

## Hagai Ron (1944–2012)

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Hagai Ron was born on a small kibbutz in Palestine, north of the Dead Sea. He passed away in the presence of his family on 10 September 2012. He is survived by three daughters and four grandchildren.

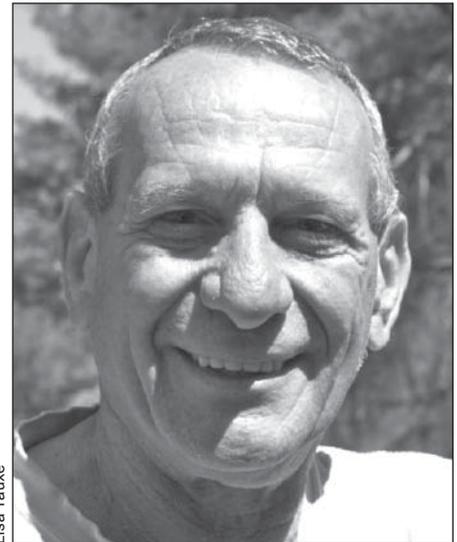
After completing his Ph.D. at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1984, he was a postdoctoral scholar at Stanford University, specializing in paleomagnetism and structural geology. He returned to Israel in 1987, building the first paleomagnetic laboratory in Israel at the Geophysical Institute of Israel. In 2001, he moved with his lab to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he stayed until his retirement earlier this year.

Hagai was a scientist with the highest standards, always blending creativity with rigor, and was active in paleomagnetism and tectonics for more than 25 years. In that time he authored and coauthored more than 60 papers on a range of topics. The bulk of his work concerned the tectonics of strike-slip environments, which provided quantitative constraints on the amount and sense of block and fault (and stress) rotations occurring in regions of distributed strike-slip faulting. Simple models predict rotations

of blocks in the region of strike-slip faulting, and Hagai, through careful paleomagnetic analysis, was able to establish the utility of the simple model in simple regimes, solve the puzzle of more complex regimes by introducing the concept of rotation of the stress field itself, and demonstrate again through careful paleomagnetic analysis that a combination of two simple models can explain a whole host of apparently complex observations.

Hagai's interest in the topic continued throughout his career, but he was far from a one-trick pony. He had several other major research themes and was constantly coming up with innovative ideas. He made significant contributions to the timing of hominid dispersal out of Africa, having nailed down the date of the oldest discoveries in Israel. He tried to define a paleosecular variation record from the Lisan formation but instead demonstrated the limitations of such a record due to the growth of greigite during diagenesis. Most recently, he championed the use of Israeli and Jordanian archeological materials, most notably metallurgical slag deposits, for the study of paleointensity variations in the southern Levant.

Hagai was naturally collaborative, seeking out projects with the international scientific



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community, particularly in the United States and Germany. He was an excellent mentor for his graduate students, who remain deeply grateful for his thoughtful attention. He was a pleasure to work with, loving nothing better than a wild brainstorming session, peppered with good-natured argument. He was full of great ideas, yet he was a humble man. He will be missed.

—LISA TAUXE, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla; E-mail: ltauxe@ucsd.edu