

**Personalia****Jaroslav Ilnytskyi's 50th birthday**

On October 7, 2013 a renowned Ukrainian physicist working in the field of soft matter physics, a member of the Editorial Board of “Condensed Matter Physics”, Leading Researcher of the Institute for Condensed Matter Physics, Doctor of Science in physics and mathematics Jaroslav Ilnytskyi celebrates his 50th birthday.

Jaroslav Ilnytskyi was born in Lviv to the family of Ukrainian intellectuals, Luiza and Mykola Ilnytskyi. His mother is a scholar in the field of library science, bibliography and book studies whereas his father is a prominent literary scholar, critic, poet and translator. Perhaps it is a family atmosphere which defined science and arts as two main passions of Jaroslav's life. In 1985 he graduated from the department of physics of the Ivan Franko State University in Lviv (receiving a diploma in physics as well as being one of the active members of student chamber orchestra where he played the violin and the recorder). In 1994, upon postgraduate studies at the Lviv division of the Institute for Theoretical Physics of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, he defended the PhD thesis entitled “Collective variables method and the  $\varepsilon$ -expansion” (super-

vised by I. Yukhnovskii and M. Kozlovskii), in 2010 he defended the doctoral thesis (habilitation) “Phase transformations in polymers and liquid crystals: computer modelling on various length- and timescales”. Jaroslav's scientific life-story is tightly connected with the Institute for Condensed Matter Physics of the National Acad. Sci. of Ukraine, where he started his career as a junior researcher and now holds a position of the leading researcher, being indeed one of the leading scientists in this institution.

His fields of activity concern self-assembly of liquid crystal macromolecules, photo-active liquid crystal elastomers, equilibrium and non-equilibrium properties of mixtures in nanopores, mesoscale simulations of liquid crystals. His early studies were devoted to the theoretical analysis of criticality in classical spin models within the collective variable method and the field theoretical renormalization group technique. Subsequently he mastered the skills of numerical simulations by making use of his firm analytical background. Such a combination appeared to be very efficient and defined his future scientific preferences and style of work. In best traditions of academic research, he carried on long-term collaborations with several world leading scientific centres, such as University of Durham (group of M.R. Wilson, Dept. of Chemistry) where he worked on computer simulations of liquid crystals developing parallel MD and MC software, and studied polymeric liquid crystal systems; Potsdam University (group of D. Neher, Dept. of Physics) where he studied photo-induced deformations in azobenzene-containing liquid crystal polymers; University of Lorraine, Nancy (group of B. Berche) where he collaborated on impact of structural disorder on criticality. Numerous collaboration grants also include his joint research with M. Saphianikova (Leibniz Institute of Polymer Research, Dresden), Stefan Sokolowski and his colleagues (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin), Orest Pizio (National University of Mexico), etc. Besides that, he tightly collaborated with physicists and chemists of his alma mater — Ivan Franko National University of Lviv and of the Lviv Polytechnic National University, where he is teaching as a Professor of the Department of applied mathematics.

The above story would be incomplete if we did not mention another Jaroslav's passion — his love of arts. Being trained at the school age as a violin player and having mastered several other musical instruments Jaroslav performed music permanently — either in Lviv or during his long-term stays in UK and

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Germany. Now he enjoys performing Baroque music with various groups, as well as playing improvised music in ensemble "Riasni Drova Consort". Recently, his friends were pleased to read his poems and short stories published in Ukrainian literary magazines. Film-based black-and-white photography, exotic string instruments assembling also belong to things he likes to do.

Always ready to help and to share his knowledge, open to discussions, encouraging and attentive, devoted family man and a good friend to many of us — we congratulate Jaroslav on the occasion of the jubilee. May his two passions, science and arts, continue to lead him on his way to wisdom and beauty.