

OBITUARY
PROF. CEMİL ÖĞRETİR
(1947–2011)

Prof. Dr. Cemil Öğretir died on 19 January 2011 in Eskişehir. He was a well-known figure who inspired and guided many young academics, as an administrator and researcher in the field of chemistry.

Prof. Öğretir was born in Şumnu, Bulgaria, in 1947. He went to school in Eskişehir. 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 TÜBİTAK and graduated in 1970. He obtained a bursary from the Turkish Ministry of Education and completed his MSc and PhD studies under Prof. Dr. A.R. Katritzky's supervision at the University of East Anglia, England, in 1972 and 1975, respectively. He was also honored with a post-doctoral position by the same university in 1976. After completing his post-doctoral research on "Synthesis and addition reactions of betains" he returned to Turkey and started to work as an Assistant Professor in Eskişehir Engineering and Architecture Academy 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 after the Engineering and Architecture Academy merged with 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 since 1976, he played very important roles in the establishment and development of his university as head of various departments, manager of Science Research Center, and member of many committees and organizations.

He gave various lectures based on organic, physical, and general chemistry at both undergraduate and graduate level. 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 Turkish academics in different universities in Turkey. They include Şeref Demirayak, Ayşe Eren Pütün, Nevin Kanişkan, Mehmet Cebe, Fatma Severcan, Halil Berber, Selma Yarılgan, Sevgül Çalış, Müjgan Özkütük, Taner Arslan, 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 tongue, Turkish. He published 80 scientific papers and several books in the fields of organic and theoretical chemistry. He had two sons and one grandchild.

He was a much admired educator with a warm personality. His students and colleagues recall the anecdotes where he always tried to establish strong social ties among his 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, the Turkish chemistry community has lost a highly educated scientist who had an acute sense of responsibility and commitment. His colleagues, friends, and students will remember his amiability and strong will, and how he positively influenced others throughout his career.

Written by

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