

*Oleg Grynyshyn and Olena Shyshchak*PROFESSOR MICHAEL BRATYCHAK – 70TH ANNIVERSARY*Lviv Polytechnic National University
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This year Professor, D.Sc., Head of the Department of Petroleum and Gas Processing, Honored Education Employee of Ukraine, Academician of Ukrainian Oil and Gas Academy Michael Bratychak is celebrating his 70th anniversary.

Michael (Mykhajlo) Bratychak was born on February 02, 1946, in Pidhaici (Berezhany district, Ternopil region). In 1963 he completed his study in the secondary school and worked at Berezhany glass factory. In 1964 he entered Lviv Polytechnic Institute (Lviv, Ukraine).

After graduation in 1969 with the specialty “Technology of basic organic and petrochemical synthesis” Michael Bratychak was engaged in scientific activities at the Department of Organic Chemistry of the Lviv Polytechnic Institute as a laboratory assistant (1969–1970), research assistant (1970–1973) and senior researcher (1973–1980). At this time a young scientist led by Prof. V. O.Puchyn worked on the creation of functional mono- and oligoinitiators for radical polymerization and crosslinking of polymer blends. The result of scientific researches was PhD thesis “Synthesis and investigation of peroxide oligomers based on some polycondensation resins”, defended in 1980.

After receiving PhD degree Michael Bratychak worked as an assistant at the Department of Organic

Chemistry (1980–1982), Head of the research problem laboratory (1982–1988), and then as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Organic and Petrochemical Synthesis (1988–1992).

In 1990 M. Bratychak defended his Doctoral thesis “Synthesis, properties and application of oligomers and aliphatic azodynitryl compounds with peroxide and epoxide groups” and in 1993 he was awarded the title of Professor. Within 1992–1994 he held the position of Professor at the Department of Organic and Petrochemical Synthesis of Lviv Polytechnic Institute and in May 1994 was elected as the Head of the Department of Petroleum and Gas Processing. During this period Prof. M. Bratychak combines teaching, research and organizational work. He delivers basic lectures, directs diploma projects and master's works. Michael Bratychak is the author and co-author of 5 textbooks, 15 manuals, 9 specialized dictionaries, and 13 tutorials. Under the direction of Prof. M. Bratychak 2 doctoral and 19 PhD theses were defended. His former students occupy high positions in academic and educational institutions, refineries and gas processing plants in Ukraine.

It is difficult to overestimate the contribution of Prof. Michael Bratychak to Ukrainian science. The direction of his scientific school is “Obtaining of oligomeric initiators, crosslinking and curing agents to produce a wide range of polymeric materials based on crude oil”. Professor M. Bratychak was the head of many scientific national research programs including “Production of petroleum resins from C₉ fraction” (2003–2004), “Production of reactive oligomers and composites based on them from pyrolysis waste products” (2005–2006), “Functional resins based on pyrolysis liquid products” (2007–2008), “Development of technology for the production of bitumen modified with functional oligomers” (2009–2010), “Development of technological basis for oxidative desulfurization of high-sulfur coal” (2011–2012), “Development of technological basis for the production of pulverized fuel from low-rank coal” (2013–2014), “Development of technology for the production of bitumen and

bituminous emulsions modified with condensation and polymerization resins". The scientific direction initiated by Professor Bratychak found its implementation in a series of international projects and contract with Dic Berlin GmbH Company (2007–2009).

The scientific achievements are represented in 5 monographs and over 720 scientific papers, including 270 articles in professional journals and more than 50 patents. Prof. M. Bratychak is cooperating with many universities worldwide, including North Texas University (Denton, USA), Edinburgh Technical University (Edinburgh, UK), University of Montpellier (France), University of Chemical Technology (Prague, Czech Republic), Institute of Macromolecules named by Prof. Eloisa Mano (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), Technical Universities in Warsaw, Krakow, Wroclaw, Silesia, Gdansk (Poland).

Professor Michael Bratychak is Editor-in-Chief of the scientific-technical journal "Chemistry & Chemical Technology", and a member of the Editorial boards of

the following journals: "Ecological Chemistry and Engineering" (Poland), "Chemical Sciences Journal" (USA), "Polymer Processing" (Poland), "Scientific Israel – Technological Advantages" (Israel), "Proceedings of the Universities. Chemistry and Chemical Technology" (Russia), "Coal-Chemical Journal" (Ukraine), and "Oil and Gas Industry" (Ukraine).

Michael Bratychak initiated and headed 7 scientific-technical conferences "Advance in Oil and Gas Industry and Petrochemistry" (since 2004), which were attended by leading scientists and representatives of the industry not only from Ukraine but from many other countries as well.

Professor M. Bratychak met his anniversary with optimism, confidence in the future and new creative ideas. His loving wife, two sons and four grandchildren, students, colleagues and co-workers wish him sound health, domestic bliss, and success in his creative work for the benefit of independent Ukraine.