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Biography of Janos H. Fendler

Janos Fendler was one of the most cultivated men I ever met not only in Science but also in art, literature, and gastronomy.

During his career, he opened several new areas of research and was highly recognized for all of them. He was a pioneer in developing radiation chemistry, physical organic chemistry, micelles, membrane mimetic chemistry material sciences, nanomaterials, and plasmonic. His major breakthrough was to use membrane mimetic chemistry to make advanced materials. He developed micellar catalysis and macromolecular assemblies. In 1977, he used photochemistry in colloids for solar energy, and in subsequent years, he moved on to nanomaterials, polymeric-coated surfaces, and ended his career in plasmonic and nanobiological systems.

One measure of the high level of his research is his very high Hirsch factor ($h = 61$) and high citation number (14616). He received numerous awards including the Kendall Award in Colloid and Surface Chemistry (1983) from the American Chemical Society, the Alexander von Humboldt Senior U.S. Scientist Award (1991), the Israeli Meyerhoff Award (1997), the Honorary D.Sc. in Membrane Mimetic Chemistry from the University of London (1978), and an Honorary Doctorate (Honoris Causa) from the University of Szeged, Hungary (1999).

However, Fendler was much more than a scientist. He was a man with an unyielding energy to relish life in all of its facets by making new discoveries each day: whether this was

discussing literature, visiting a renowned museum, enjoying a two hour lunch (executive lunches as he affectionately called them), or ensuring that his children received the best education by finding the highest quality schools or by personally spending time with them to solve math problems and write précis.

Fendler was born in Hungary in 1937 and at 19 escaped to England. His new home country made a remarkable impression upon him as he remained nostalgic about the 8 years spent at the University of London all of his life. In 1964, he left England for United States and became an American citizen. After some time at the University of California—Santa Barbara and at the Mellon Institute in Pittsburgh, he joined the chemistry faculty at Texas A&M University. In 1985, after 3 years at Clarkson University, he moved to Syracuse University as Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and served as Director of the Center for Membrane Engineering and Science. In 1997, he returned to Clarkson.

Many got a glimpse of Fendler's life through his detailed annual letters in which he summarized that year's developments in his family life, his most noteworthy readings, and his major scientific progress. Unbelievably, he read two or three books a week and was cultured in many domains. He found great delight talking about any of these subjects and was particularly eager to discuss science with young scientists with whom he was always happy to share his scientific ideas or give general life