

Dragomir B. Bukur
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Dr. Dragomir (Drago) B. Bukur was born in Panchevo, Yugoslavia. He graduated with the highest honors at the University of Belgrade in 1970 (Diploma Engineer degree in Chemical Technology). He received a M. Sc. and Ph. D. degree in Chemical Engineering at the University of Minnesota in 1972 and 1974, respectively.

Dr. Bukur worked as an Assistant Professor in Chemical Engineering Department at the University of Novi Sad in Yugoslavia from 1975 to 1978. For nearly two years he was a post-doctoral Research Associate in Chemical Engineering Department at the University of Houston (1979-1980). He spent one year in industry as a Senior Research Engineer with Mobil Research and Development Co. in Paulsboro, New Jersey, before joining Chemical Engineering Department at Texas A&M University (TAMU) as an Associate Professor in fall of 1981. He was promoted to a rank of Professor in 1987. He was a Visiting Professor at North Carolina State University at Raleigh (1992) and University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia (2002). He served as an Associate Department Head from 1998-2001, and as an Associate Head for Departmental programs (2002-2005). Since August 2005 he has been on assignment at Texas A&M University at Qatar and served as the Chemical Engineering Program Coordinator (2006-2007). He was awarded Joe M. Nesbitt Professorship in Chemical Engineering at TAMU in 2006.

Dr. Bukur's research interests have been in the areas of multiphase reaction systems and indirect coal/natural gas liquefaction via Fischer-Tropsch synthesis. His early work on mathematical modeling of fluid bed reactors for catalytic and non-catalytic (coal combustion) reactions, including stability and dynamic behavior of these systems, has been widely read and quoted in technical journals and books by his peers. He became engaged in indirect coal liquefaction technology in 1980, while working for Mobil R & D Co. on a two-stage process for conversion of synthesis gas to high octane gasoline (Fischer-Tropsch combined with ZSM-5 class zeolite catalyst). In 1982 he initiated a research program at TAMU on syngas conversion to transportation fuels, and has developed a leading national laboratory in this important area. Dr. Bukur, his students and post-doctoral associates have been working on development of stable iron Fischer-Tropsch catalysts with enhanced activity and selectivity towards transportation fuels, measurement of hydrodynamic parameters needed for design and scale-up of slurry bubble column reactors, kinetics, modeling and simulation of the Fischer-Tropsch synthesis in fixed bed and slurry bed reactors.

Dr. Bukur has authored or co-authored 87 refereed publications, 3 chapters in books, 40 publications in conference proceedings. Also, he and/or his associates have made nearly 100 presentations at national and international conferences. Dr. Bukur has given over 50 invited lectures at different Universities, corporations and government laboratories. He has served as a consultant for DuPont, Conoco-Phillips and Celanese.

He has been active in the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE). He served as a member of two national programming committees - Fluidization and Kinetics, and has organized over 20 technical sessions (symposia) at national and/or international meetings. Also, he served as advisor to AIChE student chapter at TAMU from 1982 to 1987, and on the Executive Committee of the South Texas Section of the AIChE in 1997 and 2000. He is a Fellow of the AIChE.

He received several awards for excellence in research: Texas Engineering Experiment Station (TEES) Fellow award (1989, 1990); Senior TEES Fellow (1991); Halliburton Award of Excellence (1993); Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award in Research (1994), Halliburton Professorship (2003) - all from Texas A & M University, as well as the Best Fundamental Paper Award for 1989 and 1995, and Best Applied Paper Award for 1996 - all from the South Texas Section of the AIChE.