

*LAUDATIO*  
**HONORIS CAUSA. JOSEF HAVEL**  
**Girona, 26 d'octubre 2012**  
**Església de La Mercè**

Magnifica rectora, ladies and gentlemen

It is for me a great pleasure to be here at the investiture of the “*Pane Professore*” Havel as Doctor Honoris Causa of the UdG. I have had the privilege of having been able to perform two research stays at his laboratory at the University of Masaryk, and have wonderful memories of the people there and of life in Brno and other parts of the Czech Republic. It was really dynamic to be able to work in such a multi-cultural and international laboratory. He introduced me to different new research strategies that I am still using today and showed me the importance of building up experiences in other parts of the world in order to get a broad perspective on a scientific field such as Analytical Chemistry. I would also note that my first international paper was in fact as a direct result of my first research stay in his laboratory. So, in making a brief description of Professor Havel’s scientific activity, I do so with a feeling of great gratitude.

Professor Havel graduated in 1962 from the University of Masaryk and obtained his PhD in Analytical Chemistry at the same university in 1968. He has performed all his research and teaching activity at this university, although he has made numerous research stays at different universities in Australia, China, several European countries, not only Spain, South Korea, Mexico, South Africa, and the USA. Such broad travels have helped him to be able to speak five languages other than his mother tongue.

Professor Havel is an internationally recognized researcher in different scientific areas, such as separation techniques, capillary electrophoresis, MALDI-TOF, laser ablation, nanomaterials, bioanalysis and chemometrics, especially artificial neural networks. He is member of different international scientific committees, such as the International Chemometrics Society and the National Geographic Society as well as The New York Academy of Sciences. He is also a member of the editorial committee of several international journals, and in 1995 he was added to the American Bibliographic Institute’s list of 500 most influential scientists worldwide.

He has published more than 400 papers in international journals, has written 5 books, a dozens of book chapters, and 3 textbooks. He has also supervised more than 25 doctoral theses, and has collaborated with Professor Coville of the Witwatersrand University (South Africa), Professor Haddad from the University of Tasmania (Australia), Professor Hua Li from the Northwest University (Xian, China), Professor Valiente from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, and many more, including our research group at the UdG.

A particular characteristic of Professor Havel has been his interest in supervising international students in his laboratory, which has had the result that many people now are now professors in international universities were once his pupils. This is, for

example, the case of the Chemistry Department of the UdG, where two of the current lecturers worked under his supervision during their training, one of these was, of course, myself.

If there is one particular characteristic that sets a cite Professor Havel from so many other researchers is his apparent capacity to work endlessly. Anybody how has worked in his laboratory will be able to testify to the fact that whatever the time of day or day of the week you might happen to seek him, he is always there in his office, unless, of course, he is travelling because, as this brief introduction has made patently clear, the impact made by Professor Havel has been as much at his own university in the Czech Republic as at universities at large around the world.