



Dear ICS members,

It is with deep sadness announcing that **Prof. Magda Ariel** of the Technion passed away last Saturday, February 20, 2021. The funeral took place on Sunday, February 21st.



Prof. Magda Ariel (1924 – 2021)

Magda was born in Stanisławów, Poland (now Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine) on 21.07.24. Her maternal grandfather, Philip Lieberman, was a wealthy industrialist who initiated the family's immigration process to Israel. He purchased a mansion and lands in southern Nahariya, now the Lieberman House (the Nahariya Museum), Kibbutz Evron's land, the Ein Sarah neighborhood (named after his late wife), and co-founded the Glass Factory, Phoenicia.

Magda's vivid autobiography (in Hebrew), available on the "In Memoriam" page of the ICS, <https://www.chemistry.org.il/in-memoriam>, reveals a fascinating story of a highly gifted scientist. She immigrated to Israel in 1933, lived in Haifa, and attended the Reali high school until the age of 14. At age 16, she passed the British Empire matriculation exams, planning to study languages and literature at the University of London. As WWII prevented these plans, she turned to the exact sciences. At age 17, she took chemistry and physics courses in the Technion as a free listener, later enrolled to chemical engineering and became a chemical engineer in 1947. Magda's brother, Avraham Yalon, who studied with her in the Technion, became an Electrical Engineer, and founded the Yani Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Ltd.

In 1949, after teaching chemistry in the Reali high school, she started her graduate studies focusing on analytical methods. In 1953 she was selected for the Foreign Students Science Program at MIT, and those three months changed her life. She came back loaded with new ideas and methods in modern instrumental analytical chemistry. The Dean of those days, Prof David Ginsburg, quickly recognized her potential, providing her with great support. Thus, she became a Lecturer (1955) one year before obtaining her Ph.D. degree, then Senior Lecturer (1961), Associate Professor (1966), and Professor (1976). Her active research group included many excellent students who became well-known figures in Israeli science, including Profs. Haim Yarnitzky Z"l, Shimshon Gottesfeld, Emilia Kirowa-Eisner, Uri Eisner, Gabriella Schmuckler, Joseph Wang, and many others. They focused on electroanalytical trace analysis, electrochemical flow cells, carbon cloth multiscreen electrodes, electroanalytical methods for in-situ and automated trace analysis, flow injection analysis, etc. Magda served two terms as Dean of the Faculty of Chemistry at the Technion (1980-1983), the only female Dean in the Faculty of Chemistry history.

Magda married Nahum Appelbaum Z"l, and they had two children. Dr. Naomi Ariel Z"l (1947-2016), a graduate of the Technion Faculties of Chemistry and Biochemistry, postdoc at McGill University, and then a senior researcher at the Biological Institute in Ness Ziona. The second child, Dr. Amnon Ariel (1956-), a graduate of the Technion in Medicine, Colonel (ret.) in the Medical Corps, and director of the Lung Unit in the Haemek Hospital, has three sons and five grandchildren.

Magda will be remembered with much respect and admiration as a great scientist and pioneer of instrumental analytical chemistry, and electrochemistry. She was also a daring, highly respected woman scientist in a male-dominated academic environment of her time. The ICS and the entire community of Israeli scientists mourn the loss of a great scientist.

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