

Franco Alhaique**Born in Trieste (Italy) June 24th 1942****University degree (Laurea) in Chemistry 1965 (cum laude), in Pharmacy 1971 (cum laude)****Present position: Professor Emeritus at Sapienza University. Professor of Pharmaceutical Technology at the University of Rome "Tor Vergata"**

After the University degree (Laurea), prof. Franco Alhaique was the recipient of a scholarship "Guido Donegani" then, from 1966 to 1983 he was nominated "Researcher" at the National Research Council; during that time he obtained several teaching appointments at the University of Rome. In 1983 he became associate professor at the University of Rome "La Sapienza" where he had the course of Pharmaceutical Technology and Legislation. In 1990 he was nominated Full Professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Cagliari and four years later the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Rome called him back where he had the chair of "Pharmaceutical Technology, Socio-economics and Legislation".

From 1978 to 2003 Prof. Alhaique was a member of the Committee for the Italian Pharmacopoeia. For three years he had a course within the schools for "Biotechnological applications" and for "Pharmacoeconomics" at the University "La Sapienza". He was the first promoter and President for seven years of the Italian Chapter of the "Controlled release Society". From 2001 to 2010 he was President of the organizing committee for the "Corso di Laurea" in Biotechnology and, from 2003 to 2012, of the organizing committee for the Master course in "Industrial Pharmaceutical Methodologies". In 2002 he became a member of the working team University-Farindustria for the technological innovation in the pharmaceutical industries. In 2010 he became President of ADRITELF, the Italian Association of researchers in pharmaceutical technology and recently he was nominated honorary member of that society.

Since more than two decades his main interests are focused on pharmaceutical technology with particular attention to the preparation of modified release dosage forms. In this field the investigation of prof. Alhaique was initially dedicated to the use of ionic and non-ionic surfactants and to their effects on drug diffusion through biological membranes. An extension of these investigations on surfactants led to the preparation and characterization of new vesicular structures obtained with lecithins and ethyl alcohol (ethosomes), suitable for transdermal delivery, as well as with non ionic surfactants and cholesterol (niosomes) that have been proposed for pulmonary delivery. In more recent years the studies of prof. Alhaique have been devoted to various aspects of modified release (sustained and/or modulated) from various matrices, beads, micro and nano-particles, using synthetic polymers, natural polysaccharides and their derivatives.

Prof. Alhaique was frequently abroad for his scientific activity (in particular U.S.A. and Israel) and several researches are being carried out in collaboration with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He had a fruitful joint research on the structure of the macromolecules used in controlled release formulations with the Otsuma Women's University of Kyoto. A collaboration with the University of Rio de Janeiro was also activated for a joint study on a new galactomannan obtained from a Brazilian tree suitable as a matrix for sustained drug delivery. A new collaboration with the University of Utrecht (NL) started a few years ago: the joint program is focused on the development of biocompatible polysaccharidic hydrogel matrices for applications in the field of tissue engineering.

Prof. Alhaique published more than one hundred and eighty papers, mainly on international journals, and participated to many international meetings with communications and as invited speaker. He has been and still is a reviewer for numerous scientific papers to be published on international journals and is the member of the editorial board of some of them.