

AFTER A CENTURY: THE HISTORY OF TURKISH CHEMICAL SOCIETY (1919-2023)

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Establishment:

The laying of the foundations of the *Turkish Chemical Society* coincides with the year 1919, when important events related to the foundation of our Republic took place. [1]

Chemistry Education, which started systematically in the 1917-1918 academic year at the Higher Education Institution, which was called Darülfünunu Osmani at that time and was renamed to "Istanbul Darülfünunu" in 1923 and Istanbul University in 1933, had its first graduates at the end of the 1919-1920 academic year. Our three colleagues in this period were joined by seven colleagues at the end of the 1920-1921 academic year, thirteen in 1921-1922, and another thirteen in 1922-1923. Since the first semester graduates had previously studied at the Natural



P.1: First Chemistry Department Clas in Istanbul DarulFünun, 1918

Sciences Branch of Darülfünun, they started their first academic year in the second grade and completed their three-year Chemist education in two years, and those in the following semester graduated by completing the three-year education period.

After chemistry started to be taught as a profession in our country, the Faculty of Science Student Association was also founded in 1919 by the first students who registered to study "Chemistry". Chemistry students also served on the boards of directors of this society. Among them, Kudsi (Abdül Kuddüs), İlhami (Ord. Prof. İlhami Cıvaoğlu), later Mehmed Ali (M. Ali Kâğıtçı), Ekrem (Ekrem Necmi İnel) and Mr. Zihni can be mentioned. It is known that the President of the Faculty of Science Student Association was Mr. İlhami in 1919-1920, and Mr. Ekrem between 1920 and 1923.

The first founding efforts of the "Turkish Chemists Association" were carried out in the first graduation year, which coincided with 1919-1920, with the thoughts, initiatives, and efforts of the chemistry students working in this society and their friends of the same period. The official formalities that started in the meantime lasted about 3 years. Graduates of the third semester of chemistry education in the 1922-1923 academic year officially opened the association in April 1924.

In this case, the first entrepreneurs can be considered as Mr. Kudsi, Mr. İlhami and Mr. Mehmed Ali, and the first official founders can be considered as Mr. Ekrem Necmi and Mr. Zihni and their colleagues in the same business.



P.2 : First Chemistry Diploma of Prof İlhami Cıvaoğlu 1921.

Development:

In this way, our professional community, which started with a small number of members, began to expand and gain strength with the participation of graduates in later years and our colleagues who studied chemistry abroad and returned to the homeland. For the first few years, the society stipulated that only chemists with a diploma graduated from the Chemistry Institute of the Faculty of Science could become members. After a while, the society adopted the title of "chemist" according to the procedure of the time, considering chemistry as an auxiliary course in their education (physician, pharmacist, etc.) and having actually been chemists before the first graduates of the Chemistry Institute. It also included vocational graduates among its members. This situation, in particular, enabled professors teaching chemistry to become members and presidents of the society.



P.3 : First Chemistry Department Building The Mansion of Zeynep Hanım, Istanbul 1934

Bahattin Yalçın

Bahattin YALÇIN was born in Istanbul, in the year 1967. He was graduated from Istanbul University, Faculty of Engineering, Department of Chemistry in 1991. For a short time in 1991, he worked in İlsan-İltaş Pharmaceutical Company. In 1991 he started Marmara University, Department of Chemistry as a research assistant. He completed his Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Marmara University in the years 1995 and 1999, respectively. He worked as a board member of Natural Plants and Aquaculture Application and Research Center in 2009 and Application and Research Center of Environmental Problems in 2010. In Marmara University, Department of Chemistry, he served as an Assistant Professor between 2005 and 2010, Associate Professor between 2010-2015, and Professor since 2015, and also the head of Inorganic Chemistry sub department. In Turkish Chemical Society, he served as Board member between 2010 and 2012, Vice President between 2012-2014, and President since 2016 October. He is married with two children.



Barbaros Akkurt

Barbaros Akkurt was born in Istanbul, Türkiye, in 1978. He started chemistry undergraduate education in Istanbul University, Faculty of Engineering in 1995 and finished in 1999. He started as a research assistant in the Department of Chemistry, Sub-department of Inorganic Chemistry in this year and also he pursued a Master of Science program, until he finished it in 2002. He left the department in this year for military service, after which, in 2003, he joined Istanbul Technical University, Department of Chemistry, Sub-department of Inorganic Chemistry for a PhD degree. He studied for this degree between 2003 and 2009 and graduated officially in 2010. In December 2005, he started as a Specialist in the department and worked until 2019. He was transferred to ITU Rectorate, Office of Laboratory Management and worked there until 2020. He was allowed to work in the ITU Press Office was officially established. He is a member of ITU Press, specialized on peer-review journals and in-house education. He is single with a son.



