

Professor Jacob D. Bekenstein Jacob was born in Mexico City in 1947 and obtained his undergraduate and M Sc degrees in 1969 from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn. His Ph.D work obtained. from Princeton University in 1972 under the guidance of John A. Wheeler contained his breakthrough discovery of the Black hole entropy which started the subject of Black hole thermodynamics. His findings were later further supported by the discovery of Black hole radiation by Hawking, who initially opposed the ideas of Bekenstein. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Texas at Austin, following this, after the invitation of then head of the department, Professor Moshe Carmeli, became faculty member (1974-1990) in our department. He became full professor in 1978 and then Arnow Professor of Astrophysics in 1983. One of the present members of the BGU physics department, Eduardo Guendelman, had the fortune to be his post doctoral fellow at BGU , he also had several Ph.D and MS. students at BGU, his last Ph.D student at BGU was Marcelo Schiffer, now Professor at Ariel University and up to this date frequent visitor to the BGU Physics department. His colleagues, students and associates recognized in Jacob not only a great scientist but also an outstanding human being, Since 1990 he was at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (since 1993 as Polak Professor of Theoretical Physics). Other scientific interests Jacob have been relativistic magnetohydrodynamics, galactic dynamics, physical aspects of information theory, development of consistent theories with a time dependent fine structure constant, the development of alternatives to dark matter by modifying gravity and more recently also designing realistic experiments to explore quantum gravity. Bekenstein was a member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities (since 1997) and of The World Jewish Academy of Sciences., and has been honored with the Landau Prize (1981), the Rothschild Prize (1988), the Israel National Prize (2005), the Weizmann Prize (2011), the Wolf Prize 2012 and most recently the Einstein Prize of the American Physical Society for 2015. He will be greatly missed as a great scientist and as a great man. He is survived by his wife Bilha , sons Yehonadav and Uriya and daughter Rivka, all his children are quite accomplished scientists.