
EDITORIAL

One year has passed since the passing of Dr. Iulian Rusu – Editor-in-Chief of the European Journal of Science and Theology, and his absence is still profoundly felt within our community. His vision shaped not only our publication, but the minds and hearts of all who had the privilege to know him. His career spanned international research, pioneering work in chemistry, and a lifelong reflection on the dialogue between science and theology — a dialogue that defined his leadership in our pages.

Born on August 21, 1965, in Iași, Romania, Dr. Rusu devoted his life to the pursuit of knowledge in both science and faith. A graduate of the Technical University of Iași, he earned his degree in Chemical Engineering in 1990, followed by a Ph.D. in Inorganic Chemistry in 1998, with a dissertation on Oxide compounds with special properties. His postdoctoral research at the Université d'Orléans in France and his collaborations with international teams positioned him among the leading Romanian researchers in plasma chemistry, oxide systems, and energy materials.



Iulian Rusu (1965-2024)

Yet Dr. Rusu's intellectual reach extended beyond the laboratory. In 2009, he earned a Master's degree in Orthodox Theology from the University "Al. I. Cuza" of Iași, writing a dissertation on Considerations on a Biblical Theology of the Environment. This achievement reflected his lifelong conviction that the

natural world is not merely a subject for analysis but a sacred expression of divine order and meaning. He studied Hebrew to deepen his understanding of the Word of God.

In March 2005, a month traditionally associated with the Annunciation, the European Journal of Science and Theology (EJST) was founded. From the very beginning, the journal aimed to promote, encourage, and publish significant works that bridge and integrate knowledge from both the fields of science and theology.

Over time, EJST has become one of the most respected journals in the field of theology, as evidenced by its high ranking in major international databases. Behind this success stands a single individual — the one who managed the journal, handled all correspondence, and oversaw every aspect of its editing and administration. He set aside everything else to devote himself entirely to this journal, believing deeply in its mission and doing everything humanly possible to establish it as a significant voice in the academic world.

Through EJST, he succeeded in bringing together representatives of all religions under one ‘umbrella’, striving to promote peace and understanding across the world. His vision was that every person with something meaningful to say could be heard, regardless of race, beliefs, or religion. And indeed, he achieved this — though, regrettably, he was often more appreciated abroad than in his own country, a reality reminiscent of the saying “Nemo propheta in patria sua” (“No prophet is accepted in his own land,” Luke 4:24).

Although he loved his profession as a University Professor, particularly in the field of Inorganic Chemistry, and cherished both his students and every lecture he taught, he ultimately placed his academic career second and dedicated himself entirely to EJST.

He often said that EJST was his third child, after his two daughters, Ana and Ioana.

Despite the many challenges he faced, he persevered and succeeded in leading EJST to the distinguished position it holds today.

His ability to see creation simultaneously through the eyes of a scientist and the heart of a theologian defined the editorial vision he brought to this journal.

He had a unique ability to weave together the complexities of science with the fundamental questions of faith, prompting many to rethink their perspectives. His charisma wasn’t just in his intellect; it was in the genuine warmth of his spirit, an invitation to explore the deeper meanings of his work.

Those who knew him are invited to reflect not only on his numerous accolades but the laughter-filled moments that punctuated long lectures, the quiet encouragements during arduous experiments, and the profound influence he had on the next generation of thinkers and dreamers. His legacy remains not merely in the articles he authored but in the hearts he touched.

We have not written anything until now, as we needed some time to process the situation—not to come to terms with it, for we cannot truly find peace until we understand why it had to happen this way. We believe he still had much to accomplish and much more to share, but only God knows why He needed him more than we did at this moment.

Nevertheless, he continues to live on through us—through everything, he taught us, and through all that he did for faith, for God, and for the European Journal of Science and Theology.

We will strive to carry forward everything he built and hope to rise to the level of his expectations.

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”
(1 Corinthians 13:4–8)

Mihaela-Victoria Rusu-Braniște, Ana Rusu, Ioana Rusu
The family of Dr. Iulian Rusu