

**IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR OMAR V. MUKBANIANI
1948-2022***Tamara Tatrishvili^{1, *}, Marc Jean M. Abadie^{2, *}*

On January 18, 2022 suddenly died Professor Omar V. Mukbaniani, Doctor of Chemical Sciences and Professor at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University.

This sincere and intelligent person left warm recollections and deep gratitude for his contribution to the establishment and enhancement of cooperation in science and education, particularly among Lviv Polytechnic National University and Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University.¹

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Prof. O. V. Mukbaniani was a Georgian chemist, Head of the Chair of Macromolecular Chemistry and Head of the Department of Chemistry. He also served as Director of the Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry and Polymeric Materials at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. Prof. Mukbaniani published over 470 scientific works, 26 books and monographs, and filed 10 patents. Professor Omar V. Mukbaniani was also a supervisor of 18 Candidate's of Sciences dissertations and 20 Master's theses.

He was a member of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Georgia. For several years, he served as a member of the advisory board and the editorial board of the Journal Proceedings of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (Chemical Series) and as the contributing editor of the journal Polymer News, the Polymers Research Journal, and Chemistry & Chemical Technology journal.

Research interests of Professor Omar Mukbaniani included polymer chemistry, polymeric materials, and chemistry of organosilicon compounds. Methods of precision synthesis to build block-, graft-, and comb-type structures were developed in his research group. The mechanisms of reactions leading to these polymers were also studied in depth. Some efforts were devoted to the synthesis of various types of functionalized silicon polymers, copolymers, block copolymers, and composites.

Professor Omar Mukbaniani with his colleagues Prof. Marc Jean M. Abadie and Dr. Vazha

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Tskhovrebashvili, was a founder of the “Caucasian Symposium on Polymers and Advanced Materials” (ICSP&AM). The first conference started in 2007, whereas ICSP&AM 7 was held in July 2021. Prof. Omar Mukbaniani was a main author of the idea to publish the full texts of the conference abstracts in Apple Academic Press. This book is the fifth edition.

With great sadness we perceived the tragic news of the death of this unique man and great scientist who connected his entire career with Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and was one of the most famous Georgian scientists. Unfortunately, Professor Omar Mukbaniani is not with us now. His absence is a great loss for his colleagues and for the entire chemical community in general.