

January 14, 2016

Dear ICS members,

In our country good news often come with sad ones. Shortly after the excitement of the Wolf Prize announcement we received the saddening news about the passing of Professor Jochanan Blum of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Jochanan was an inseparable part of the chemistry scene in Israel. He received his Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the Hebrew University in 1961 and was immediately appointed a lecturer there. In 1972 he was promoted to Associate Professor and in 1978 to Professor. Jochanan pioneered the field of organometallic chemistry in the State of Israel and is considered the founding father of catalysis in this country, particularly of the use of organometallic complexes as catalysts in organic synthesis. He has published nearly 400 research papers on multiple topics, including groundbreaking catalytic processes, such as transfer hydrogenation, decarbonylation of carbonyl compounds, olefin isomerization and many others. He was among the first worldwide to develop phase-transfer catalysts between aqueous and organic phases. In recent years, he developed, together with David Avnir, organometallic catalysts entrapped in sol-gel matrices to achieve high selectivity and easy separations.

Jochanan educated and mentored generations of students, many of whom have become worldwide leaders in both the academia and the industry. We all remember him as a very humble person who had never chased honors, awards and publicity.



The funeral will take place at the "Tzomet Morasha" cemetery, Ramat Hasharon, on Friday, January 15, 2016, at 11:00.

The entire community of Israeli chemists along with countless close friends, colleagues and family were blessed to know him. Jochanan will be missed by all of us.

*Ehud Keinan*

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