

## University of Haifa

The Senate of the University of Haifa, by virtue of the authority vested in it by the constitution of the University and in accordance with the recommendations of the President and the Executive Committee

hereby confers upon

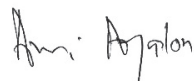
**Avram Hershko**

the degree of

**Doctor of Philosophy, Honoris Causa**

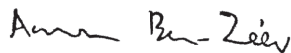
in recognition of his leadership and excellence in research and standing at the forefront of biomedical research in Israel and abroad, affording us a better understanding of the human body and of cancer in particular, to develop new methods to cure such diseases; for shaping a laudable research legacy and exceptional scientific achievements; for his contribution to the training of new generations of researchers and doctors in the spirit of excellence and contributing to society; for his involvement in achieving national recognition of the importance and necessity of an independent, strong and accomplished system of higher education; for the great honor that he has brought the State of Israel and to Haifa in particular.

Conferred in Haifa, Israel  
28 Iyar 5771/June 1, 2011



**Ami Ayalon**

Chairman of the Executive Committee



**Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev**

President



**Prof. David Faraggi**

Rector

## **PROFESSOR AVRAM HERSHKO**

Avram Hershko was born in 1937 in Karcag, Hungary and emigrated with his family to Israel in 1950. He gained his MD (1965) and PhD (1969) from the Hebrew University - Hadassah Medical School of Jerusalem, a period which included service as a physician in the Israel Defence Forces (1965-67).

After a post-doctoral fellowship with Gordon Tomkins at the University of San Francisco (1969-72), he joined the faculty of the Technion becoming professor in 1980. He is now Distinguished Professor in the Unit of Biochemistry in the B. Rappaport Faculty of Medicine of the Technion.

His main research interests concern the mechanisms by which cellular proteins are degraded, a formerly neglected field of study. Hershko and his colleagues showed that cellular proteins are degraded by a highly selective proteolytic system. This system tags proteins for destruction by linkage to a protein called ubiquitin, which had previously been identified in many tissues, as the name suggests, but whose function was previously unknown. Subsequent work in Hershko's and many other laboratories has shown that the ubiquitin system has a vital role in controlling a wide range of cellular processes, such as the regulation of cell division, signal transduction and DNA repair. Abnormalities in the ubiquitin system result in diseases such as certain types of cancer. The full range of functions of the ubiquitin system in health and disease has still to be elucidated.

Hershko was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry (2004) jointly with his former PhD student Aaron Ciechanover and their colleague Irwin Rose. His many honors include the Israel Prize for Biochemistry (1994), the Gardner Award (1999), the Lasker Prize for Basic Medical Research (2000), the Wolf Prize for Medicine (2001) and the Louisa Gross Horwitz Award (2001). Hershko is a member of the Israel Academy of Sciences (2000) and a Foreign Associate of the US Academy of Sciences (2003).