



29.11.2012

**Details regarding the inaccurate information published in the  
Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung**

The Analytical Chemistry Department of the Faculty of Applied Chemistry and Materials Science, group in which Mrs. Aurelia Cristina Nechifor is working since 1993 approached, in its research, topics related to ferromagnetic particles and ferrofluids ever since 1991.

The PhD thesis prepared by Mrs. Aurelia Cristina Nechifor and coordinated by Mrs. Ecaterina Andronescu aimed the theme *"The synthesis and applications of ferromagnetic particles and ferrofluids"*. The thesis developed its specific area by bringing several original contributions.

Between the years 1991 and 1994, scientific collaborations were established with the specialized laboratory of the Utrecht University, led by Professor Albert P. Philipse. Following this collaboration, the samples synthesized in the Romanian laboratory by Mrs. Aurelia Cristina Nechifor were subject to determinations performed through transmission electronic microscopy in the partner university. The original microscopy transmissions are, even today, in the possession of Mrs. Aurelia Cristina Nechifor. This fact is evidenced by the attached letter, dating since 1994 and signed by Professor Albert P. Philipse himself. *As a conclusion, the cited microscopy image belongs to Mrs. Nechifor.*

The paper mentioned by FAZ deals with obtaining a new kind of ferrofluid, based on tributyl phosphate (TBP), ferrous sulphate, ferroamoniacal sulfate, sodium hydroxide and perchloric acid. The author Gerard Antonie van Ewijk uses, in the



article in which he claims the paper might be copied, a whole different reactive range - ferrous chloride, ferric chloride, ammonia and nitric acid, which has no connection whatsoever with that used in synthesis by Mrs. Aurelia Cristina Nechifor. *Therefore, we consider the association between these two papers to be unacceptable, as well as the suspicion of plagiarism for the scientific articles which have only in common the English expressions specific to the area of chemistry.*

It's also worth mentioning the fact that the FAZ, while taking information from a website, states that the article "*Static and dynamic characteristics of magnetized journal bearings lubricated with ferrofluid*", written by the authors T.A. Osman, G.S. Nada and Z.S. Safar, was not quoted properly. We assert, based on solid evidence, that the Romanian authors, just as the above authors, have quoted those who have written beforehand on this specific subject, respectively: Rosensweig RE, Kaiser R., Miskolczy G, *Viscosity of magnetic fluids in a magnetic field*, J Colloid Interface Sci, 1969, 29(4): 680-6 (quoted in the above article at the position no. 2 and in the paper written by the Romanian authors in the position no. 5), and Moskowitz R, Ezekiel FD, *Magnetic fluids – something to consider*. Instruments Control Syst, 1975, 48:41-5 (quoted in the paper written by the foreign author at the position no. 5 and by the Romanian author at the position no.6).

To conclude, we strongly believe that the public opinion was intentionally misinformed, not only considering the critical manner in which the reality was distorted but also because none of the impugned persons were asked for a standpoint.

**The Press Bureau**



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Faculteit Scheikunde

De naam: Mr. Jansen      De afzender:      De afzender:      De afzender:

Order nr: 10/11/96.

I hope these pictures  
are useful to you. I don't have  
any more administration about  
them. This must be in your  
lab journal.

With very best wishes,

Albert P. Philips

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