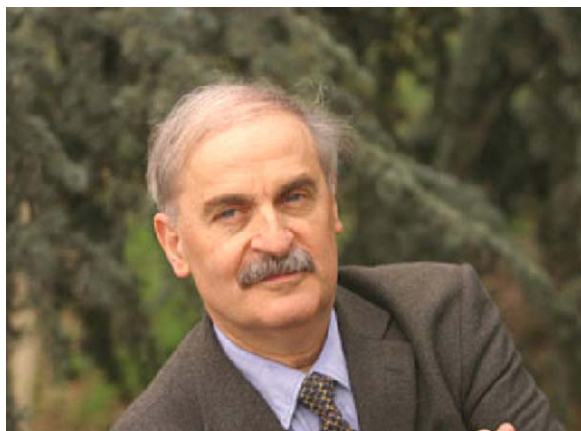




## Preface



This special issue of *Catalysis Today* was planned to honor the contribution of Marc Jacques Ledoux to the heterogeneous catalysis field by celebrating his 60th birthday. Despite the busy schedule of many solicited contributors, we succeed in collecting manuscripts and assembling this dedicated issue for marking his... 62th birthday. Hopefully, formal retirement is progressively delayed in French legislation and postponed indefinitely, so that we still remained on time and have still some leeway... In regards to that, we would like to deeply and sincerely thank all the contributors – let us name them as Marc's friends ! – for having risen to the challenge and having spent part of their valuable time to write original papers and reviews for meeting the requirements of a critical peer-review process for producing an up-to-date issue. Also, we do not forget the panel of reviewers for their active cooperation.

Marc's involvement over more than 30 years in numerous research projects led him to weave many work as well as friendly relationships with colleagues and friends – obviously that can be both – from industrial and academic communities all over the world. Unfortunately, we regret that, due to journal length, all Marc's friends have not been solicited for contributing to this issue and we deeply apologize for what we considered as a heartbreak for him.

A native of Néoules, a small location from sunny southern France, Marc Jacques Ledoux was born on June 5, 1947, and joined harder eastern France weather, in Strasbourg, where he studied at the Université Louis Pasteur. After receiving a doctorate in applied

organic chemistry, he presented a thesis in physical sciences in 1977 supervised by Prof. François Gault, on the use of isotopic markers for studying mechanisms in heterogeneous catalysis and of quantitative microwave spectroscopy. He was once again involved in synthetic chemistry during a stint at Oxford University from 1979 to 1980 in the Inorganic Chemistry Lab. of Prof. Malcolm Green.

After founding and directing the Laboratoire de Chimie des Matériaux Catalytiques (LCMC, 1992–2000) in Strasbourg, he was appointed as director of the Laboratoire de Catalyse in Lille (LCL, 1999–2001), before creating the Laboratoire des Matériaux, Surfaces et Procédés pour la Catalyse (LMSPC) in Strasbourg in 2001, which he headed until 2004. In 2002, he was responsible for the creation of the Associated European Laboratory for Catalysis and Surface Sciences (ELCASS), together with the Inorganic Chemistry Department at the Fritz Haber Institut of the Max Planck Gesellschaft in Berlin, Germany (Prof. Robert Schlögl) and the Department of Industrial Chemistry and Engineering of Materials from the University of Messina, Italy (Prof. Gabriele Centi).

In 2004, he was appointed as Scientific Director of the Chemistry Department of the CNRS in Paris and since 2005, he is in charge as Chairman of the Directorate for Industrial Policy of the CNRS in Paris, while he sometimes tries to come back to his calf love lab job by acting as “normal” lab researcher in heterogeneous catalysis at LMSPC.

His inherently basic research into catalysis and catalytic materials aimed to explore the synthesis and use of new materials for heterogeneous catalysis, with direct applications to industry (chemical and refining), depollution processes and new sources of energy and raw materials. He aimed at establishing a more sustainable development by investigating new catalysts and new processes with improved performances as one of the driving forces of modern catalysis.

He has overseen more than 100 industrial contracts and filed about 40 patents throughout the world. Meanwhile, he worked as a consultant for international corporations such as Péchiney and Total (France), and Du Pont de Nemours and Exxon in the US. In 2001, he contributed to the creation of the SICAT company for the manufacturing and marketing of new catalytic materials made from silicon carbide and carbon developed at the LMSPC.

After having authored and co-authored over 250 articles, books, book sections or reviews in international peer-reviewed journals, either in catalysis or in the economic field, he received the Centenary Lectureships Award 2004 of the Royal Society of

Chemistry, awarded to non-British chemists, for his work on the synthesis of carbon nanostructures and their applications to catalysis.

In the 1980s, he became involved in economic research, first as a chemistry consultant and then as an economics researcher. In partnership with the Theoretical and Applied Economy Lab. in Strasbourg, he contributed to develop a new method for measuring the economic impact of research. He also worked on the management of industrial research within the new context of the globalization of the economy and addressed the theoretical aspects of the economy of knowledge.

Finally, we would like to express our thanks to Marc for his clever and necessary evolutive vision of research, and also for the friendship he succeeded in maintaining at work, that is hard to find elsewhere. Through the collected articles and reviews, covering a broad scope of topics, we hope to be successful in illustrating his wide and curious interest in many fields of catalysis, from more

conventional ones up to border fields with promising crossovers. If one knew or met Marc one should never forget all his “good” and “bad” jokes that he has collected from his numerous travels, flavoured or spiced by his ability to lend colour to a tale.

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