Tahsin Kızılay

He was born in 1973 in Bartın, Türkiye. He completed his primary, secondary and high school education in this city. After graduation from high school, he worked in some jobs. In 2020, he obtained an undergraduate degree from Anadolu University, Public Administration department. Currently, he is studying in the Philosophy department in the same university. He started the job offered by Turkish Chemical Society as an office boy in 1996. After some time, he became the director of financial and administrative services and finally he was awarded the director of Turkish Chemical Society. He is married and has a son.





P.4: The Historical Main Gate of the Türkiye's first university, Istanbul University, in Beyazid Square, 1935

The society, which continued its activities only in Istanbul for 7 years from 1919 to 1927, opened a branch there with the initiative of Mr. Raşit (Raşit Taşdur), one of the members in Ankara. At the end of 1931, some colleagues in Ankara, with some considerations, united outside the branch of the society and established a new professional community under the name of "Turkish Chemists Union". After a while, it began to be felt by both communities that the separate efforts of the Union in Ankara and the Society in Istanbul on the same subject were causing great harm to the interests of the profession and that unification was necessary for the advancement of our profession. The effects of the Second World War between 1939 and 1945 in our country and the fact that the activities of the Union and Society decreased to the point of almost stopping, unintentionally delayed the unity. After the war years, the initiatives in the 1946-1947 activity period resulted in the official merger and fusion of the two organizations. In this case, the organization in Ankara was declared as the headquarters and the organization in Istanbul as the branch.

Meanwhile, the regulations of the Turkish Chemistry Association, which was founded in 1943 as a continuation of the previous Turkish Chemists' Association and whose name was changed to Turkish Chemical Association in 1945 and whose headquarters were transferred to Ankara, were adopted as the new Constitution, with only

changes in the terms, and the society was called "Turkish Chemical Society". In this way, the Union joined the Society and the center was left in Ankara.

With the decision taken at the General Assembly meeting held in Ankara in 1949, the headquarters of the association was

T. C. Dahiliye Vekâleti
Emniyet U. Müdürlüğü
Sıra No: 11
SAYI: 26

İLMÜHABER

Cemiyetin adı	Türk Kimya Cemiyeti
Teşekkül maksadı	Kimya ilmine ve tabiiyatına taalluk eden bütün mevzuatlarla meşgul olarak kimya ve tabiiyatın memleketimizde teşakkül ve inkişafına muktezel tedbirleri almak ve bu hususta işbirliği teşkilat ve tevviratla bulunmak, meslektaşlar arasında tesanidi kuvvetlendirmek, onların ilmi şahadati ihtiyaşlarına hâdim olmak
Teşis Tarihi	17/3/1943
İdare Merkezi	İstanbul
Umumi merkez veya şubesi	İstanbul

Yukarıda adı ve kuruluş maksadı yazılı cemiyetin Dahiliye Vekâletine tevdi olunan Ana nizamnamesi 2912 sayılı kanun hükümlerine uygun görüldüğünden dolayı kanunun 4. maddesine tevlikan faaliyetinde bulunmasına izin verilmiş olduğuna mübeyyin imzalıdır. 22 9 1943

Em. Um. Müdürü, *[Signature]* Dahiliye Vekili Y. *[Signature]*

P.5: Activities Permit Certificate, 1943

transferred to Istanbul again in 1950. In July 1950, a more developed regulation, which formed the basis of today's constitution, was prepared and the name of the association was changed to "Turkish Chemical Society". It is observed that the Istanbul center, which first took on the task of publishing the continuation of our professional magazine, which had not been published for a long time, as the first thing following the transfer, made efforts to establish itself and started to work more determinedly since 1953.

The Turkish Chemical Society faced the danger of closure twice in the period until 1950, when it started to show a constant determination in its work. The first of these is Prof. Mr. Cevat Mazhar, who died following the University reform in 1933 and was the President of the Turkish Chemists Society at that time. After him, the society was officially closed down because the meetings could not be held within the legal period. However, the members completed the formalities as soon as possible and ensured the continuation of the activities of the society. In the second case, the society was officially closed down because the colleagues who formed the Center of the Turkish Chemists Society in Istanbul had to disperse to various places due to the conditions of the day in the last years of the Second World War between 1939 and 1945, and the meetings could not be held within certain legal periods. A very short time later, at the end of 1942, eight of our colleagues in Istanbul (Salih Turgay, Mehmed Ali Kâğıtçı, Raşit Taşdur,

