החברה הישראלית לכימיה
THE ISRAEL CHEMICAL SOCIETY
http://www.chemistry.org.il

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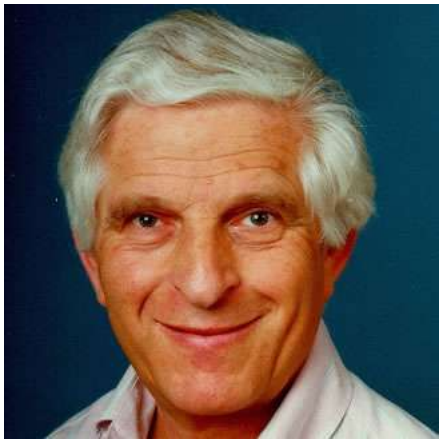
August 15, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of Professor Emeritus Sol Kimel of the Technion, who died yesterday in Haifa. The past year has been the worst time in the history of the Schulich Faculty of Chemistry, losing five eminent professors, Asher Mandelbaum (21/6/2020), Magda Ariel (20/2/2021), Eli Loewenthal (27/3/2021), Ruben Pauncz (26/7/2021), and now Sol Kimel (14/8/2021).



מודיעים בצער רב על מות אבינו, סבנו -
האיש היקר והמופלא

פרופ. שמואל סול קימל

ההלוויה תתקיים בבית העלמין מנוחת עולם בקיבוץ נווה-ים.
מידע לגבי מועד וסידורי ההלוויה בטלפון 054-5800463 (ניב).
ביקורי תנחומים (במגבלות הקורונה) בבית משפ. קימל, רח' יערות 6 חיפה,
בימים ב'-ה' בין השעות 13:00-11:00 ומהשעה 17:00.
כמו כן, איתן ומיכל ישבו בביתם, רח' שרעבי 6 תל אביב,
בימים ו'-שבת בין השעות 14:00-10:00.

המשפחה האוהבת

Prof. Sol Kimel (1928 – 2021)

Sol (Salo) Kimel was born on October 7, 1928, in Berlin, Germany. In 1930 Sol and his mother moved to Amsterdam, joining her sister's family while his father stayed in Berlin. He attended an elementary school of the then-novel Montessori system for six years, where children could study according to their development. One of his classmates was Anne Frank, and after the war, the school became the "Anne Frank School." Sol's happy life turned into a five-year ordeal during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. His mother perished in Sobibor, whereas Sol, with four family members, managed to hide on a farm, confined to one room with no sunlight. In February 1945, the Dutch Nazisdiscovered them and shot his uncle. The other four survived a concentration camp and were liberated in April 1945 by Canadian troops. In 1955 Sol joined the Weizmann Institute, went back to the Netherlands to marry Bianca Blaugrund-Alefrant, and they immigrated to Israel in 1956, where their daughter Daphne and son Etan were born.

Sol obtained his Ph.D. in physics in 1960 from the University of Amsterdam under Jan Ketelaar on "Optical dispersion of gases in the infrared region." He was a postdoc with Donald Hornig at Princeton University (1961-63), a research Scientist at the Weizmann Institute (1955-66) and became an Associate Professor at the Technion (and Shammai Speiser was his first graduate student). In 1977 he was promoted to Full Professor. After retirement in 1997, he spent ten years as a Senior Advisor in the Advanced Technology Center (ATC) at the Sheba Medical Center.

Prof. Kimel was a visiting professor at the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands (1972-73), University of Bielefeld, Germany (1979-80), UC Irvine (1987-88, 1993-94), Université Paris-Sud, Orsay, France, Max-Planck Institute for Quantum Optics at Garching, National Research Council, Ottawa, Canada, Brandeis University, and Université Paris-Nord, Villetaneuse, France. In 1989 he was elected a corresponding member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. Kimel served on many Technion assignments, including chair of physical chemistry division, committee member for promotion and tenure of senior staff, the committee for research, student tribunal, and academic staff association. He served as Chairman of Israel Laser and Electro-optics Society (1969-72) and was member of the Quantum Electronics Division, European Physical Society.

Kimel's 50-year journey in science started with high-resolution gas-phase spectroscopy and matrix spectroscopy, via laser chemistry to biomedical applications of lasers, developing photodynamic therapy (PDT) for cancer treatment. He developed photosensitizing drug candidates, including porphyrins, porphycenes, and phthalocyanines. He investigated their binding to erythrocytes and liposomes, their absorbance and fluorescence spectroscopy, and their efficiency in generating oxidative damage to various tumor cell lines. He used advanced video microscopy in real-time and computerized image analysis to monitor and quantify the entire process of tumor growth and tumor regression.

The ICS and the global chemistry community mourn the loss of a great scientist.

Ehud Keinan