



## Oscar I. Koifman (1944–2023)

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This special issue of *Journal of Coordination Chemistry* is dedicated to Professor Oscar I. Koifman on the occasion of what would have been his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday as a memorial to celebrate his life.

At the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, Oscar was born on June 21, 1944 in Saratov (USSR). In 1962, Oscar Koifman entered Ivanovo Institute of Chemistry and Technology (IICT) (now Ivanovo State University of Chemistry and Technology, ISUCT), and all his subsequent life was connected with this University where he moved from the student to rector. In 1970 he earned his PhD degree at IICT, and in 1983 he received the degree Doctor of Chemical Sciences. In 1985, O.I. Koifman became the Head of Department of Chemical Technology of Plastics and Film Materials.

Koifman was one of the leading experts in physical and organic chemistry of macroheterocycles, physical chemistry of polycondensed and polymerized porphyrin-chain

polymers, chemistry of soluble hybrid synthetic polymers for immobilization of natural porphyrins.

Scientific interests of O.I. Koifman always included fundamental studies and applied research. He actively participated in the development of catalysts for electroreduction of oxygen and electrooxidation of sulfur dioxide, catalysts for directed polymerization of acrylates. Later the methods for thermo- and photostabilization of porphyrins, as well as liquid-phase supramolecular stationary phases for gas chromatography with high selectivity and technology for synthesis of drugs for photodynamic therapy of cancer were developed. The new synthetic approaches to porphyrins with complex structure and desired set of peripheral substituents were theoretically developed and confirmed practically.

The scientific group headed by O.I. Koifman was repeatedly supported by grants in the field of chemistry, new materials, and chemical technology. Under his supervision 28 post-graduate students received the degree of Candidate of Sciences (PhD) and 9 were then promoted to Doctors of Sciences. During his Chemistry career of almost 56 years (1968–2024), Oscar Koifman has published roughly 870 original manuscripts and review papers in *Coord. Chem. Rev.*, *Dalton Trans.*, *Langmuir*, *J. Organomet. Chem.*, *Russ. Chem. Bull.*, *New. J. Chem.*, *JBIC*, *J. Biol. Inorg. Chem.*, *Eur. J. Inorg. Chem.*, *J. Porphyrins Phthalocyanines*, *J. Coord. Chem.*, and other journals.

Oscar Koifman was the recipient of many awards and honors in chemistry, including Honorary Professor of Mendeleev Russian University of Chemistry and Technology and Krakow Polytechnik.

He actively participated in different public activities. Professor Koifman was Chief Editor of Journals “Izvestiya Vysshikh Uchebnykh Zavedenij. Seriya Khimiya i Khimicheskaya Tekhnologiya”, “Macroheterocycles”, and “Russian Chemical Journal”. He was one of the organizers of numerous International scientific conferences. His services in scientific and public activities were appreciated. He was awarded Honor Order of RF, Mendeleev’s medal “For merits in the field of Chemistry and Chemical Technology”, Semenov’s and Prokhorov’s medals for outstanding achievements in the field of engineering science, and Frish’s medal.

In 2008, he was elected a Corresponding Member, and in 2022, an Academician of RAS.

Oscar Koifman always had an active group of MSc, PhD, and post-docs around him. He was truly a wonderful friend, collaborator and mentor to his many colleagues and coworkers.

Oscar Koifman died on December 31, 2023.

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