In memory of Prof. Richard George Weiss

With deep regret, we inform the death of Professor Richard G. Weiss, the Associated Editor of this journal *Polimeros*, on December 28, 2023, at the age of 81.

Prof. Weiss was born in Ohio, United States, in 1942. He received an ScB degree (1965) from Brown University, a MS (1967) and PhD (1969) degrees from the University of Connecticut under the mentorship of Prof. Eugene I. Snyder. Afterwards he was an NIH Postdoctoral Fellow for 2 years with George S. Hammond (*May/22/1921, Oct/05/2005), at California Institute of Technology, who is considered the father of American organic photochemistry, and deeply influenced Prof. Weiss research carrier.

Prof. Weiss was a prominent photochemical and university professor, authored or co-authored more than 300 peer-reviewed publications in the best international journals, the most recent ones are listed below [1-8] and more than 25 book chapters, the last one in 2018[9] and is author of 3 patents. His research group was highly interdisciplinary, including investigators in organic, physical and analytical chemists as well as material scientists from around the world. Collaborations with groups in North America, Brazil, Costa Rica, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Slovakia, India, Egypt, Japan and China allow students in his group to interact with researchers from different parts of the globe, thereby promoting international partnerships with both international and domestic institutions, including the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST), the National Gallery of Art, the International Network on Integrated Techniques in Structural Elucidation (InTechSe), the Universities of Florence and Palermo in Italy, the Technical Institute of Physics and Chemistry of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and the Universidade Estadual de Campinas, UNICAMP, in Brazil.

He supervised many research students during his long academic carrier, working in various areas of mechanistic photochemistry and photophysics related to polymers, molecular rearrangements, thermal reactions of molecules in anisotropic environments, development and application of optically active substances, ionic liquids, ionic liquid crystals, and new molecular and polymer gels for various purposes, including chemical spill remediation and the conservation of objects of cultural heritage. In addition, some of the materials were examined as reversible adhesives, as food additives, for art conservation, and as dispersants and coagulants to contain oil spills.

One of the last photos of Prof. Weiss, participating in the successful celebration of one of his Ph.D. student defense (2022).

His academic activity began in Brazil (1971) as a Visiting Assistant Professor, at the Institute of Chemistry of the University of São Paulo, USP, and National Academy of Sciences Overseas Fellow in Brazil for 3 years, with the objective of implementing the first photochemical laboratory in the country, within the successful Hammond-Toscano program of CNPq-American Academy of Science. After that he returned to USA, where he was hired in 1986 by the University of Georgetown in Washington DC, till his death, when his was holding the rank of Full Professor. He was also a member of the Institute for Soft Matter Synthesis and Metrology at Georgetown University.

He returned several times to Brazil to provide postgraduate courses and conferences at various universities, participated in the organization of the 1st Latin American Photo Congress in Iguaçu Fall in 1996, participated in the implementation of the PADCT Program in Chemistry as a representative of the World Bank. Participated in the organization of the IUPAC Photochemical Symposium in Dresden, Germany in 2000, occupying until 2001 the head of the IUPAC Photochemical Commission. He received a doctorate honoris causa from Université de Bordeaux 1.

Apart from being an Associate Editor for *Polimeros* (ABPol) he had been the Senior Editor of the ACS journal *Langmuir* (2004-2014), and was member of the Editorial Advisory Board of various scientific journals: Journal of the Brazilian Chemical Society (JBCS), *Gels* (from MDPI) Indian Journal of Chemistry IJC, and member of the Scientific Committee of *Substantia*, an international journal devoted to the history of chemistry and other sciences. Professor Dick, as he has affectionally treated, was awarded the Medal of JBCS in 2018, during the Annual Meeting of the Brazilian Chemical Society 41ª RASBQ in Iguaçu Falls, PR, Brazil.

His professionalism and competence were notable and will be missed, especially the way he carried his duty of Associated Editor, judging the articles which were submitted to *Polimeros* and I entrusted to him.

Last published articles by Prof. Weiss:

1. Poon, L.; Hum, J. R. Weiss, R. G (2022), Effects of Cyclic and Acyclic Amidine Side-Chains on the Properties of the Polymer Networks of Polysiloxane Ionomers Constructed in situ from Three Uncharged Components. Soft Matter, 18, 5502-5508.
2. Sánchez-Pedregal, V. M.; Kertesz, M.; Weiss, R. G.; Cabrita, E.; Navarro-Vázquez, A.; Cid, M. M. (2021), NMR spectral fingerprint patterns as diagnostics for the unambiguous configurational analysis of the classic organo-gelator, 1,3:2,4-dibenzylidene-D-sorbitol (DBS), and its derivatives, Magnetic Resonance in Chemistry, 59, 608-613.
3. Poon, L.; Hum, J. R.; Weiss, R. G. (2021), Neat linear polysiloxane-based ionic polymers. Insights into structure-based property modifications and applications, Macromol.,1, 2-17.
4. Grover, G.; Weiss, R. G. (2021) Luminescent Behavior of Gels and Sols Comprised of Molecular Gelators, Gels, 7, 19 (28 pages).
5. Poon, L.; Weiss, R. G. (2021), Uncharged Lewis Bases Yield Polydimethylsiloxane Ionomers with Amidinium Alkyldithiocarbamate Side Chains, J. Polym. Sci., 59, 2345-2354.
6. Beaupre, D. M.; Weiss, R. G. (2021) Thiol- and Disulfide-Based Stimulus-Responsive Soft Materials and Self-Assembling Systems, Molecules, 26, 3332.
7. Lukac, I.; Husár, B.; Danko, M.; Weiss, R. G. (2021), Benzil photoperoxidations in polymer films and crosslinking by the resultant benzoyl peroxides in polystyrene and other polymers, Molecules (Special Issue: 25th Anniversary of Molecules—Recent Advances in Materials Chemistry), 26, 5154.
8. Berride, F.; Sánchez-Pedregal,V. M.; Dacuña, B.; Cabrita, E.; Navarro-Vázquez, A.; Weiss, R. G.; Cid, M. M. (2021), Conformation and supramolecular arrangement of 1,3:2,4-dibenzylidene-D-sorbitol arrangements in single crystals, ChemRxiv.
9. Weiss, R. G. (ed) (2018), Monographs in Supramolecular Chemistry, Molecular Gels: Structure and Dynamics, ISBN: 978-1-78801-111-2, 376 pgs, DOI: https://doi.org/10.1039/9781788013147

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