



PROF. DR. JACQUES DESBRIÈRES
Doctor Honoris Causa of “Gh. Asachi” Technical University of Iași, Romania

On April 24, 2009, the Senate Hall of “Gh. Asachi” University hosted the ceremony for awarding Prof. Jacques Desbrières from the Université de Pau et des Pays de l’Adour, France, the title of *Doctor Honoris Causa*.

At present, Professor Jacques Desbrières lectures on polymer physical chemistry at the Université de Pau et des Pays de l’Adour, France; over time, however, he taught courses of physical chemistry, organic chemistry and natural polymers, at the Universities of Pau and Grenoble, where he was actively engaged in both teaching and research activities for a long time. Educated within the French School of Cellulose, under the valuable advisorship of the highly distinguished Prof. Georges Champetier, Prof. Desbrières has now become an internationally renowned specialist, with remarkable achievements in the domain of polysaccharide chemical modification and characterization.

Born on August 3, 1956, in Bron, France, J. Desbrières graduated from École Nationale Supérieure de Chimie in Paris as a diplomate engineer, in 1978. In the same year, he was admitted to doctoral studies at the University of Grenoble; having submitted a thesis on polyanion-polycation complexes and their applications in ultrafiltration, he was awarded the *Doctor of Engineering* title in 1980. Until 1984, he worked as a research engineer, then as project manager at Société Dowell Schlumberger in Saint Étienne. He started his academic career in 1990, when he became associate professor at Joseph Fourier University of Grenoble; a year later, he was conferred the right to coordinate doctoral theses, having guided up to present, as either advisor or co-advisor, 19 doctoral students.

In 2002, he became professor at the University of Grenoble, and two years later at the Université de Pau et des Pays de l’Adour (UPPA) from Pau, which advanced him to the position of Head of the Laboratory of Polymer Materials Research (within the Laboratory of Polymer Physical Chemistry from the same institution). Since 2007, he has been the head of the Polymer Physical Chemistry Department within the Multidisciplinary Institute of Research on the Environment and Materials, guiding a team of 45 permanently and temporarily employed researchers. In addition to his administrative duties, Prof. Desbrières has been repeatedly called upon by the Ministry of Research and New Technologies of France to expertise projects of new Master courses; also, he is a member of the National Research Agency, as well as of the Agency for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education – government agencies evaluating research and university programs.

His academic activity involves teaching several disciplines to both undergraduate and postgraduate (Master) students: physical chemistry (chemical thermodynamics and kinetics), organic chemistry, polymer chemistry and physical chemistry, natural polymers, polymer formulation. Upon the request of other universities within and beyond the boundaries of his country, Prof. Desbrières taught Master courses on the

rheology of polymer solutions (University of São Paulo, Brazil), on polymer and colloid formulation (University of Mulhouse) and on polysaccharides (École des Mines de Paris).

He participated actively in the organization of annual congresses of the French Group for Polymers, of the Convention of the French Group for Rheology, several workshops and other scientific events, both in Grenoble and Pau.

The recognition of his achievements bestowed upon him by the international scientific community permitted a close cooperation with specialists from academic and economic spheres in issues of fundamental and applicative research, in France and abroad, as well as his involvement in numerous research programs.

His scientific work lists over 160 titles (published works or presentations at scientific events), 8 patents, 8 textbooks, 2 monographs published by reputed Publishing Houses. He has been invited to lecture at prestigious foreign universities, research institutes, industrial societies, as well as to deliver conferences at high-level scientific events (36 conferences within his field of expertise).

Prof. Desbrières is often invited to review articles in the domain of polysaccharides, for highly reputed journals like *Biomacromolecules*, *Biopolymers*, *Carbohydrate Polymers*, *Carbohydrate Research*, *Journal of Applied Polymer Science*, *Journal of Biomaterials Science*, *Journal of Interface and Colloid Science*, *Langmuir*, *Macromolecular Biosciences*, *Polymer*, *Polymer Bulletin*, etc. Also, he is a member of the editorial committee of *Open Macromolecules Journal*, *Open Colloid Science Journal* and, recently, of *Cellulose Chemistry and Technology*.

As a professor at the University of Grenoble, and later at that of Pau, he became the representative of the French party in some collaboration programs, which opened the opportunity for many Romanian (Master, doctoral, post-doctoral) students to work in his laboratory through research assistantships; besides, he shares the advisorship to some doctoral students from “Al. I. Cuza” University of Iași. He is promoting and is in charge of some interacademic exchange programs between CNRS and the Romanian Academy, in partnership with “Petru Poni” Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry and “Gh. Asachi” Technical University, assuring the mobility of the Romanian partners to his laboratory, and thus contributing to the establishment of new, direct contacts and collaborations with the teams from the departments of natural polymers of both Romanian institutions. The cooperation with researchers from “Petru Poni” Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry and from “Gh. Asachi” Technical University resulted in the publication of 13 scientific works, co-authored by him, in the delivery of 14 scientific presentations and posters at high-level international scientific events (*European Conference on Biomaterials*, *World Congress on Biomaterials*, etc.), and in the elaboration of 4 book chapters co-authored with colleagues from Romania.



Professor Jacques Desbrières has repeatedly visited “Gh. Asachi” Technical University and “Petru Poni” Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry of Iași, delivering conferences or offering lectures to students.

A scientific personality of high standing, always eager to support international cooperation and the exchange of scientific information, Professor Jacques Desbrières always impresses by his deep modesty, never wasting an opportunity to point out the performance-generating scientific climate that he found in Romania, his joy to see his collaborators and the friendship ties that connect him to some of them.

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