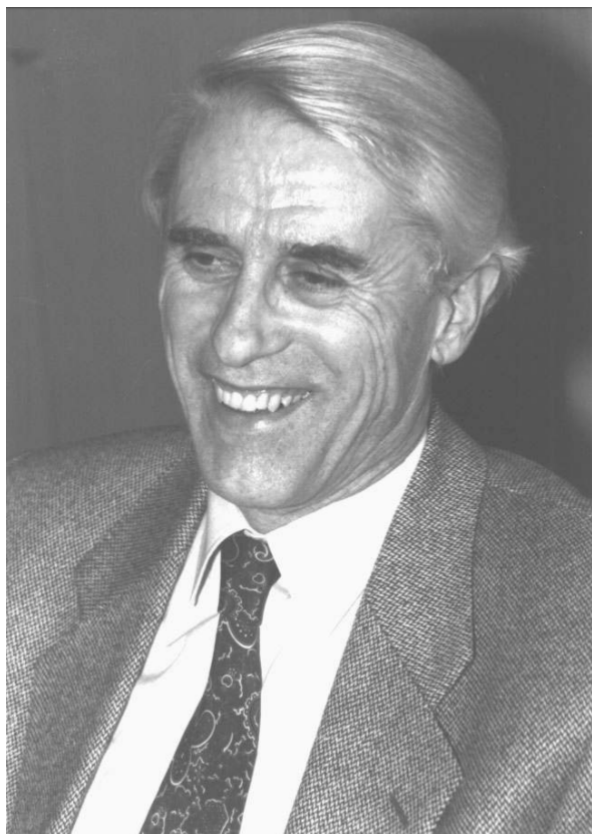


In memory of



Professor Wolfgang von Philipsborn.

† 16 Maggio 2017

Wolfgang von Philipsborn was born on 25 September 1929 in Germany. He studied chemistry at the Free University, Berlin (1949–52) and at the University of Zurich, where he received his PhD in 1956 under the guidance of H. Schmid. Thereafter he was Research Associate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he worked with J. C. Sheehan. Already in the early stages of his career he was fascinated by NMR and worked mainly in the field of natural product chemistry, in particular indole alkaloids and peptides. During this period, he applied, among others, multiple resonance techniques for the detection of ^{15}N . He returned to the University of Zurich in 1961 and became Privatdozent in 1963, Assistant Professor in 1966 and Associate Professor in 1969. After a visiting professorship at the Israel Institute of Technology in 1972, he was appointed full Professor at the University of Zurich in 1974, where he has held an Honorary Professorship since his retirement in 1997. Professor von Philipsborn has occupied more than 20 visiting chairs at Universities and Research Institutions abroad: Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, 1972, National Chemical Laboratory, Pretoria, South Africa, 1973, 82, University Göteborg, Sweden, 1974, University Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 1975, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, 1978, University Florence, Italy, 1988, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, 1988, University Bologna, Italy, 1989, Lomonossov University, Moscow,

1990, Foundation Research and Development South African Universities, 1990, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, 1993, University Maryland, 1994, 97, University Tel Aviv, 1995, University Cape Town, South Africa, 1997 et al.

Professor von Philipsborn has been one of the protagonists of the advancement of NMR and one of the pioneers in the application of direct and HMQC techniques to the detection of transition metal nuclei. For his excellent research, Professor von Philipsborn was awarded the Alfred Werner Prize in 1965 and the Centennial Medal of the Case Institute of Technology (Cleveland, OH) in 1980. Within professional organizations he has also been very active; for instance, he has been the Swiss delegate to the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) since 1985 and he was the President of the Swiss Chemical Society from 1990 to 1992, which Society later bestowed him with an Honorary Membership.

He has created and maintained a large number of scientific collaborations with researchers from many Italian universities (Milan, Turin, Trieste, Bologna, Florence, Cagliari only to name a few) and many ex-young people have received advices and teachings from him.

My personal encounters with Wolfgang ("Lupo" for the Italian friends, "Phibo" for students) and his wife Heidi started in the early '80 and I retain a large number of pleasant memories of the time spent together in Zurich and during his Italian visits to participate in various GIDRM National Congresses (the last was in Porto Conte, September 2004).

It is an honor to write this short memory: Professor Wolfgang von Philipsborn, a great gentleman and a true master of NMR spectroscopy

Stefano Chimichi

Firenze, Giugno 2017