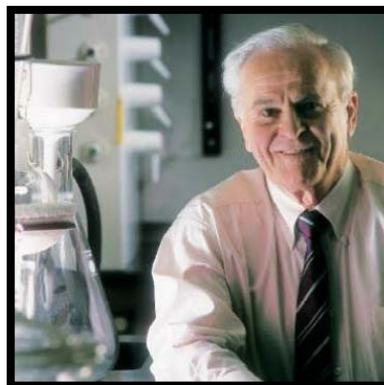




Professor Gregory R. Choppin (1927-2015)



It is with deep sorrow that we announce the death of a great scientist, Professor Gregory Robert Choppin, the member of the Editorial Board of “Nukleonika”. He passed away peacefully in Tallahassee (USA) in the presence of his wife Ann, their children and grandchildren, on October 21, 2015.

After earning the Ph.D. degree in chemistry from the University of Texas in 1953, Greg Choppin became a research scientist at the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, the University of California, Berkeley. Working under the supervision of Glenn Seaborg he became a co-discoverer of element 101, mendelevium. In 1956 Choppin joined the Chemistry Department at Florida State University (FSU), where he focused his research on the chemistry of rare earth elements and of the heaviest radioactive elements. He published 13 books and more than 300 research papers. Among others he co-authored four editions of “Radiochemistry and Nuclear Chemistry, Theory and Applications”, and co-edited the second edition of “Principles and Practice of Solvent Extraction” (2004). Professor Choppin was a gifted lecturer. During his 45-year career at FSU (he retired in 2001), he mentored more than 100 Ph.D. students and postdoctoral research associates.

FSU recognized him in 1967 with distinction as a Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor. Greg’s achievements were recognized through numerous awards and honors, including honorary doctorates from Loyola University New Orleans and from Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden, the Humboldt-Stiftung U.S. Senior Scientist Award (1979), the Manufacturing Chemists Association National College Chemistry Teacher Award (1979), the American Chemical Society Award for Nuclear Chemistry (1985), the Seaborg Award in Actinide Separation Science (1989), the Spedding International Award in Rare Earth Science (1996), the Becquerel Medal for Nuclear Chemistry of the British Royal Chemical Society (2000), and the Hevesy Medal, the premier international award of excellence, honoring outstanding achievements in radioanalytical and nuclear chemistry (2005).

The research contacts of Polish chemists with Professor Choppin dated back to the turn of the 1960s and 1970s, and they were intensified in the early 1990s. In the period of over thirty years, six Polish post-docs from the University of Wrocław, from Adam Mickiewicz University (AMU) in Poznań, and from the Institute of Nuclear Chemistry and Technology (INCT) in Warsaw worked at the Department of Chemistry, FSU, under Professor Choppin’s supervision. In the 1990s Greg visited AMU and also INCT – that time we cooperated with him in the frame of an IAEA coordinated research programme on nuclear techniques for the environment.

Greg, we will never forget you!

Jerzy Narbutt
Institute of Nuclear Chemistry and Technology