

Dear ICS members,

It is with deep sadness announcing that **Prof. Zvi Priel** of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev passed away on January 9, 2022. The funeral took place last month in Hayarkon Cemetery. For technical reasons, we received the sad news only recently.

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Prof. Zvi Priel (1937 – 2022)

Zvi Priel was born in Moscow on May 27, 1937, and immigrated to Israel with his family in 1946. He was graduated from the Herzelia Gymnasium in 1955 and obtained his B.Sc. from Bar-Ilan University (1959-1963). His M.Sc. (1963-1965, with honors) on "Configuration of Polymers in Mixed Solutions," and Ph.D. research (1965-1970) on "A Hydrodynamic Study of Macromolecular Layers at the Liquid-Solid Interface," were carried out at the Weizmann Institute under Prof. A. Silberberg. Upon completing his Ph.D., he received attractive offers from several Israeli universities and foreign institutions. Still, he preferred to accept a senior lecturer position at the newly established Ben-Gurion University for Zionist reasons and stayed loyal to BGU for his entire career for the same reason.

Zvi is one of the founding fathers of the Department of Chemistry at BGU. He held a position of a Research Advisor at the Polymers department of the Weizmann Institute (1970-1982). In 1980 he was promoted to Assoc. Professor, and in 1990 to Professor of Biophysics and Physical Chemistry. In 1992 He received the E.D. Bergman Award from the Israel Academy of Science and Humanities. Zvi was attracted to biophysics by Aharon Katzir, claiming that Katzir was the world leader in polyelectrolytes even before it became clear that DNA is a polyelectrolyte. Zvi finally solved an experimental problem Aaron Katzir claimed could not be solved. Priel's research interests included polyelectrolyte solutions, phase transitions in colloidal systems, biological transport, various aspects of ciliary movement, and signal transduction in cells. He has been a pioneer in combining experimental and theoretical research methods. He mentored over 50 graduate students and postdocs, authored over 100 research papers and one book, "Cilia, Mucus and Mucociliary Interactions." He was Visiting Professor, at the Chemistry Department of McGill University, Canada (1976-1977, 1978), Department of Bioengineering, University of Washington (2001), and Department of Anatomy and Structural Biology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York (2001).

Zvi fulfilled many academic responsibilities, including Vice Chairman (1978-1982) and Chairman of the Chemistry Department (1982-1986), Member of the Executive Committee at BGU (1987-1993), Chairman of the BGU Graduate Studies Committee (1988-1992), Member of the Nominating Committee for the University President (1993), Senate Representative at the University Appointment and Promotion Committee (1982-1986, 1992-1994), Chairman of the Search Committee for the Head of the Desert Research Institute (1994, 1998, 2001), Member of the University Steering Committee (1982-1986, 2002-2007), Dean of The BGU Kreitman School of Advanced Graduate Studies (2002-2007), University Ombudsman of the Academic Staff (2008-2010), President of the Achva Academic College (2010-2012), and Head of School of Science, Achva Academic College (2012-2014).

Zvi will be remembered with much respect for his wisdom, kindness, integrity, rigor, and total dedication to science. The ICS and the entire community of Israeli scientists mourn the loss of a gifted scientist.

Ehud Keinan