



April 20, 2026

Dear ICS members,

It is with deep sadness that I announce the passing of Prof. Genryk (Gabi) F. Kventsel of the Schulich Faculty of Chemistry at the Technion on April 18, 2026. The funeral took place in the Misgav cemetery yesterday.

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Prof. Genryk F. Kventsel (1939 – 2026)

Genryk (Gabi) F. Kventsel was born in Kharkiv, Ukraine, on September 5, 1939, and immigrated to Israel on July 23, 1972. He obtained his B.Sc. Degree in Physics (1961) from Kyiv University, USSR, and M.Sc. in Chemistry (1964) from the Institute of Physical Chemistry, Kyiv, USSR. Gabi was a Research Assistant at the Department of Spectroscopy, The Institute of Polymers, Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, Kyiv (1961-1964) with Prof. S. I. Pekar. In 1964-1972, he served as a Research Assistant at the Department of Theoretical Chemistry, Institute of Physical Chemistry, Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, Kyiv. After immigrating to Israel, he obtained his D.Sc. Degree in Chemistry (1972-1976) from the Technion with Reuben Pauncz. He served as a Research Fellow at the Faculty of Chemistry and the Solid-State Institute, Technion, and then (1978-1987) as a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Chemistry, Technion. Since 1987, he has been an Associate Professor at the Technion's Faculty of Chemistry. During his long career, he served multiple times as a Visiting Professor at the University of Southampton, UK, and at the European Institute of Physics, Grenoble, France, and taught at the Charles Coulson Summer School in Theoretical Chemistry, Oxford, UK.

Gabi's field of interest focused on several theoretic issues at the interface between chemistry and physics, such as local electronic states in long polyene chains, nonlinear optics of liquid crystals, surface exciton states in crystals with different symmetries, the switching transition in liquid crystal mixtures, two-state mean-field theory of reentrant phase transitions, magnetization equation for arbitrary isotropic spin Hamiltonians, and time-dependent correlations for axially symmetric spin Hamiltonians.

Gabi was a gifted teacher who taught General Chemistry, Physical Chemistry, General Physics, Calculus and Analytical Geometry, Statistical Thermodynamics, Advanced Physical Chemistry, Quantum Chemistry, and Fundamentals of Symmetry. Among the various responsibilities at the Technion, he served as an Academic Advisor for Chemistry Students, coordinator of the Physical Chemistry Seminars, member of the Committee for the Mathematics Curriculum in Technion, Head of the Teaching of Chemistry in the Preparatory Program of Courses, and Head of the Center of Chemical Research. Not surprisingly, Gabi won the Technion Prize for an Outstanding Lecturer several times. I share my own experience with Gabi while serving as Dean of Chemistry at the Technion. In 2004, while establishing the Archimedes project, which provides gifted high school pupils with academic courses toward a bachelor's degree in chemistry, Gabi was my obvious choice to serve as the Academic Head of the program. Under his leadership, the program became a success story, adding to his other achievements, such as preparing gifted students for the National Chemistry Olympiad (Chemiada) and international olympiads, resulting in numerous gold, silver, and bronze medals for the Israeli delegations.

Gabi was one of the founders of the village of Tal El (1980) in the Western Galilee. His wife, Sophia, passed away in 2017. Gabi is survived by his two daughters, Anna and Iris, and six grandchildren.

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

*Ehud Keinan*