



החברה הישראלית לכימיה  
THE ISRAEL CHEMICAL SOCIETY

<http://www.chemistry.org.il>

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Dear Colleagues,

It is with deep sadness announcing that **Prof. François Diederich** of ETH-Zurich, passed away yesterday of pancreatic cancer. Prof. Diederich was a strong supporter of Israel, visited Israel numerous times, and developed strong personal and scientific relations with many Israeli scientists in all universities, thus becoming an inseparable part of the Israeli scientific landscape. He received an Honorary Doctorate from the Technion in 2012, served on the Schulich Faculty of Chemistry evaluation committee, and was member of the Technion Board of Governors.



**Prof. François Diederich (1952 – 2020)**

François Diederich was born in 1952 in Luxembourg. Received his Ph.D. from the University of Heidelberg (1979) and after postdoctoral work with Orville L. Chapman at UCLA and habilitation at the Max Planck Institute in Heidelberg he went back to UCLA and in 1989 became a Full Professor there. In 1992 he moved to ETH Zurich.

Prof. Diederich was a leader in chemical and biological molecular recognition. Using a multidimensional approach, his research group deciphered and quantified weak intermolecular interactions, such as aromatic-aromatic and dipolar interactions. The gained insight benefits the structure-based development of nonpeptidic enzyme inhibitors, in particular targeting new therapeutic leads against tropical diseases. His research also focused on supramolecular nanosystems, such as switchable receptors, and nano-structured surfaces with guest-hosting properties. He was a world leader in carbon-rich materials, such as fullerenes and acetylenic networks. His work was synthesis-driven and characterized by a blend of advanced physical organic methods, involving numerous international collaborations. He published over 900 research papers that were cited more than 45,000 times.

Prof. Diederich was a member of the the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, the AAAS, the Real Academia of Spain, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the US National Academy of Sciences. His list of prizes and awards is too long to mention here. In 2011 he became an Honorary Member of the Israel Chemical Society.

The ICS and the Israeli science community mourn the loss of a great scientist and friend.

*Ehud Keinan*

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