

April 8, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

It is with deep sadness announcing that **Prof. Zvi Rappoport** of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem passed away today, April 8, 2021. The funeral will take place tomorrow morning in Jerusalem.

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**Prof. Zvi Rappoport (1936 – 2021)**

Zvi Rappoport was born on September 24, 1936, in Jerusalem. He received his M.Sc. in chemistry (cum laude, 1959) and Ph.D. (with Saul Patai, 1962) from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and was a postdoc in UCLA (1963-1965) with Saul Winstein. In 1965 he joined the Hebrew University, and in 1974 (at the age of 38!), he became a Full Professor and later held the Esther and Mark Watkins Chair of Organic Chemistry. Remarkably, Zvi had never stopped learning, and in 2006 (at the age of 70), he obtained his B.A. (with distinction) in History and South East Asia studies. He was a world-renowned stamp collector, focusing on Holyland stamps and chemistry on stamps (e.g., Chemical errors on chemical stamps, *Phil. Chim. et Phys.* 1990, 12, 33-64; Chemistry on stamps (chemophilately), *Acc. Chem. Res.* 1992, 25, 24-31). Rappoport was a Visiting Professor in Tel-Aviv and Bar-Ilan Universities, the Weizmann Institute, University of Victoria, Canada, University of Groningen, The Netherlands, University College of North Wales, U.K., University of Rome, Italy, University of Singapore, University of Goteborg, Sweden, University of Auckland, New Zealand, and Kyushu University, Japan.

Rappoport is known as the founding father of physical and mechanistic organic chemistry in Israel. His innovative research opened new areas in organic chemistry and shaped the mechanistic thinking of thousands of chemists worldwide. He pioneered nucleophilic attacks on C=C bonds; vinyl cations; ElcB reactions; the selectivity-reactivity principle; stable, simple enols and observable enols of acid derivatives; molecular propellers; stable simple 1,1- and 1,2-enediols; the structure-correlation method, and O-17 NMR of organic compounds. Rappoport published over 300 papers and reviews in leading journals, and most textbooks of organic chemistry widely cite his research (for example, March's *Advanced Organic Chemistry* cites Rappoport over 120 times). One of his most notable contributions to science is the renowned series "The Chemistry of the Functional Group" (Patai's series), of which he edited more than 70 books. This legendary book series has brought Israeli chemistry to every chemistry department worldwide. Zvi Rappoport has mentored generations of students, thus creating a solid Israeli school of physical organic chemistry, including Professors Yitzhak Apeloig (Technion), Shmaryahu Hoz (Bar-Ilan University), Nella and Addy Pross (Ben-Gurion University), and Silvio Biali (Hebrew University). His list of awards includes the Kolthoff Prize, the Lise Meitner-Alexander von Humboldt Research Award, the Gold Commemorative medal of Masaryk University, Czech Republic, Laurea Honoris Causa from the University of Cagliari, Italy, the 2006 Israel Prize in Chemistry, and the ICS Gold Medal of 2015.

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

*Ehud Keinan*