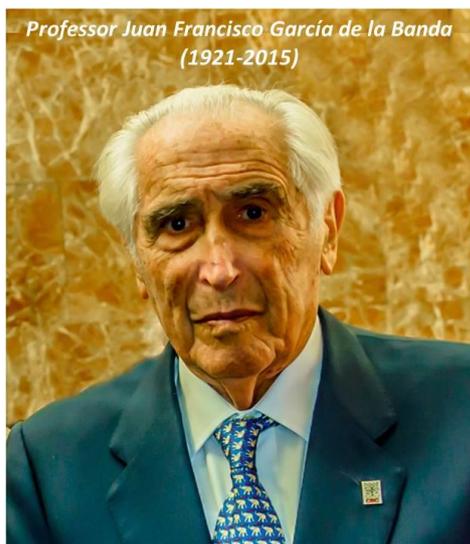


## In Memoriam: Juan Francisco García de la Banda (1921-2015)



Juan Francisco García de la Banda was born in Madrid (Spain) in 1921. He studied Chemistry and Mathematics in the Universities of Valladolid, Oviedo and Madrid, completing his Bachelor Degree in 1943. In 1948 he presented his PhD dissertation (*“Relation between calorific conductivity and vapor pressure of high boiling point substances”*) supervised by Professors Foz-Gazulla and Colomina and carried out at the *Instituto de Química Física “Rocasolano” (IQFR)* of the Spanish Council for Scientific Research (CSIC).

He was in Bristol between 1951 and 1952 with Professor William E. Garner and Dr. Dennis A. Dowden at the Catalysis Group at ICI. Afterwards, he returned to Spain, within the framework of the IQFR and founded the “Laboratory on Catalysis”, which became the birthplace of the Instituto de Catálisis y Petroleoquímica (ICP) in 1975. He was the first Director of the ICP and the individual most responsible for enhancing research in catalysis and biocatalysis in Spain.

He participated in the First International Conference on Catalysis (ICC) held in Philadelphia in 1956 and maintained personal and professional links with U.S. catalysis researchers, especially through his personal friendship with Professor Heinz Heinemann throughout their careers. He proposed and organized the 1<sup>st</sup> Iberoamerican Symposium on Catalysis, held in Madrid in 1968, the first in a series that will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> edition this year in Montevideo.

Professor Garcia de la Banda served in several influential positions within the research and development and scientific structure at the highest levels in the government of Spain. He is without doubt the most influential and impactful promoter of the Catalysis in Spain in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the key individual in the formative years of the catalysis community in Spain.

His presence and his sage advice will be missed

Dr. Enrique Sas-tre

Vice-Director, Insti-tuto de Catáli-sis y Petroleo-química, CSIC, Madrid, Spain.