

Dr. Moshe Ben-Tzion (1945-2020)

Department of Chemistry, Bar Ilan University



It is with great sadness that the Chemistry Department of Bar Ilan University announces the passing of Dr. Moshe (Mel) Ben-Tzion, one of the pillars of the department. Dr. Ben-Tzion was a devoted and beloved lecturer for many years and was Deputy Head of the department from 1988 until his retirement in 2013.

Moshe Ben-Tzion is remembered not only as a remarkable and inspirational tutor and teacher; but also, for his many contributions to the department's teaching and administrative activities.

Moshe was highly influential in the development and growth of academic teaching in the Chemistry Department. His impact on the curriculum development programs and projects of the department cannot be overstated. For example, he was one of the key proponents behind the introduction of computational courses in the Chemistry curriculum and was deeply involved in the establishment of the student computer laboratories in the department.

Moshe was a volunteer paramedic, within and outside the University, who quickly came to help wherever needed on campus with his big first-aid bag on his shoulder. He regularly volunteered as an MDA ambulance driver on Fridays. He was a devoted and loving family man and hung numerous pictures of his family and friends in his office.

Dr. Ben-Tzion was born in 1945 in the USA, and received his BSc with honors in Chemistry from Brooklyn College in 1966. He then continued his graduate studies at Cornell University, receiving his PhD in 1971 under the supervision of Prof. M. J. Goldstein. He immigrated to Israel in 1972 as a post-doctoral fellow with Prof. M. Sprecher at Bar-Ilan and joined the faculty of the Chemistry Department in 1973. In 1982, he was awarded the "Dr. Abraham Margalit Memorial Award for the advancement of technological education in Israel" from the Center for Technological Education in Holon for the development of the course "Computers in the laboratory." In 1985, his proposal "IBM PC Workstations in an Instructional Computer Laboratory" was awarded a prize by the IBM Scientific Center, Haifa. Several days before he passed away, he received the Israeli Chemical Society's 2019 Outstanding Administrator Award.

Moshe was modest, polite, erudite with a strong work ethic, always smiling and willing to help his colleagues and the many students who knocked on his door, and was very courteous and endlessly patient with the people around him. He threw himself whole-heartedly into anything he did, whether it was his research, administrative work, or teaching. Moshe was a first-rate lecturer, a good friend and colleague, beloved by students and faculty who knew they could always find a listening ear and willingness to help. He is survived by Tsipi, his wife of 50 years, and his children Ami, Shlomit, Michal and Assaf and his many grandchildren to whom he was devoted.

May his memory be a blessing

יהי זכרו ברוך