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In memory of Prof. Dr. Cemil ÖĞRETİR...

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OBITUARY
PROF. DR. CEMİL ÖĞRETİR
(1947–2011)

Prof. Dr. Cemil Öğretir passed away in Eskisehir in 2011. He was a well-known figure who inspired and guided many young academicians, administrators and researchers in the field of chemistry.

Prof. Öğretir was born in Şumnu, Bulgaria in 1947. He completed his primary and high schools in Eskisehir. After completing his high school education in 1964, he became a student in the Chemistry Department of Middle East Technical University with a scholarship from TUBITAK and graduated in 1970. He also obtained bursary from Turkish Ministry of Education and completed his MSc and PhD studies under Prof.Dr.A.R.Katritzky's supervision in East Anglia University, England in 1972 and 1975, respectively. He was also honored with a post-doc position by the same university in 1976. After completing his post-doc researches on "Synthesis and addition reactions of betains" he returned to Turkey and started to work as an Assistant Doctor in the Academy of Eskisehir Engineering and Architecture in 1976. He became Associate Professor and full Professor in 1979 and 1987, respectively. He was then appointed as the first chairman of the Chemistry Department of Anadolu University just after Engineering and Architecture Academy joined to Anadolu University in 1981. He continued to work at the same department until 1993 when he moved to the newly established Eskişehir Osmangazi University. He worked as the chairman of the Chemistry Department of Eskişehir Osmangazi University between 1996 and 2002. In addition to his mentioned activities during 1976 and 2010, he played very important roles in the establishment and development of his university as being head of various departments, manager of Science Research Center, head of the Department of Foreign Languages, member in various academic committees and organizations.

He has given various lectures based on organic, physical and general chemistry in both undergraduate and graduate levels. He supervised 16 PhD and 34 MSc theses in both Anadolu and Eskişehir Osmangazi Universities on various aspects of organic chemistry. His PhD students became faculty members or academicians in different Universities in Turkey. They include Şeref Demirayak, Ayşe Eren Pütün, Nevin Kanişkan, Mehmet Cebe, Fatma Severcan, Halil Berber, Selma Yarlıgan, Sevgül

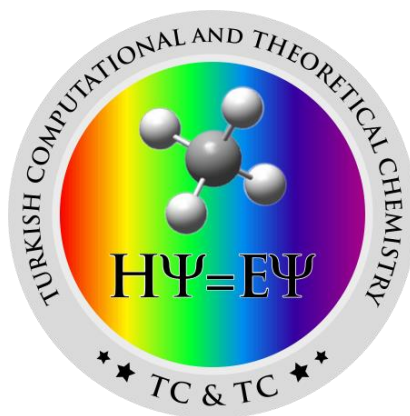
Çalış, Müjgan Özkütük, Funda Tay, Murat Duran, Kamuran Görgün, Serife Okur, Ü.Gülşah Koyuncu and Süreyya Hancı. He was among the few scientists who introduced the subject of organic chemistry and computational chemistry, a newly developing field in Turkey, into the research and education programs of universities. He fluently spoke English besides his mother language, Turkish. He published more than 80 scientific papers and several books in the fields of organic and theoretical chemistry. He had two sons and one grandchild.

He was an often adored educator with a warm personality. His students and colleagues reminisce the anecdotes where he always tried to establish strong social ties among the colleagues. Lunches, dinners, tea parties and similar occasions served as stimulators for this purpose. As a mentor, he was keenly interested in the career developments of his students.

With Prof. Öğretir's death, Turkish Chemistry Community has lost a profoundly educated scientist who had an acute sense of responsibility and commitment. His colleagues, friends and students will remember his amiability, strong will and how he positively influenced other academicians with his successful academic career.

Written by

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