings in 2018 and 2019