Mimmo Spinelli was born in Bari (Italy) on May 30, 1932. He obtained his degree in Chemistry *cum laude* from the University of Bari in 1955. He started his academic career, in the same year, in the Faculty of Sciences of the same University, becoming Assistant Professor of Organic Chemistry. He moved, in 1962, to the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Genova where, in 1963, he became Associate Professor of Organic Chemistry. He was appointed to the Chair of Organic Chemistry at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Sassari in 1968. After one year he moved to the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Palermo. In 1974 he finally moved to the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Bologna, in which delightful town he finally settled. He accumulated a wealth of experience in his various appointments, ranging practically as far over the length and breadth of Italy as is physically possible – which is rather unusual in an academic of that country, who tends more often to take root in the University where he began his career. He is currently Coordinator of the Ph.D. courses in Pharmaceutical Sciences and, on the wider scene, Scientific Coordinator of “Progetti di Interesse Nazionale” entitled “The Chemistry of the Five-membered Heterocycles”, “Synthesis and Organic Reactivity”, and “Building Blocks from and/or for Heterocyclic Systems”.

In 1974 he received the golden “Sigillum Magnum” of the University of Palermo and in 1996 he was awarded the “A. Mangini” Gold Medal by the Italian Chemical Society for significant work in heterocyclic chemistry.

Domenico Spinelli has served the chemical community for many years. He was member of the Executive Committee and then President (1993–95) of the Division of Organic Chemistry of the Italian Chemical Society; and Vice-President (1996–99) then from 1999 President of the
Italian Chemical Society for three years. Moreover, he is co-editor of the series, “Topics in Heterocyclic Systems” and of, “Targets in Heterocyclic Systems”. He is author of over two hundred papers (in J. Chem. Soc. Perkin Trans. 1 and 2, Chem. Commun., J. Org. Chem., Tetrahedron, Tetrahedron Lett., J. Med. Chem., J. Heterocyclic Chem., Heterocycles, Magn. Res. Chem., etc.) dealing with the study of the reactivity and properties of five-membered heterocycles [thiophenes and benzothiophenes (nucleophilic aromatic substitutions); 1,2,4-oxadiazoles and isoxazoles (mononuclear heterocyclic rearrangements); imidazoles and condensed imidazoles (ring–ring interconversions); 1,3,4-oxadiazoles, -thiadiazoles and thiazoles (decarboxylation reactions); furans and congeners (enolisation reactions); etc.], micellar catalysis, the mutagenic properties of nitro derivatives, the properties of carnitine and its derivatives, the pharmacological properties of thiazinooxadiazolones, etc.

However Domenico Spinelli is not only a distinguished scientist with a long, successful career, rich in results and achievements; he is also a person with splendid human values, always willing to help his neighbors. He is a devoted father to his four children, and enjoys the support of his wife Titina. His keen and wide-ranging mind is always much in evidence when he relaxes over a glass of wine with collaborators and friends. I am fortunate to be amongst these latter and I feel honoured to have been invited to act as "facilitator" of an issue of Arkivoc dedicated to him.

Girolamo Cirrincione
Dipartimento Farmacochimico Tossicologico e Biologico Università di Palermo Via Archirafi 32, 90123 Palermo Italy
E-mail: gcirrinc@unipa.it

Selected Publications of Domenico Spinelli


