

July 1, 2025

Dear ICS members,

It is with deep sadness that I announce the passing of Prof. Yoel Kashman of the School of Chemistry, Tel Aviv University, this morning, July 1, 2025. The funeral will take place today at 17:00 in the Kiryat Shaul Cemetery.



Prof. Yoel Kashman (1938 – 2025)

Prof. Yoel Kashman was born in Israel on October 30, 1938. He received his BSc in Chemistry and Physics (1959-1963) and MSc with honors (1964, with E. D. Bergman and R. Ikan) from the Hebrew University, and PhD from the Weizmann Institute (1967, with David Lavie). In 1968, he joined the newly formed School of Chemistry at Tel Aviv University. He quickly established a unique laboratory with a worldwide reputation, focusing on marine natural products — a relatively new field in science at the time. He investigated a broad spectrum of marine organisms, primarily soft corals, sponges, and tunicates. He conducted his explorations primarily in the Gulf of Eilat and other parts of the Red Sea, discovering and characterizing hundreds of new metabolites. His work has never stopped at the level of structure elucidation but has gone on to include chemical modifications, the synthesis of newly discovered systems, and the exploration of their biomedical potential. Naturally, he established numerous collaborations with marine ecologists, biologists, pharmacologists, crystallographers, and synthetic chemists. Yoel was a Researcher at Syntex Research, Stanford Industrial Park, Palo Alto, CA (1974-75), and at E.I. DuPont Central Res. & Dev. Dept. Life Sciences (1981-82), and a Visiting Scientist at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Inst., Sea Pharm, Florida (1986), NIH-NCI Frederick, USA (1990-93), ZymoGenetics Seattle, USA (1995), and NIH-NCI Frederick, USA (1999). He has worked closely with scientists from the USA, Japan, Germany, Spain, New Zealand, South Africa, Ethiopia, and other countries. He was a highly sought-after guest scientist at many institutions. Yoel has published over 340 papers and 30 patents and has mentored more than 70 graduate students, including Amiram Groweiss, Shmuel Carmeli, Amira Rudi, Gary Gellerman, Doron Pappo, and many others. Yoel was my first mentor when I joined his research group as an undergraduate student. Yoel was a gifted teacher who received the "2000 Best Lecturer Award" from the Rector of Tel Aviv University and has been designated a Distinguished Lecturer at the Faculty of Exact Sciences (1999) and the Faculty of Medicine (2007). He continued teaching generations of students until recently. The 2017 Honorable ICS Member Award was presented to Yoel for serving as a role model scientist who has made significant contributions to the chemical community through outstanding accomplishments in science, training generations of young scientists, and acting as a scientific ambassador for the State of Israel.

The ICS, the entire Israeli scientific community, and the global scientific community mourn the loss of a great scientist.

Ehud Keinan

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