

# Editorial

## ***Prof. Jorge Sánchez: An outstanding expression of a Chemical Engineering Professional***

*The merits of Chemical Engineering as an industrial activity are in fact unknown to a significant fraction of the population. Chemical engineers work in almost every industry and affect the production of most large-scale manufactured items. Developing products more and more efficiently through chemical processes involves the design of reactors and the use of catalysts. More than 90% of the products are obtained from catalytic processes or the presence of a catalyst is involved in some step of their manufacturing process. As expected, catalysis has spread to other industries, such as health and foods, thus entering unconventional environments, which involve new ways of preparing catalysts and reactors, capable of offering a wide spectrum of reaction conditions and the admission of different raw materials.*

*Although catalysis has been around for more than two centuries, it constitutes one of the fields of applied science with the greatest validity today, representing one of the areas in which research is ever growing. Some of the reasons behind this are the innumerable applications of catalysis in different industries and the effects it generates on the costs of each production process. On the other hand, the rising interest in mitigating environmental damage has also led researchers and professionals to consider environmentally-friendly processes, to obtain new products from renewable and non-renewable sources, which increases the challenges associated with the development of new technologies.*

*In our School of Chemical Engineering, belonging to the Faculty of Engineering in The University of Zulia, we count on professors with widely recognized academic careers, lengthy experience, capabilities and willingness to train engineers with the necessary knowledge to face the challenges demanded by modern industry. Fortunately, we have a great expression of what a professional in Chemical Engineering should be, an outstanding teacher and a tireless researcher in catalysis, respected and appreciated by all, we refer to Prof. Jorge Sánchez. Although this journal presents researches in different branches of Engineering, I allow myself through these lines genuinely call forth some of his memories, as it is difficult not to mention a professional scholar, acknowledged for his vocation and values, for inspiring and fostering in his students, technical and ethical principles, as well as essential attitudes imperative in any engineer.*

*From a very young age, Prof. Jorge Sánchez found his calling for teaching, he even commented on several occasions that in his high school days, his classmates called him: "Salvation", due to his great willingness to explain different topics. Later, in our college years, we were able to witness this, as he was a teaching assistant for various subjects, and when he graduated, he did not hesitate to enter his beloved Alma Mater. "I had no doubt about wanting to enter the University of Zulia as a professor, nor did I think about it.", he professed. He was a founding member of the Institute of Surface Chemistry and Catalysis, a Ph.D. from Stanford University, Professor of Undergraduate and Graduate Studies, Head of the Department of Basic Chemical Engineering, Director of the School of Chemical Engineering. Prof. Sánchez presented his work in more than 80 scientific meetings, conventions and congresses at a national and international level. He has more than 40 articles published in peer-reviewed journals, he supervised more than 50 thesis students, and was Researcher in charge of various projects for different companies, PEQUIVEN, PDVSA, INTEVEP and VENOCO.*

*In addition to his contribution to research and the chemical industry in the country, his work in catalysis was also significant. I would like to highlight the development of his doctorate studies under the guidance of Professor Michel Boudart, a worldwide distinguished researcher in catalysis. "Michel Boudart was the guiding force in the field of heterogeneous catalysis for over 40 years... in particular, his elegantly established concepts of quantitative reaction kinetics, his experimental observation of catalytic sites and new catalytic materials, and the activities of his former students and postdocs around the world continue to shape the field" Acknowledge as one of Boudart's boys speaks of the professional quality of Prof. Jorge. We need more people like him, people willing to support the research and development of Chemical Engineering in the country.*

*For all of the above and as a token of our most sincere gratitude, today through this Editorial we make a very summarized and humble tribute to our always beloved Prof. Jorge Sánchez, who dedicated many years of his life to the academic formation of a number of professionals, under the premise of technical and personal excellence. Likewise, the Institute of Surface Chemistry and Catalysis of the School of Chemical Engineering is infinitely affectionate and grateful to have had one of the most outstanding professionals in Chemical Engineering in Venezuela.*

*We would wish we had you more time. Imagine it! por jugar no más.  
¡Alabanza!!!*

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(<http://www.nasonline.org/publications/biographical-memoirs/memoir-pdfs/boudart-michel.pdf>).