



April 15, 2026

Dear ICS members,

It is with deep sadness that I announce the passing of Prof. Benzion Fuchs of the School of Chemistry, Tel Aviv University, this morning, April 15, 2026.



### Prof. Benzion Fuchs (1930 – 2026)

**Benzion Fuchs** was born in Suceava, Romania, on September 8, 1930, to Zvi Hirsch Fuchs and Mina Mindela Janover, daughter of the Chief Rabbi of Lasi, Mordechai Janover. In the fall of 1941, the German army loaded all Suceava Jews onto cattle cars and sent them northeast. The family found refuge in the town of Murafa, and later in the Mogilev ghetto, where they suffered from disease and hunger. After the liberation in the spring of 1944, the family remained in Murafa for several more months, moved to Bucharest, and returned to Suceava in 1945. In 1950, they immigrated to Israel aboard the ship "Transylvania" and joined a kibbutz that later became the moshav Aloni Abba. After six months with his parents in a transit camp in Kiryat Ono, he enlisted in the IDF for 30 months and was assigned to the Science Corps. In October 1952, after his marriage, he moved to Jerusalem with his wife. At the end of 1953, he joined the lab of Prof. Felix Bergman as a chemistry technician at the Hebrew University. A few months later, he moved to the Technion and served as chief technician of the Department of Organic Chemistry, while studying towards a BSc (1958) and MSc (1960, with honors). In 1963, he completed his PhD in chemistry with Prof. David Ginsburg and was appointed a lecturer in the Technion Faculty of Chemistry. Following postdoc research at Brandeis University (1966-68), he joined Tel Aviv University as a senior lecturer and later became a full professor. He also served as the head of the School of Chemistry (1987–1989).

His fields of interest included organic stereochemistry, conformational analysis, stereoelectronics, supramolecular chemistry, including new host complexes, ionic, molecular, and chiral recognition, computational chemistry, including quantum mechanics and molecular mechanics, organic synthesis, bromoorganic systems, and organic Photochemistry. During his long career he served as a Visiting Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1974), Max Planck Institute, Mülheim an der Ruhr, Germany (1978–1979), Ghent University, Belgium (1982), National Research Council, US National Academy of Sciences (1982–1983), University of Konstanz, Germany, University of Zurich, Switzerland (1990), University of Bonn, Germany (1994), and British Columbia University, Vancouver, Canada (1999). In addition, he served on editorial boards, was chairman of the Matriculation Committee in Chemistry (1975–1977), a member of the Committee for the Terminology of Organic Chemistry in Hebrew, a national representative in the European Photochemistry Association, and a member of the European Science Foundation.

After his retirement, Fuchs, together with Israel Hiebner, Simcha Weisbuch, Yehuda Tannenhaus, and Meir Kostiner, edited "The Book of the Jews of Suceava" (Schutz) in two volumes. He and his wife lived in Tel Aviv, with two children and several grandchildren.

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

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