Prof. Meir Lahav – CV

August 2022

Meir Lahav was born in 1936 and emigrated from Bulgaria to Israel in 1948. He completed his M.Sc. studies at the Hebrew University in 1962. He then joined Gerhard Schmidt's group at the Weizmann Institute and obtained his Ph.D. in 1967. After carrying out postdoctoral research at Harvard, Lahav returned to the Weizmann Institute in 1971 as a research associate. In 1982 he was promoted to Full Professor and held the Margaret Thatcher Chair of Chemistry. In 1991 he co-founded the Department of Material and Interfaces and served as the first Head for three consecutive terms. Currently, he is active as a professor emeritus.

Lahav's interests comprise solid-state and surface chemistry, stereochemistry, properties of polar crystals and the emergence of homochirality on Earth.

The close collaboration with Prof. Leiserowitz started in the 1970s with a series of mechanistic studies of photochemical reactions in solids. Their teamwork continued with new approaches to the study of crystal nucleation, growth, and dissolution by using tailor-made additives, which has had important theoretical and practical repercussions. Their work contributed to the basic understanding of the origin of symmetry breaking in nature by linking chirality at the molecular level with macroscopic structure.

Lahav earned great international recognition. His awards include the Wolf Prize in Chemistry the EMET Prize the Israel Prize in Chemistry and Physics, the Prelog Gold Medal, the Gregori Aminoff Prize of the Swedish Academy of Science, the Silver Medal of the Royal Chemical Society, the Koltoff Prize of the Israel Institute of Technology, the Chirality Medal instituted by the Italian Chemical Society, and the Israel Chemical Society Gold Medal for the Outstanding Scientist. He is an elected member of Leopoldina (the German Academy of Sciences). In 2022 he was elected as a member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

Meir was married to the late Yona Lahav. He has one son and twin daughters and five granddaughters.