

Luigi Sacconi was born on February 28, 1911 in S. Croce sull'Arno, between Florence and Pisa, Italy.

In 1941 he graduated in Pharmacy from the University of Florence, then he obtained a position at the University of Parma. In 1942 he moved to Turin where he obtained a degree of Doctor in Chemistry; in 1943 he moved back to Florence as Assistant Professor.

He became full professor of General and Inorganic Chemistry in 1954 at the University of Palermo and in 1960 he joined the Faculty of Science in Florence. He was the founder of the Institute of General and Inorganic Chemistry of the University of Florence and of the CNR Laboratory "Institute for the Study of Stereochemistry and Energetics of Coordination Compounds". His scientific development coincided with the development of coordination chemistry to which he contributed new compounds with unusual geometries and electronic properties. He understood the role of physical methods in modern chemistry and pursued in particular magnetochemistry, X-ray diffractometry, calorimetry, IR and visible spectroscopy and magnetic resonance techniques. He created an influential and internationally known school of inorganic chemistry. He was appointed Professor Emeritus in 1986. He died on September 1, 1992.

These lectures are a tribute to an exceptional man and to an outstanding scientist who greatly contributed to the advancement of the chemistry of metal ions.

The previous lecturers in this series:

Prof. H.B. Gray, Caltech, Pasadena, CA, USA
Prof. L.M. Venanzi, ETH, Zürich, Switzerland
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Prof. E.I. Stiefel, Princeton University, NJ, USA
Prof. E. Carafoli, Università di Padova, Italia
Prof. D. Nocera, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA

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Fondazione
LUIGI SACCONI

Dipartimento di Chimica
Università degli Studi di Firenze

*The Luigi Sacconi
Memorial Lecture in Chemistry*

2006



Joan Selverstone Valentine, Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at UCLA, is a leading figure working at the interface of inorganic chemistry and biology.

She has published over 200 research papers and several books, and her work is widely cited.

She pioneered the chemistry of the superoxide anion, and her discoveries have been fundamental to our understanding of the biological reactions of dioxygen and its interactions with metalloenzymes.

Particularly notable in recent years are her demonstrations of the remarkable nucleophilic properties of iron porphyrin peroxo complexes, development of novel sol-gel techniques to entrap biological macromolecules in an optically transparent rigid matrix, and her ongoing detailed biophysical characterization of mutant copper-zinc superoxide dismutase enzymes that cause Lou Gehrig's disease.

She is a recipient of several awards, including the John C. Bailar, Jr. Medal, has held numerous distinguished lectureships in the United States and abroad, and was recently elected to membership in the National Academy of Science.

She is Editor-in-Chief of Accounts of Chemical Research, an American Chemical Society journal.

The Luigi Sacconi Memorial Lecture in Chemistry

Prof. Joan S. Valentine
University of California – Los Angeles



Friday July 21st 2006
5.30 p.m.

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