

LAUDATIO

in honour of

Professor **Giuseppe D'ASCENZO**,
from Sapienza University of Rome, Italy,
on the occasion of the
Doctor Honoris Causa Award Ceremony

28 October 2010

www.uaic.ro

Laudatio

In Honour of **Professor Giuseppe D'ASCENZO**,

Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

Awarding the highest honorary title of the University is always an opportunity to reflect upon the academic value of both the laureate and his new Alma Mater. Today's ceremony is three times special: first, it honours a great personality in the field of Chemistry, Professor D'Ascenzo. At the same time, it honours the Rector of one of the largest universities in Europe and worldwide – Sapienza University of Rome. Last but not least, we honour here today a true friend of our University, the promoter and protector of the cooperation between the two universities in academic fields of great importance for the contemporary scientific progress.

Born on November 24, 1937 in Keren, Eritrea, Professor Giuseppe D'Ascenzo studied at Sapienza University of Rome and University of Houston, Texas and now teaches Analytical Chemistry at Sapienza University.

At the beginning of his academic career, he was elected head of a research department, president of the Department Heads Council and then Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Natural Sciences of Sapienza University. For two successive mandates (1997-2004), he was the Rector of this prestigious university. Professor D'Ascenzo was elected president of the Rectors' Council of the Lazio Region Universities (1998-2002) and president of the Mediterranean Universities Union, an association of 74 Universities from the countries bordering the Mediterranean basin (1997-2004).

As coordinator of the University international cooperation, he proved a natural constructive vocation towards solid academic principles and played a decisive role in the conclusion of 250 cooperation agreements with universities all over the world.

Professor D'Ascenzo is the president of the Scientific Council of „Sapientia Mundi” International Institute and he represented Italy in IUPAC (The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry) and in COLABIOCLI (The Latin American Congress of Clinical Biochemistry). He is the scientific coordinator of the inter-institutional cooperation network involving universities from Italy and the United States (among which MIT - Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Columbia University and the University of New York). Professor

D'Ascenzo is a member of several scientific associations and editorial committees of prestigious international magazines.

The Italian Republic awarded him the *Cavaliere di Gran Croce* Honor in 1999. He was awarded *Laurea Honoris Causa* of San Antonio Abbad University in Cusco, Peru, in environmental sciences and *Laurea Honoris Causa* of Ricardo Palma University in Lima, Peru, in biological sciences.

His academic activity consists of over 200 published scientific works, among which, in order to highlight the accuracy of the results and the variety of the fields approached, it is worth mentioning: *Monitoring Natural and Synthetic Estrogens at Activated Sludge Sewage Treatment Plants and in a Receiving River Water (Environmental Science & Technology)*; *Thermal Properties of Some Metal Pyridinecarboxylates (Analytica Chimica Acta)*; *Iron (III) diethyldithiocarbamate new volatile metal chelate (Journal of Inorganic and Nuclear Chemistry)*; *Thermal behaviour of bis (ethylenediamine) complexes of cobalt (III) with benzoic acid and its derivatives (Annals of the National Academy of Lincei)*; *Complexes of divalent metal ions with cinchomeric and dimicotinic acid. Thermal properties (Thermochimica Acta)*; *Thermal analysis of tetraaminocobalt (III) – organic dicarboxylic acid compounds (Romanian Journal of Chemistry)*; *Evolution of paper chromatography: from Runge's perceptions to Tswett's adsorption (Fresenius Journal of Analytical Chemistry)*;

Development of a method based on liquid chromatography-electrospray for analyzing imidazolinone herbicides in environmental water at part-per-trillion levels (Journal of Chromatography); etc.

Professor D'Ascenzo coordinated several research programmes and founded research centres which brought together chemists, biologists, geologists and economists and promoted multidisciplinary methodologies and research excellence with a major impact on international cooperation. Mention should be made of the ARCA project (coordinated by Professor D'Ascenzo) on the ecologically sustainable development of ecosystems (with regard to the Galapagos archipelago).

Professor D'Ascenzo still plays an important part in establishing inter-institutional agreements with prestigious universities in Europe, the United States and, among others, Mexico, Syria and China.

Professor D'Ascenzo is one of the promoters of the Agreement between Sapienza University of Rome and Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi. The agreement stipulates the foundation of a Centre for Risk Engineering Analysis and Training, which will initiate an international Masters programme aimed at training experts in accordance with the European regulations on risk and feasibility studies,

publish a specialized magazine and organize international conferences.

His outstanding scientific achievements in the field of Chemistry, his remarkable influence upon the becoming of Sapienza University, a strategic partner of Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, his important contribution to the development of the European Higher Education Area, his significant input to the success of a series of major international academic projects highly habilitate **Professor D'Ascenzo** for the award of the title of **Doctor Honoris Causa of Alexandru Ioan Cuza University**.

Commission:

President:

Prof. dr. **Vasile IȘAN**

Rector of Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of din Iași

Members:

Prof. dr. **Bogdan SIMIONESCU**

Member of the Romanian Academy

Prof. dr. **Henri LUCHIAN**

Vice-Rector for International Relation

Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of din Iași

Prof.dr. **Dumitru GÂNJU**

Dean of the Faculty of Chemistry

Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of din Iași

Prof.dr.**Ion TOFAN**

Faculty of Mathematics

Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of din Iași

Iași, 28 October 2010