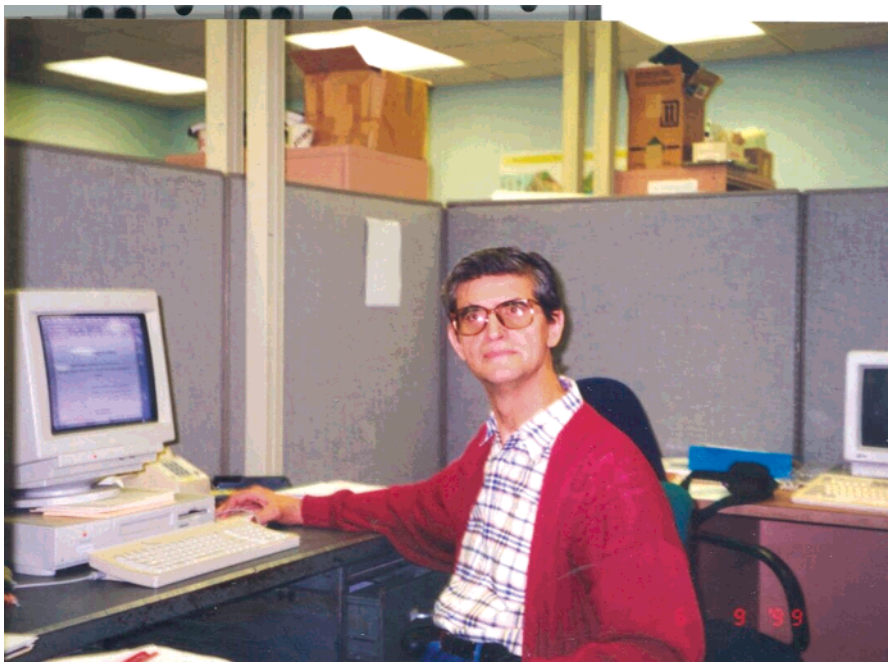
Professor Nenad Trinajstić: Distinguished Researcher in Mathematical Chemistry



This issue of the *Journal of Chemical Information and Modeling* contains papers dedicated to Professor Nenad Trinajstić, Zagreb, Croatia, on the occasion of his 70th birthday. Professor Trinajstić, one of the pioneers of modern mathematical chemistry, introduced the term *chemical graph theory* that is now standard usage. *Chemical graph theory* is a branch of mathematical chemistry which deals with discrete structures in chemistry using the apparatus of mathematical theory of graphs.

Professor Trinajstić was born in Zagreb where he completed all of his training. His undergraduate research was completed under the supervision of the late Professor Ivan Filipović of Heldenthal (1911−1998). His M.Sc. thesis was based on work done under the direction of Professor Milan Randić, and his Ph.D. thesis was based on research carried out under the supervision of Professor John N. Murrell FRS at the University of Sheffield and the University of Sussex in Brighton. Trinajstić spent two very fruitful postdoctoral years as the Robert A. Welch Fellow with the late Professor Michael J. S. Dewar FRS (1918−1997) at the University of Texas in Austin. Subsequently, he joined the Rugjer Bošković Institute in Zagreb where, in 1977, he advanced to the position of Full Research Professor. He also lectured at the Faculty of Science and Mathematics of the University of Zagreb ─ becoming a full professor there in 1977. Professor Trinajstić serves on editorial boards of several international chemistry journals and was co-Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Mathematical Chemistry* (1990−1993) and Editor-in-Chief of *Croatica Chemica Acta* (1994−2005), a chemistry journal published by the *Croatian Chemical Society*. He also won several domestic and international awards for his pioneering research in mathematical chemistry. These included the prestigious *Life-Achievement Award* (2004), given by the Croatian Parliament. Since 1992, Professor Trinajstić has been a full member of Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

Trinajstić's first paper appeared in this journal (then the *Journal of Chemical Information and Computer Sciences*) in 1981 in which, with his collaborators (von Knop, Müller, and Jeričević), he reported an efficient algorithm for the generation and enumeration of acyclic structures. Since this initial paper, which was heavily cited, he published 40 papers in this journal. These were all well-received and in total have been cited over 1000 times. A paper in 1992, reporting on a comparative study of molecular descriptors derived from the distance matrix and making clear for the first time the utility of the distance matrix, was cited well over 100 times.

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The Editors of this issue would like to thank the authors for their friendly response and for their contributions. Although the scientific interest and curiosity of Professor Trinajstić is very eclectic, all of the papers in this issue deal with topics that are of special relevance to Nenad's work. We would also like to thank reviewers for their prompt and rigorous reports and highly profesional collaboration.

One of the Editors (D.J.) did the difficult work as the Associate Editor of this journal and the other one (S.N.) as the Guest Editor invited authors to contribute. Finally we wish to thank Professor William L. Jorgensen, the Editor-in-Chief of *Journal of Chemical Information and Modeling* for his support in the development of this issue of the journal.

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