ANNIVERSARIES AND DATES

PROFESSOR ANDRIS STRAKOVS
(on his 75th jubilee)

27th June 2009 is the 75th birthday of the prominent Latvian chemist, Academician of the Latvian Academy of Sciences Andris Strakovs. He has worked for 50 years as professor in the Riga Technical University (previously the Riga Polytechnical Institute).

After defending his candidate's dissertation on sulfoxy acids of 1,3-indandiones in 1962 A. Strakovs worked in the Organic Chemistry Department of the chemical faculty of the Riga Polytechnical Institute under Professor G. Vanags. In 1964 he began to work in the created by professor E. Gudriniece Department of Fine Organic Synthesis (now the Department of Chemical Technology of Biologically Active Compounds) which he led from 1990 to 2000. From 1974 to 1985, A. Strakovs was pro-rector for science of the Riga Polytechnical Institute. In 1975 A. Strakov defended his doctoral dissertation "Heterocycles based on 1,3-cyclohexandiones" and in 1977 he received the title of Professor. In 1992 A. Strakovs became a corresponding member, and in 1995 a full member of the Latvian Academy of Science.

Professor A. Strakovs is known as a superb lecturer – for many years he read the course "Chemistry and technology of medicinal substances". In 2007, A Strakovs and his co-authors from the "Grindeks" (J. Dzenitis and N. Evkharitskaya) published the corresponding textbook.

In the last 5 years Andris Strakovs has continued his earlier studies in the field of heterocyclic chemistry: the synthesis and investigation of indazole, quinazoline, and coumarin derivatives.

For a long time Professor Andris Strakovs has worked in expert commissions to evaluate new projects, promotion council of the Riga Technical University and the Latvian University – in the last five years he was the opponent for a series of doctoral dissertations.

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A. Strakovs is the author of one book, 350 scientific and 7 methodological publications, about 90 abstracts of scientific conferences, senior editor and compiler of 2 collections, together with Aleksandrs Veiss and Gustavs Vanags.

In 2004 Andris Strakovs became Professor Emeritus and was awarded the title Honored Scientist of Riga Technical University, and in 2005 for his contribution to the development of specialist in the field of medicinal substances and for his achievements in heterocyclic chemistry he was awarded the title of "Golden Owl", conferred by the Latvian Academy of Science and the "Grindeks" company. In 2008, celebrating the fiftieth anniversary restoration of the Riga Technical University/Riga Polytechnical Institute, for his long-term and diligent work Andris Strakovs received the certificate "Gratitude of the University".

His colleagues and students send their heartfelt best wishes to Andris Strakovs and wish him good health, new and original ideas, and success in his scientific activities!

List of A. Strakovs publications on heterocyclic chemistry (1999-2009)

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4. A. I. Gurkovsky, N. N. Tonkhih, M. V. Petrova, and A. Ya. Strakov, 3-Acyl-1,5-benzodiazepines in reaction of 5,5-dimethyl-2-formylcyclohexane-1,3-dione with some 1,2-diaminobenzenes, *Khim. Geterotsikl. Soedin.,* 696-700 (1999). [*Chem. Heterocycl. Comp.,* **35**, 625-629 (1999)].
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10. L. G. Delyatitskaya, M. V. Petrova, S. Grinberga, N. N. Tonkhih, and A. Ya. Strakov, 1-(2-Pyridyl)-3,6,6-trimethyl-4-oxo-4,5,6,7-tetrahydroindazole in the conditions of the Schmidt reaction and the Beckman rearrangement of a 4-hydroxyimino derivative, *Khim. Geterotsikl. Soedin.,* 830-834 (2000). [*Chem. Heterocycl. Comp.,* **36**, 728-732 (2000)].

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