

Aharon Oren – President (2nd term)

Aharon Oren, Ph.D.

Professor of Microbial Ecology
The Institute of Life Sciences
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel

Education & Experience:

Aharon Oren was born in Zwolle, The Netherlands, in 1952. He obtained his B.Sc. and M.Sc. degree (microbiology and biochemistry) from University of Groningen, and his Ph.D. degree (1979) from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He spent a post-doctoral period (1982-1984) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and was appointed lecturer (1984), senior lecturer (1985), associate professor (1991) and full professor (1996) of microbial ecology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Among his functions in the past and present are: secretary (since 1994) of the International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes Subcommittee on Taxonomy of Halobacteriaceae; member of the International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes Subcommittee on the Taxonomy of Photosynthetic Prokaryotes, member of the editorial board of International Journal for Salt Lake Research, editor of FEMS Microbiology Letters (1994-present); Chairman (2002-2008) and Secretary/Treasurer (2008-present) of the International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes; member of the executive committee (1999-2002), vice president (2002-2008), and president (2008-2011) - the International Society for Salt Lake Research (1999-present); Affiliate professor, George Mason University, Manassas, VA, USA (1999-2010); member of the editorial board (2001-2010) and managing editor (2010-present) of Extremophiles (2001-present); associate editor of the International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology (2001-present); member of the editorial review board of Archaea (2005-present), and managing editor - Saline Systems (2005-present). Prof. Oren was the recipient of the Moshe Shilo prize - the Israel Society for Microbiology for 1993, and of the Ulitzi prize for 2004 – the Israel Society for Microbiology, was elected Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology in 2000, and received an honorary doctorate from the University of Osnabrück, Germany, in 2010.

Five representative publications:

Oren, A. (ed.) 1999. Microbiology and biogeochemistry of hypersaline environments. CRC Press, Boca Raton. 359 pp.

Oren, A. 2002. Halophilic microorganisms and their environments. Kluwer Scientific Publishers, Dordrecht, in press. 577 pp.

Gunde-Cimerman, N., Oren, A, and Plemenitaš, A. (eds.). 2005. Adaptation to life at high salt concentrations in Archaea, Bacteria, and Eukarya. Springer, Dordrecht, 576 pp.

Oren, A., Naftz, D.L., Palacios, P., and Wurtsbaugh, W.A. (eds.). 2009. Saline lakes around the world: unique systems with unique values. The S.J. and Jessie E. Quinney Natural Resources Research Library, College of Natural Resources, Utah State University, 269 pp. (print version + open access at <http://www.cnr.usu.edu/quinney/htm/publications/nrei>)

Ventosa, A., Oren, A., and Ma, Y. (eds.) 2011. Halophiles and hypersaline environments: Current research and future trends. Springer, Heidelberg, in press.

Candidate's Statement:

Microorganisms are an important component in the biota of salt lakes, and they are the sole organisms able to live at the highest salt concentrations. My interest in salt lakes started with my studies on the Dead Sea thirty years ago, and since that time I attempt to combine field studies (the Dead Sea, solar salterns worldwide) with fundamental studies of the adaptation of microorganisms (Archaea, Bacteria, as well as Eucarya) to salt stress. Such studies are essential for the understanding of salt lakes and other hypersaline ecosystems. Having served the ISSLR in the past as vice-president and one term as president, I hope to use this experience to further advance the goals of the ISSLR in a second term as president.