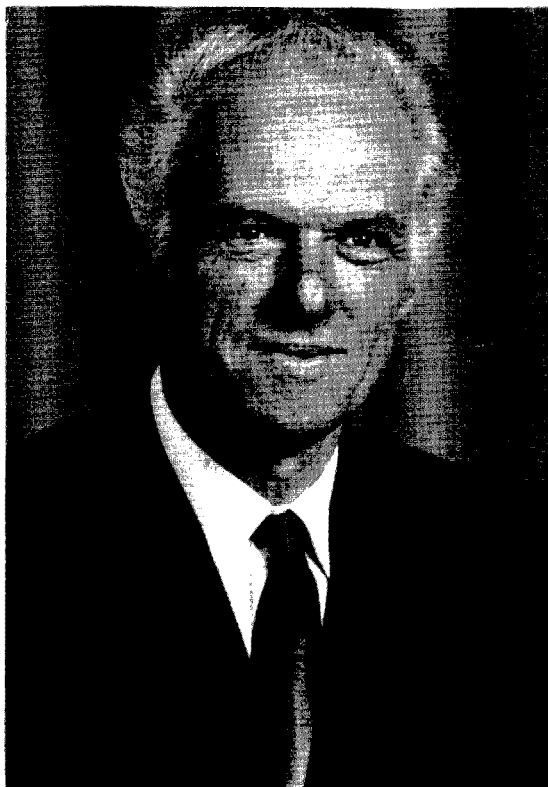


## ÉDMUND LUKEVITS (ON HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY)



On December 14, 1996, the Chief Editor of the journal *Khimiya Geterotsiklicheskikh Soedinenii*, Academician Édmund Lukevits, a prominent chemist well known to a large circle of scientists for his research in organoelemental, heterocyclic, and medical chemistry, celebrated his 60th birthday.

Édmund Lukevits was born in Liepaya, Latvia. Chemistry became his main interest in his school years: his first experiments were conducted in a chemistry circle under the direction of the chemistry teacher, Ekab Grinberg, who subsequently determined his creative path to a great degree. After entering the chemistry faculty at Latvia University, he continued to work in organic synthesis in Professor Gustav Vanag's student scientific society, and he published his first scientific article in 1956. In 1958, Édmund Lukevits began to work in the Latvian Institute of Organic Synthesis and followed the path from junior scientist to director of the Institute: in 1970, he directed the Laboratory of Organoelemental Compounds, subsequently reorganized into the Laboratory of Organometallic Chemistry; in 1980-1982, he worked as deputy director for scientific research, and he has headed the Institute since 1982.

In the 40 years of his scientific activity, his main interest has been the development of the chemistry of organosilicon compounds; he defended his candidate dissertation, *Organosilicon Derivatives of Furan*, in 1966, and his doctoral dissertation, *Studies of Biologically Active Organosilicon Compounds*, in 1973. His research (he has published more than 1250 works, including 550 books, reviews, articles, and 130 inventor's certificates and patents) has covered a broad group of problems in organic, organoelemental, and medical chemistry. One of the main directions in his research is the synthesis and study of the chemical properties of furan and thiophene derivatives of group IVB elements and organosilicon derivatives of different nitrogen-containing heterocycles. He proposed and implemented new approaches to the synthesis of compounds with 5- and

6-coordinated silicon and germanium atoms and very successfully used multinuclear ( $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{15}\text{N}$ ,  $^{17}\text{O}$ ,  $^{29}\text{Si}$ ,  $^{73}\text{Ge}$ ,  $^{119}\text{Sn}$ ) NMR spectroscopy for studying the structural features of these organoelemental derivatives. In the course of his research, he focused a great deal of attention on explaining the characteristics of reactions of hydrosilylation and hydrogermylation of unsaturated compounds and dehydrocondensation of hydrosilanes with hydroxyl-containing compounds.

The silyl method of synthesis of physiologically active compounds in a series of  $\beta$ -lactam antibiotics, nucleosides, and their analogs was widely developed at the Institute under Édmund Lukevits' direction. The studies on the use of interphase catalysis and ultrasound in preparation of different organometallic derivatives are of great practical importance.

His past years were distinguished by many basic achievements in biosilicon and organogermanium compounds. New types of biologically active substances were obtained during this research, and the structure—activity relation was determined. Édmund Lukevits created a scientific school, and his students include 23 candidates and 4 doctors of sciences.

In addition to being the chief editor of Zhurnal Geterotsiklicheskikh Soedinenii, Édmund Lukevits is on the editorial board of the journals *Applied Organometallic Chemistry*, *Latvijas Kimijas Zurnals*, *Main Group Metal Chemistry*, *Metal-Based Drugs*, *Mendeleev Communications*, and *Advances in Heterocyclic Chemistry*.

Édmund Lukevits' scientific and organizational activity has won him international recognition, and he has been awarded S. Hillers and G. Vanags metals, and the David Ieronim Grindel' medal for merit in the creation of Ftorafur (Tegafur), the Milan University Silver Medal, the Great Medal of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, and is a full member of the Academy of Sciences of Latvia, a member of the New York Academy of Sciences, and the Organometallic Chemistry Group of the European Association of Chemical Societies. From 1992 to 1995, he was recognized as International Man of the Year by the Cambridge International Biographic Center in England and the American Biographic Institute.

*The journal's editorial board and editorial staff warmly congratulate the chief editor of the journal Khimiya Geterotsiklicheskikh Soedinenii, Academician Édmund Lukevits, on his 60th birthday and wish him good health, optimism, and further fruitful scientific activity.*