

Professor Lubor Fišera

A Tribute



It is a real pleasure for me to write a tribute to Professor Lubor Fišera on the occasion of his upcoming 60th birthday since I consider him to be a close personal friend and internationally, one of the most renowned heterocyclic chemists of present-day Slovakia, even though Slovakia has quite a number of outstanding scientists in this particular field.

Lubor Fišera (pronounced, Físhera, with the accent on the first syllable) was born on October 27th, 1945, in Bratislava at a time when the city was part of Czechoslovakia. Here Professor Lubor studied chemistry at the Slovak Technical University (PhD 1975) and took the first steps in his academic career (Assistant Professor 1971)

His interest in heterocycles was intensified by two post-doctoral fellowships, the first at the University of Munich (1975/6, with Prof. R. Huisgen) and the second at Emory University, Atlanta (1981, with Prof. Al Padwa).

In recognition of his numerous research contributions he was promoted to Associate Professor (1981) and was then appointed Full Professor (1988) at the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava. In 1993 he became head of the Department of Organic Chemistry.

Dr Fišera was, and continues to be, highly involved in lecturing at his university, not only at the undergraduate level (general organic chemistry and reaction mechanisms), but also in graduate education (stereochemistry). His research work deals mainly with chiral 1,3-dipolar cycloadditions, with the stereoselectivity of cycloaddition reactions in general and with the utilization of heterocycles for organic synthesis. On such or similar topics he has published approximately 150 papers and has given more than 60 plenary / invited lectures.

In addition, he has been visiting professor or research collaborator in various countries such as,

- 1990: University of Basra, Iraq (visiting professor);
1992: Vienna University of Technology, Austria (lectures on photochemistry);
1992/3: University of Munich (research collaborator on 1,3-dipolar cycloadditions);
2004: Université de Strasbourg, France (lectures on heterocyclic synthesis).

He has maintained close contacts with Prof. V. Jäger (Stuttgart) and Prof. H.-U. Reissig (Berlin). Of course he also pays regular visits to many of us (Prof. J. Fröhlich and Prof. F. Sauter) at the “neighbouring” Vienna University of Technology.

His close ties to our department are illustrated by his chairmanship at two (1995 and 2002) of our joint *Blue Danube Symposia on Heterocyclic Chemistry*.

Privately, Lubor is an extremely kind and considerate person, always reliable, with a good sense of humour and concerned about the existence of a harmonious atmosphere between his colleagues. During the spring and summer months he is a determined weekend gardener, and all year long he is a devoted grandfather.

In his spare time, which is quite limited, he reads many books, mostly about palaeanthropology and archaeology.

I also know him as a tireless car-driver (e.g., over thousands of miles through central Anatolia), who cannot resist climbing to the topmost circles of every ancient amphitheatre he has visited, always accompanied by his splendid wife Maja – a marvellous couple.

For those amongst his colleagues and friends who would like to join me in wishing him “ad multos annos”

I give below his contact address:

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Selected Publications of Prof. Fišera

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