With deep sadness, we announce that Peter Kralchevsky, a member of the Council of the International Association of Colloid and Interface Scientists (IACIS) since 2015, suddenly passed away on 6th December 2020. Peter had actively contributed to the development and consolidation of colloid and interface community in Europe and internationally. The main scientific contributions of Peter include capillary and surface forces, thermodynamics and hydrodynamics of liquid films, three-phase contact lines, colloidal dispersions, physical chemistry of surfactants (adsorption, micellization, micelle growth, solubilization, and rheology of surfactant solutions), attachment and interactions between particles at interfaces, and interactions in colloidal and bio-colloidal dispersions. His achievements were very well illustrated in his latest Lyklema Plenary Lecture at the ECIS on-line Conference in September 2020. The presentation titled “Capillarity and Self-Assembly” synthesized in a perfect manner his most important contributions to the development of the knowledge in colloid science.

Particular attention had been attracted to his pioneering studies on solid (nano)particles at fluid interfaces, illustrated in his first monograph “Particles at Fluids Interfaces and Membranes: Attachment of Colloid Particles and Proteins to Interfaces and Formation of Two-Dimensional Arrays” (Elsevier, Amsterdam, 2001, co-author Kuniaki Nagayama). These studies started an important new field in colloid science which nowadays comprises design of new types of nanomaterials and important development related to fine-tuning and stabilization of foams and emulsions without surfactants. These composite materials have a high potential for the creation of novel materials for analytical and diagnostic approaches in medicine and for other technological advancements.

Peter Kralchevsky was a very active member of the European and international colloid community and was devoted to the development of ECIS (Secretary since 2010). He served as the Chair of the European COST Action D43 Colloid and Interface Chemistry for Nanotechnology (2008–2011) and Vice Chair of COST Action CM1101 Colloidal Aspects of Nanoscience for Innovative Processes and Materials (2012–2016).

The entire professional career of Peter Kralchevsky was linked to Sofia University. In 1981, he graduated with a Physics degree and started his academic career in the group of Professor Ivan Ivanov at the Department of Physical Chemistry, the Faculty of Chemistry. He received his PhD in 1985 and became an associate professor in 1991 and a full professor in Condensed Matter Physics in 2002. For many years he was Head of the Laboratory of Thermodynamics and Physicochemical Hydrodynamics (1993–1999), the Laboratory of Chemical Physics and Engineering (2000–2008), and the Laboratory of Complex Fluids (2017–2020). He was also Dean of the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy at Sofia University (2015–2019). In 2012, he was elected a Fellow of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Aside from being an author and lecturer of many university courses, he had supervised numerous BSc and MSc students, as well as more than 16 PhD theses.

Peter was not only an eminent representative of the Bulgarian colloid chemistry community, but also a kind and supportive teacher and colleague. His diverse scientific and teaching activities had brought him distinctions, both national and international. He was a recipient of Prof. A. Zlatarov Prize of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the Sofia University (1990); "St. Kliment Ohridski" University of Sofia Blue Ribbon Medal for significant achievements in science (2006); the annual award "Best Professor" (2007); and the highest National Award "Pythagoras" for scientific achievements of the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science (2016). In 2020, Peter Kralchevsky was the first recipient of the ECIS – Lyklema Prize which is granted to a scientist with proven scientific excellence who additionally has devoted long-time, sustained and exceptional efforts to ECIS organizational activities and colloid community development.

The death of Peter Kralchevsky is a significant loss for the international colloid and interface community. The legacy of his scientific contributions and devotion to developing our community will be remembered.

Nikolai Denkov, Sofia University