

Dear colleagues and friends,

It is not without emotion that I am standing here in front of you to say a few words about Arieh.

Today, I feel that, together with him, we are closing a circle. Most of you do not know or remember that in 1991, Arieh Zaritsky was the chairman of this department and that he recruited me. Today, I am the chairman of the department and I am saying goodbye.

I will briefly summarize Arieh's scientific carrier. Arieh did his B.Sc. and Master degree at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1967. He then moves to the England to do his Ph.D. at the University of Leicester followed by a Post-doc training at the Institute of Microbiology, University of Copenhagen, in Denmark in 1972. He was recruited in our University in 1973 as a lecturer and moved up the academic ladder to become a full Professor.

Besides running a successful laboratory and a scientific carrier, Arieh has held numerous administrative positions in the University. He has published over 130 articles in the scientific press, as well numerous chapters in books and trained over 30 students for graduate studies.

On a personal note, anybody who had the privilege to know Arieh of course knows about his strong political involvement.

From my numerous conversations with Arieh, I have been always undecided about how I would define him: an anti-conformist, a provocateur or a rebel?

After some search of the internet regarding the definitions for these words, I think I found the answer. Arieh is a rebel:

According to the famous Urban Dictionary, a rebel is a person who stands up for their own personal opinions despite what anyone else says. A true rebel stands up for what they believe is right, not against what's right. It's all about being an individual and refusing to follow a crowd that forces you to think the same way they do even if it means becoming an outcast to society. True rebels know who they are and do not compromise their individuality or personal opinion for anyone. They're straightforward and honest and they will sure as hell tell it like it is.

I must confess that, being myself a bit of rebel, I can only have sympathy and respect for Ariel's strong will and boldness. He definitely does not let you indifferent.

That being said, Arieh, I could wish you farewell but knowing you, I would bet that you will continue doing tomorrow what you were doing yesterday.

I wish you all the best, Arieh.

*[Professor Fred Libersat, Chairman, Life Sciences Department (2010-2013)]*