

## Foreword

This issue of *Rendiconti dell'Istituto di Matematica dell'Università di Trieste* is dedicated to our friend and colleague Jean Mawhin, on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

Jean Mawhin is a world-wide recognized master in the development and the application of functional analytic methods, mainly topological and variational, in the study of boundary value problems for various classes of nonlinear differential equations, while he has also given relevant contributions to the history of Mathematics. He mentored and inspired many young mathematicians, who now have well established positions in and outside Europe.

Jean Mawhin was born in Heusy, Belgium, where he still lives with his wife Margaret, who gave him three children (and he is now the grandfather of six grandsons). He pursued his studies in Liège, and obtained the title of *Docteur en Sciences Mathématiques, avec la plus grande distinction* in 1969. Strangely enough, his PhD supervisor was a professor in Astrophysics, Paul Ledoux, who by the way gave important contributions to the theory of stellar oscillations.

Soon after, Jean became a full professor at the Université Catholique de Louvain-la-Neuve, where he was able to create a strong group of mathematicians working in nonlinear analysis.

He retired from his University at the age of 65, becoming *professeur émérite*, but since then the rhythm of his scientific activity has been maintained, if not even increased. He is still a member of the *Académie Royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique*, since 1992, having been its President in 2002. The same year he received the *Bolzano medal*, the highest recognition of achievements in the mathematical sciences awarded by the Czech Academy of Sciences. Then, in 2012, he was the first winner of the *Schauder medal*, which is now awarded every two years for scientific achievements and contributions to nonlinear analysis and its applications.

Those who have the chance to know Jean Mawhin all appreciate his warm and sincere personality, always intruded with some irony and a fine sense of humor.

Now that Jean Mawhin is completing his 75th turn around the Sun, we are

looking forward to see, after his exploits during these first three, what his beautiful human and scientific activity will reserve us in the next quarter of a century.

To conclude, let us also mention that Jean Mawhin has been in the Editorial Board of our journal since 2005. It has been an honour for us, and we are sure that his collaboration will continue helping us improving the reputation of the journal.

Happy Birthday Jean!  
Bon Anniversaire!

*On the 22th of July 2017, Professor Russell Johnson suddenly passed away. We will always remember Russell with friendship and admiration. And we are greatly honoured for his contribution to this volume.*