



FORUM PROFILE

Professor Joshua Jortner

The President of the American Foundation for Basic Research in Israel (AFBRI), Professor Joshua Jortner, is one of Israel's most distinguished and decorated scientists. Born in Poland in 1933, he immigrated to Israel (1940), where he received his M.Sc. (1956) and Ph.D. (1960) degrees in Physical Chemistry from the Hebrew University. He is currently Heinemann Professor of Chemistry at the Tel Aviv University, where he has also served as Vice Rector and (1962-66) and Vice President (1970-72). He has simultaneously served in several academic capacities, including Professor of Chemistry, at the University of Chicago (1962-72).

As President of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities from 1986 to 1995, Professor Jortner oversaw the transformation of the Academy's \$2 million a year Basic Research Fund (BRF) into today's independent \$29 million a year Israel Science Foundation (ISF). He played a key role in the Academy's seminal *Scientific Research Activity in Israel: Guidelines for a Masterplan for Basic Research*, submitted to the Israeli Government in 1986. Professor Jortner has served as Chairman of the U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation (1992-93) and as Chairman of the Board of the Israel Science Foundation (1986-95). Since 1996 he has served as Vice President and President-Elect of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC).

Both during and after his Presidency of the Academy, Professor Jortner has maintained his hectic schedule of scientific research and publication (over 620 scientific publications to date). His most recent chemical research focuses on energy acquisition, storage and disposal in molecules, clusters, condensed phases and biophysical systems, and on electron transfer in solution and in photosynthesis. Professor Jortner's numerous awards include the Israel Prize (1982), Weizmann Prize (1973), Rothschild Prize (1976), Kolthof Prize (1976), Wolf Prize (1988), J. Heyrovsky Medal (1993) and Van Hoffman Medal (1995). He has been a Foreign Member of twelve National Academies of Science and learned societies, and has served on the Editorial Boards of such prestigious scientific journals as the *J. Chemical Physics*, *Chemical Physics Letters*, *Theoretical Chimia Acta*, *J. Physical Chemistry*, *Chemical Physics* and *Z. für Physik D*, among others.

Philip and Helena Spitzer Award

The Israel Science Foundation acknowledges the generous contribution of NIS 500,000 (\$160,000) from the estate of Philip and Helena Spitzer to promote nuclear physics research to "strengthen the scientific reputation and capabilities of the Jewish State."

Two-thirds of the annual awards are reserved for senior scientists; one-third, for graduate students.

The awards will encourage Israeli interest and excellence in this research frontier.

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