



January 16, 2023

Dear ICS members,

It is with deep sadness announcing that Prof. Judith Rishpon of the Department of Molecular Microbiology and Biotechnology at Tel-Aviv University passed away on January 6, 2023. The funeral took place in Rehovot on January 8, 2023.

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Prof. Judith Rishpon (1945 – 2023)

Judith Rishpon was born in Israel on September 23, 1945. She received her B.Sc. (1969) from the Hebrew University, M.Sc. (1972), and Ph.D. (1978) with Prof. I.R. Miller from the Weizmann Institute on "Electrochemical Methods for Studying the Penetration of Proteins and Peptides into Lipid Monolayers." After Postdoc research (1978-1979) in Soil Science at the Hebrew University and Faculty of Agriculture, she became a Researcher (1979-1980) at NASA Ames Research Center, Moffet Field, California, and became a Researcher (1980-1984) at the Department of Chemistry, Tel-Aviv University. In 1984 she joined the Department Molecular Microbiology and Biotechnology at Tel-Aviv University, where she became Professor in 2001. From 1988-1994 she was a Collaborator visiting scientist, electronic research at Los Alamos National Lab, New Mexico, USA.

Judit pioneered the fields of analytical chemistry and diagnostics based on biosensors through interdisciplinary research. She collaborated with many Israeli scientists, including Ehud Gazit, Amihai Freeman, Itai Benhar, and Yossi Shacham, contributing deep knowledge in experimental and theoretical electrochemistry.

She developed advanced analytical methods, such as detecting cancer cells in biopsy samples by monitoring enzymatic activity levels, determining glucose levels using advanced techniques in fermentation processes, and determining bacterial levels in suspension, and quantitatively determining inflammation by measuring the level of CRP using carbon nanotubes, to name a few. Judith was a gifted teacher, and her many students on biosensors and their applications became leaders of the chemical industry and academic faculty members.

Judith's research has gained much interest among senior researchers in the field, including colleagues at the Institute of Biotechnology at the University of Cambridge, the National Laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico, Profs. Eliezer Gileadi and Emanuel Peled of Tel Aviv University, and Prof. Adam Heller of the University of Texas at Austin.

Judith was known for her modesty and graceful behavior. Her courageous battle against lung cancer, which left her with only one lung, lasted three decades. She was survived by her Husband, Dr. Moshe Rishpon, creator of the Clore Garden of Science at the Weizmann Institute, son Amir, daughter Ayelet, and two grandchildren.

The ICS and the entire community of Israeli scientists mourn the loss of a great scientist.