T.C. Resmi Gazete
Kuruluş tarihi: 7 Ekim 1924-1920

12 KASIM 1954
CUMA
Sayı: 8531

KARARNAMELER

Karar Sayısı: 289

RESMÎ GAZETE

Karar Sayısı: 289

RESMÎ GAZETE

P.6: Naming and representation rights decision given by the Government to the Turkish Chemical Society, State Official Gazette, 1954

Asaf Irmak, Tarık Artel, Cemil Dikmen, Jülide Deymer, and İbrahim Hakdiyen) came together as Founding Members and became the former Main Member. They renewed the statute, completed the formalities, and officially opened the society again in February 1943. On this occasion, the name of the Turkish Chemists' Association was changed to "Turkish Chemical Association".

Association's Activities:

As can be understood from the explanations we have made above, based on the documents in our archive and the information obtained from our professionals who lived at that time, our association, in its first 30-year period from 1919 (the beginning of its establishment) until 1950 (when the center was transferred to Istanbul again) felt the unrest brought about by the Second World War. Great problems were present and the center moved back and forth between Istanbul and Ankara, therefore our profession could not be properly introduced to our society. It has experienced a period of being able to protect and continue its existence under a number of extraordinary difficulties and conditions.

It is observed that in its second period of 36 years, starting from 1950, our society reached an environment with more positive conditions and started to work more determinedly and efficiently.

In fact, after this date, our association will settle in certain buildings, hold regular General Assembly and Board of Directors meetings, resolve financial difficulties, ensure that the laws and regulations related to our profession are issued in the most beneficial way, constantly publish our professional magazine, engage in various and wide-ranging social activities, international professionals to represent the chemical profession in our country in its organizations and to be of maximum benefit to its members in all these ways, etc. It is observed with appreciation and gratitude that they tried to fulfill their duties, such as those expected from their existence, in the best possible way within the available possibilities and conditions.

Our association, whose name was changed from "Turkish Chemical Association" to "Turkish Chemical Society" in accordance with the relevant articles of the Law on Associations that came into force in 1972, was renamed to "Turkiye Chemical Society", which was more appropriate to its honorable past, in 1984, that is, on the 65th anniversary of its establishment. It also obtained this permission by applying to the Council of Ministers.

In this way, as a result of 35 years of work, from 1950, when the central organization was taken to Istanbul, to 1985, the Society was raised solidly and securely on the foundations developed by the efforts of the previous boards of directors, which were applied effectively since 1919, and provided more opportunities to its members. It has been brought to its current state, which could be the beginning of the rise it deserves.

Presidents:

First of all, it would be a duty of appreciation to remember the Boards of Directors that have ensured the work of our Society since its establishment and that have been renewed by elections every year (every two years for the last 30 years) by our General Assemblies, and to explain here the Presidents who represent them.

For this reason, we have tried to list below the names and years of office of our professionals who preside over the Boards of Directors and therefore our association, as much as our information sources allow.

The first founding President of our association, the foundation preparations of which started in 1919, was Mr. İlhami (Ord. Prof. İlhami Civaoglu) in the 1920-1921 working period, and subsequently, Mr. Ekrem Necmi (Ekrem Necmi İnel) was the first inaugural President in 1923, when the association was officially opened. It was determined from the statements. These colleagues of ours had gone to European countries for a period of specialization in the years after they left their Presidencies.



P.7: Prof. Dr. İlhami Civaoglu, First President The Turkish Chemical Society, (1919-1921)

Mr. Zihni, Prof. Cevat Mazhar, and Prof. Hikmet Vefik can be seen in the list. The first and valuable teachers in the teaching staff of the Chemistry Institute, such as Prof.

Arndt's assistant Fazlı Faik (Yeğül), Prof. Ömer Şevket (Öncel) and important names of our country's industry such as the founder of SEKA Paper Factories, Mr. Mehmed Ali Kâğıtçı (the surname Kâğıtçı was given by Atatürk himself). He started his term as president.

In the meantime, let's follow the Presidents of the Association established in Ankara, the Association working in parallel in Istanbul, and the Presidents of our community, which was later formed by the merger of both organizations, in the list, according to the years of the period and until today.



