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

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March 27, 2024

Dear ICS members,

It is with deep sadness announcing that Prof. Alfred Hassner of Bar-Ilan University passed away this morning. The funeral will occur today, March 27, in the Rehovot cemetery at 18:00 and Shiv'ah at 34 Yaacov Street, Rehovot.

בצער עמוק אנו מודיעים על פטירתו של
אבינו, סבנו וסבא רבנו
פרופ' **אלפרד הסנר** ז"ל
ההלוויה תתקיים ביום רביעי, י"ז אדר ב' תשפ"ד, 27/03/2024
בשעה 18:00, בבבית העלמין רחובות, גורדסקי
המשפחה, ליליאן גלזר
ולורנס הסנר
יושבים שבעה ברחוב יעקב 34 (מגדלי המזיאון), רחובות

Prof. Alfred Hassner (1930 – 2024)

Alfred Hassner was born in November 1930 in Czernowitz, Romania (now part of Ukraine), where he could only complete the third grade before WWII. Surviving the holocaust, he enrolled directly (skipping grades 4-12) into the Technische Hochschule in Vienna (1949-1951) and then received his B.Sc. from the University of Nebraska (1952). He obtained his Ph.D. under Norman Cromwell at the University of Nebraska (1956) and then was a postdoc with Louis Fieser at Harvard University. He joined the University of Colorado at Boulder (1957) and became a Full Professor at age 36 (1966). In 1975, he moved to SUNY at Binghamton, and in 1983, he joined Bar-Ilan University. Alfred kept teaching chemistry at Bar-Ilan until age 90!

His significant impact on the chemical sciences is apparent mainly through synthetic methodology, synthesis of small rings, and heterocyclic chemistry. Some of his most known contributions include the stereoselective introduction of nitrogen functionalities into organic molecules, the synthesis of steroid-heterocycles, and other biologically active targets. He was among the first to recognize the application of NMR half-widths to stereochemical structure assignments before high-resolution NMR became available. Many useful reagents and concepts in organic synthesis are registered to his name. For example, he first proposed the concepts of regiochemistry and regioselectivity, which are now universally used terminology in organic chemistry.

Professor Hassner mentored over 50 graduate students and more than 60 postdocs, publishing more than 300 research articles and 13 books and monographs. In addition to influencing the international chemistry community for six decades, he has been a prominent leader in the Israeli community. Fred served as ICS President from 1991-1994, and in 2007, he received the ICS Prize of Excellence. In 2016, he became an Honorable Member of the ICS for his long scientific leadership in synthetic organic chemistry and his significant contributions to higher education in Israel. He has held visiting professorships and appointments in many universities worldwide and also served as a consultant with S.P. Corp., Lincoln, NE Research Chemistry, du Pont, Univ. of Colorado Medical School, Physics-Engineering-Chemistry Corp., FDA, Boulder Research Instruments, 3M Company, TAMI, SKB, Compugen, Steba Labs and Teva Pharmaceuticals. His list of awards includes the von Humboldt Award, Fulbright Senior Award, Lady Davis Foundation Award, Japan Society for Promotion of Science Award, U.S. National Research Council Award, A.W. Killam Award, ICS Prize for Excellence, Fellow of The Royal Society of Chemistry and more.

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

Ehud Keinan

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