



Dr. Jacob Bigeleisen, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Chemistry

**Eric W. Kaler, Provost and Senior Vice President for
Academic Affairs**

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To All Faculty and Staff:

Dr. Jacob Bigeleisen, 91, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, State University of New York at Stony Brook, died of pulmonary disease on August 7, 2010. Bigeleisen was born in Paterson, NJ. He received his undergraduate degree from New York University (AB 1939). After graduate studies at Washington State University (MS 1941), where he worked with Otto Redlich, he went to University of California, Berkeley (PhD 1943), where he was one of the last students of G. N. Lewis. He joined the Manhattan Project at Columbia University in 1943.

Bigeleisen held postdoctoral fellowships at Ohio State University (1945-6) and the University of Chicago (1946-8), before joining the Chemistry Department at Brookhaven National Laboratory (1948-68). He then moved to the University of Rochester (1968-78, Chairman 1970-75, Tracey Harris Professor 1973-8), and finally The State University of New York at Stony Brook (Vice President Research and Dean of Graduate Studies 1978-80, Leading Professor of Chemistry 1978-89, and Distinguished Professor Emeritus 1989-2010).

At various times, Bigeleisen served as Associate Editor of the Journal of Physical Chemistry, and the Journal of Chemical Physics. He was active in the division of Physical Chemistry ACS, the division of Chemical Physics APS, and the Gordon Conferences where he organized the first conference on isotope chemistry (1958) and was Trustee (1968-71) and Chairman of the Board (1970-1). Among many other honors he was the recipient of the first ACS Award in Nuclear Chemistry (1958) and the E. O. Lawrence Memorial Award from the US AEC (1964). He was an NSF Senior Postdoctoral Fellow (1962-3) and a Guggenheim Fellow (1974-5). Bigeleisen was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1966 and served as Chairman of the Chemistry Division (1971-4), and the Assembly of Mathematical and Physical Sciences (1976-80). He was a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Physical Society.

During his long career, Bigeleisen introduced many postdoctoral and graduate students to the field of isotope chemistry. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Grace; and sons David, Paul, and Ira.

Sincerely,

Eric W. Kaler
Provost and Senior Vice President