P.8: Prof. Dr. Ali Rıza Berkem, Honorary President of TCS (1970 - 2006)

Although we do not intend to make any distinction between them, our founding president, Ord. Prof. Dr. İlhami Civaoglu, to Mehmed Ali Kâğıtçı, who reassembled the organization in 1943 and enabled the Association to start its activities again, to gaining the status of "Association Working for the Public Interest" in 1954, and to Türkiye's membership in the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) in 1958. Dr. Ekrem Eriş ensured that the 8th floor of the Uzay Apartment located in Istanbul, Şişli, Harbiye, which is currently our Society Headquarters, became the sole property of our Society in 1967 and started the *Turkish Chemical Society Publications* in 1962, which became the No. 1 publication. Mr. Nedim Deniztekin published the book "Fabrication of Medical Compliments (Authors: Türkân Yalçındağ & Assoc. Prof. Dr. Orhan N. Yalçındağ) and our Honorary President, our very valuable teacher, Prof. Dr. A. Rıza Berkem, who served as the President for 36 years continuously from 1970 to 2006 and made great services. After Ali Rıza Berkem's presidency, the association's place in our society with its national and international work has gained a different meaning and momentum.

The identified Presidents of Associations and their working years are as follows in chronological order:

Date	in İstanbul	in Ankara
1919-1920	First attempt of establishment	–
1920-1921	Ord. Prof. Dr. İlhami (Civaoğlu)	–
1921-1925	Mr. Ekrem Necmi (İnel)	–
1925-1926	Mr. Zihni	–
1926-1927	Mr. Prof. Cevat Mazhar	A branch was established in Ankara
1927-1928	Mr. Hikmet Vefik	Mr. Raşit (Taşdur)
1928-1929	Mr. Fazlı Faik (Yeğül)	N.D.
1929-1930	Mr. Prof. Ömer Şevket (Öncel)	N.D.
1930-1931	Mr. Mehmed Ali (Kâğıtçı)	N.D.
1931-1932	Mr. Cemal (Sancar)	The union was established in Ankara
1932-1934	Mr. Prof. Dr. Cevat Mazhar	Dr. Avni Refik Bekman
1934-1937	Cemal Sancar	Dr. Avni Refik Bekman
1937-1938	Tarik Artel	Dr. Avni Refik Bekman
1938-1941	Ekrem Necmi İnel	N.D.
1941-1942	Closed	N.D.
1943-1945	M. Ali Kâğıtçı	Dr. Avni Refik Bekman
1945-1946	Cemal Sancar	İzzet Erksal
1946-1948	Raşit Taşdur	Hikmet Konuralp and Dr. Naci Ortabaşı
1948-1949	Dr. Ekrem Eraş	Nadir Bircan
1949-1953	Tarik Artel	Nadir Bircan (*)
1953-1961	Dr. Ekrem Eraş	–
1961-1970	Nedim Deniztekin	–
1970-2006	Prof. Dr. Ali Rıza Berkem	The branch was established in 1991 1992-1994 Prof. Dr. Necdet Tarkan (Founding chairman) 1994 - 2006 Prof. Dr. O. Yavuz Ataman
2006-2010	Prof. Dr. Nesrin Emekli	Prof. Dr. O.Yavuz Ataman
2010-2014	M. Erkan Baykut	Prof. Dr. O.Yavuz Ataman
2014-2016	Prof. Dr. Mehmet R. B. Mahramanlioğlu	Prof. Dr. O.Yavuz Ataman
2016 –	Prof. Dr. Bahattin Yalçın	Prof. Dr. Elif Loğoğlu

Conclusion:

Like other similar professional societies, the *Turkish Chemical Society* has completed its founding and development periods by complying with the law of evolution and has reached a stage where it can demonstrate the regular and determined activities expected from its existence.

The Society, which is currently 104 years old and had the pleasure of celebrating its centenary in 2019, represents our profession with honor at home and abroad, does not aim for financial gain, membership is entirely voluntary, and has the status of "Associations Working for the Public Interest" (Article 15.10 of the Council of Ministers). It has a respected place today as a scientific and professional organization (with its decision no. 4/3720, dated 1954). The only source of permanent

income for the association is membership dues. Our colleagues cannot boast enough that the Society has operated successfully for more than a century under these barren financial conditions. This is a happy success that is not granted to every society.

Turkish Chemical Society has been a member of The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), one of the largest and most important chemical organizations in the world since 1958, also a member of formerly known as the Federation of European Chemical Societies (FECS), whose new name is the European Chemical Society (EuChemS) since 1970, and the Federation of Asian Chemical Societies (FACS) since 2013 and is represented in these associations. Apart from these, we are a member of the International Organization for

Chemical Sciences in Development (IOCD), a member of the Board of Presidents of the World Chemical Societies, a member of the International Committee of Balkan Chemistry Days, a member of the General Assembly of the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO and TÜBİTAK Advisory Board Memberships were also made over time.

