



November 24, 2021

Dear ICS members,

I am delighted to announce that **Prof. Shimon Shatzmiller** of Ariel University will become the 2021 Honorable Member of the ICS for his extensive contributions to academic research in organic synthesis, national security through extended military service, and chemical industry research and development.



**Prof. Shimon Shatzmiller**

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**Shimon Shatzmiller (Shatzi)** was born in 1942 in Nesher, Israel. In 1960-1964 he studied chemistry at the Technion as part of the academic military reserve program. Following graduation with honors, he served in the IDF (1964-1967). Immediately after being accepted to the M.Sc. program at the Technion, he was called up back to the army for the Six-Day War, serving as an artillery officer on the Syrian front. After the war, he married Shoshana Meirovich, with whom he has three children, Ronit, Noa, and Yonatan. Following his M.Sc. with Prof. Eli Loewenthal, he continued in the same group, researching gibberellic acid synthesis. In 1971 he joined the group of Prof. Albert Eschenmoser at ETH, Zurich, as a postdoctoral fellow. When the Yom Kippur War broke out in October 1973, Shimon returned to Israel to fight as an artillery officer on the Syrian front. In the same year, he accepted a lecturer position at Tel Aviv University. His group developed synthetic methodologies involving chloronitrones, and unique carbonyl intermediates, such as 2-acetyl cations and nitrogen derivatives of carbonyl compounds. They discovered amidation reactions with minimal racemization, which yielded antibiotic pentapeptides. Many of his students became independent scientists in the Israeli pharmaceutical industry.

Shimon was a visiting professor at the University of Heidelberg and the Max Planck Society, collaborating with Prof. Richard Neidlein on pharmaceutical chemistry, and at the Africans University, Johannesburg. In 1984-1990, on a sabbatical leave and multiple visits to DuPont's molecular biology lab in Wilmington, Delaware, he worked with Dr. Pat Confalone on drug synthesis, leading to new syntheses of the Losartan for the treatment of hypertension and Sustiva for the treatments of Aids. In 1990-1996, Shimon joined IMI-TAMI, the research campus of Israel Chemicals Ltd (ICL), as a Research Director and Head of the organic division, continuing his university position. He introduced new projects and products, such as fire retardants for plastics, collaborating with Bromine Compounds Ltd. He also established the Novotide division in collaboration with Teva Pharmaceuticals for developing therapeutic peptides. In 1995, after many years of service as an Artillery officer, he was discharged with the rank of reserve brigadier general (Tat-Aluf). In 1998, when the College of Judea and Samaria in Ariel (now Ariel University) opened the Department of Chemical Sciences, Shimon was appointed as its first Chair. He took early retirement from Tel Aviv University for that mission, raised funds, obtained scientific equipment, and recruited faculty and graduate students. He established a collaboration program with scientists from Bar-University for joint guidance of graduate students at Ariel. Shimon served as the ICS President from 1993-1996. For Shatzi's profile in the ICE magazine, see: <https://www.digipage.co.il/projects/2020/ICE/6/52/>

The Honorable Member Award will be presented to Prof. Shimon Shatzmiller on February 22, 2022, during the 86th ICS Annual Meeting. Congratulations to Shatzi for his achievements!

*Ehud Keinan*

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