



International Association of Colloid and Interface Scientists

This is a special newsletter about Dotchi Exerowa, Dimo Platikanov and Hans Lyklema:

[In Memoriam: Dotchi Exerowa, Dimo Platikanov and Hans Lyklema](#)

[Hans Lyklema](#)

[Dotchi Exerowa](#)

[Dimo Platikanov](#)

[IACIS Council elections: Call for Nominations](#)

In Memoriam: Dotchi Exerowa, Dimo Platikanov and Hans Lyklema

October 2017 was a sad month. We received quite a number of sad messages regarding our long-standing members that actively supported and served IACIS: in the night of 2 October Dotchi Exerowa passed away, to be followed three weeks later, on 22 October 2017 by her husband Dimo Platikanov. On 31 October 2017, Hans Lyklema passed away. In this news letter we commemorate these three important scientists in Colloid and Interfacial Science.

We will honor our late colleagues by a special session to take place during the IACIS 2018 Conference, the details of which will be announced at a later stage.

Your Newsletter Editor

[Back to the top](#)

Hans Lyklema (1930-2017)



Hans Lyklema was one of the founding fathers of the IACIS. During his active life as a scientist, he published over four hundred papers and the five-volume textbook "Fundamentals of Interface and Colloid Science." This textbook will still be used by generations of researchers to come.

Hans has given over a thousand presentations in five languages and at five continents. Many of us have met him personally at such an occasion. He will be remembered as a great scientist, an inspiring teacher and a wonderful person.

A personal note of Per Stenius: "I have known Hans since, I believe 1978-79 when I was actively engaged in the creation of IACIS, actually arranging the first meeting of the IACIS council in Stockholm during the 2nd IACIS conference in August. I was then newly appointed Director of the Institute for Surface Chemistry, YKI, and felt rather green among the very distinguished people that met for a long lunch at restaurant Stallmästaregården. I enclose photograph (see below) the participants in that meeting (another picture, from the same meeting, occurs on the IACIS website).

Since then Hans has been a good, now strongly missed friend, who in addition to his seminal contributions to and universal understanding of interface and colloid science also through his humanity and unwavering belief in the importance of fostering contacts and interactions between people all over the world had an impact on the international community of colloid and interface scientists that can hardly be overvalued. Personally, I am forever grateful for his support, in particular during the time I was director of YKI and Council member and President of IACIS. Hans was granted a long and productive life; we mourn him as truly great scientist and as an in every sense great man."

Also to the younger generations Hans was inspirational person. On many occasions he travelled together with the PhD students in Wageningen to scientific meetings all over the world. In 2007 we organised a PhD study trip to Sweden and Denmark. Hans

accompanied us for a part of our journey. Below a picture of Hans together with us in Stockholm.



ICIS council, founding meeting, Stallmästaregården, Stockholm, August 1979. On the left picture, from left Per Stenius, Boris Derjaguin, Erwin Wolfram, Aleksej Sheludko, Armin Weiss, Egon Matijevic, Lisbeth Ter Minassian-Saraga, Geoffrey Parfitt, Hans Lyklema, Eiji Suito, Tom Healy



Hans with Wageningen PhD students (Aernout Martens, Kathelijne Wintraecken, Agata Brzozowska, Saskia Lindhoud, Paulina Skrzyszewska, Joris Sprakel, Hans Lyklema, Marat Charlaganov, Wiebe de Vos, Bart Postmus, ilja Voets and Bas Hofs) on a PhD trip in Stockholm, summer 2007

Your Newsletter Editor

[Back to the top](#)

Dotchi Exerowa (1935-2017)



Dotchi Exerowa has passed away on October 02, 2017 in Sofia. The Bulgarian and international colloid and interface community has lost a scientist of high professional authority and a prominent representative of the Bulgarian School of Colloid and Interface Science.

Dotchi Exerowa's scientific achievements were related to the study of surface forces in thin liquid films, as well as to the adjoining aspects in physics and chemistry of interfacial phenomena. Together with Alexei Scheludko she developed the microinterferometric setup to study the formation and investigation of thin films. A key element of this setup is the so-called Scheludko-Exerowa cell. Using this cell, the first experimental verification of the classical theory of Derjaguin, Landau, Verwey and Overbeek (DLVO-theory) was accomplished. Many of the Exerowa's research results were included in the monograph "Foam and Foam Films", first published in 1990 (Khimiya, Moscow).

In 1997, she was a co-chair (together with Dimo Platikanov) of the 9th International Conference on Surface and Colloid Chemistry, organized under the aegis of International Association of Colloid and Interface Scientists (IACIS). Professor Exerowa had also been elected twice as a Member of the IACIS Council and was closely engaged in the development and the organizational advance of the international colloid and interface scientific community.

The death of Dotchi Exerowa is a great loss to the colloid and interface community. By her colleagues, collaborators and former students she will be remembered for her deep passion for science, the wide horizon of the research interests and the keen intuition to address challenging problems, thus advancing truly basic and pioneering studies. The legacy of the important results of her scientific, teaching and applied activities constituted a vital contribution to the productive development of the Bulgarian School of Colloid and Interface Science and were key pillars supporting the progress and international reputation of this School.

The complete obituary of Dotchi Exerowa written by Elena Mileva can be found [here](#).

Text from the complete obituary adjusted by your Newsletter Editor

[Back to the top](#)

Dimo Platikanov (1936-2017)



Dimo Platikanov passed away on 21 October 2017 in Sofia. He had enjoyed a long and distinguished career at the University of Sofia, Bulgaria.

Dimo Platikanov was a brilliant experimentalist, but he also worked on theory. The books on the modern development of Colloid science as an extension to the Nano science, appeared with the editorship of Dimo Platikanov and Dotchi Exerowa, his wife who passed away less than three weeks before him, are much appreciated by the international Colloid science community: "Highlights in Colloid Science" (Wiley, 2008) and the most recent book "Foam Films and Foams: Fundamentals and Applications" (CRC Press).

Professor Platikanov was a President of the Humboldt-Union in Bulgaria. Dimo was also successful President of the IACIS and he was always very helpful to the IACIS Council an Standing Committee by looking after the good course of events. Dimo was a great man and a distinguished scholar. With his scientific achievements and personal features Professor Platikanov will be always remembered and honored.

The complete obituary of Dimo Platikanov written by Elena Mileva can be found [here](#).

Text from the complete
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[Back to the top](#)

IACIS Council elections: Call for Nominations

The deadline for the nominations of the council elections is 18 January 2018. The letter explaining the procedure can be found [here](#).

[Back to the top](#)

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