Thanks to our memberships in IUPAC, EuChemS and FACS, our country's scientists have the opportunity to work with successful and important scientists from other countries in their fields in the working groups of these associations. In addition, members of the Society are considered natural members of these international associations and can attend their congresses with discounts and priority. Thus, the *Turkish Chemical Society* successfully represents Turkish Chemistry both at home and abroad.

Throughout its long history, especially in the last 30 years, the association has contributed to the chemical science and industry of our country by organizing very important meetings. The main ones include:

38th International Industrial Chemistry Congress in September 1989, Common Market and Our Chemical Industry in 1971, Localization of Industry (Especially the Chemical Industry) in Türkiye in 1975, Problems of the Turkish Chemical Industry in 1978. Is it Obligation to Use Nuclear Energy to Meet the Energy Requirements?, Development and Future of the Turkish Chemical Industry in the Republic Period in 1981, University-Industry Cooperation in 1982, Latest Developments in Chemistry and the Latest Situation of Chemistry Teaching in Our Universities in 1984,. We organized the 1st National Chemical Industry Congress in 2-3 May 1985.

In addition, the National Chemistry Congresses, which have been held every year since 1985 (except for the years 1995, 2013, 2014 and 2023) and the 33rd of which will be held jointly with Yalova University in 2022, and the National Chemistry Congress, which has been held every two years since 2007, will be held on 06-08 September 2023. We are the co-organizer of the 8th National Chemistry Education Congress, organized together with Marmara University Faculty of Education Department of Chemistry Education in Istanbul.

We organized IUPAC World Chemistry Congresses in 1995 and 2013, IUPAC World Congress of Chemistry Education (ICCE) in 2004, European Congress of Chemistry Education (ECRICE) in 2008, European Congress of Chemistry for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage (CHEMCH) in 2012, 5th



P.9: Old meeting, 1988



P.10: Old meeting, 1997

EuChemS Europe in 2014. Internationally important events such as the Chemistry Congress and the MACRO 2016 (World Polymer Congress), the International EastWest Chemistry Conference every year since 2017, the 20th EuroAnalysis (European Analytical Chemistry Congress) in 2019 and the 19th Asian Chemistry Congress on 09-14 July 2023.

Apart from these, our Society organizes dozens of conferences, panels and trainings for high school, university students and colleagues every year. The number of published books, which was 18 between 1962 and 2008, that is, in a 46-year period, reached 48 at the end of 2023.

The first 13 issues were published under the name "Chemist" (1932-1937), followed by the same volume and issue numbers, but were different in terms of content and management, continued under the name "Kimya Annali" (1937-1939) and 6 issues were published under this name. and finally, "Chemistry and Industry" Magazine, which continued its publication life starting from its 21st issue in 1950, 11 years after the last issue of this magazine, It was published in April 2010 with its 231st issue, and 8 issues were published as an e-Journal between October 2014 and October 2016, but could not be published after this date due to various problems. [2] The Society has three peer-reviewed, scientific, and open access journals currently in publication. These are as follows: Journal of the *Turkish Chemical Society*, Section A: Chemistry, Journal of the *Turkish Chemical Society*, Section B: Chemical Engineering, and Journal of the *Turkish Chemical Society*, Section C: Chemical Education. These journals can be accessed from their own websites and from the "Journals" section on the home page of the Society's official website at www.turchemsoc.org.

Founded in 2007, TKD Young Chemists Platform is a professional community with a student membership community and approximately 8,000 registered members, there is no doubt that it will try to be useful to its members and our profession in proportion to the interest it will receive from its members, and will also receive material and moral support from its members to the extent that it is useful.

We tried to summarize the 104-year story of the *Turkish Chemical Society* and provide information about its history and hundred-year history. As we complete our article, we would like to thank our Presidents who founded our Society, kept it alive for more than a hundred years and who faced

all kinds of difficulties with great sacrifices to continue this torch of science and profession, maintaining the Board of Directors, Board of Auditors, Board of Honor, Editorial Committee, Social Committee, and TKD Young Chemists Platform. We would like to express our gratitude once again to our managers and all our colleagues who work in other association bodies, all our members who support them with their valuable interest, our students who spare their interest and contributions, our employees who have worked devotedly for many years, and the relevant units of all International Unions with which we have worked in cooperation and harmony for many years. We consider it an honorable duty to remember them with respect and gratitude.



P.11 19th Asian Chemistry Congress, Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, July 9-14, 2023

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