

Prof. Eli Waxman
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Born in Petach Tikva, Israel, Prof. Eli Waxman earned a B.Sc. in mathematics and physics (1986) and an M.Sc. in physics (1989), both *summa cum laude*, and a Ph.D. in physics (1994), all from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. As he pursued his graduate degrees, he worked as a research physicist at Israel's Negev Nuclear Research Center. From 1994 to 1998, he was an Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton) member. In 1998 he joined the staff of the Weizmann Institute of Science. He served as the Particle Physics and Astrophysics Department chair from 2009 to 2012 and as chief scientist of the Israeli Atomic Energy Commission (on leave from the WIS) from 2013 to 2015. Today, he serves as chair of the Particle Physics and Astrophysics Department and as Chairman of the board of the Pazy Research Foundation.

The research interests of Prof. Waxman are neutrino, high-energy, and relativistic-astrophysics. With U.S. colleagues, he proposed a theory for the origin of the highest energy particles known in the Universe (a hundred million times more energetic than the particles produced in the LHC at CERN). Testing this theory is one of the primary goals of a large, giga-ton neutrino detector being operated at the South Pole. Prof. Waxman initiated and is leading a scientific satellite mission, ULTRASAT, which will help us answer some of the big questions in astrophysics, including how supermassive black holes affect their neighborhoods, how stars explode, and where the heavy elements in the Universe, from Iron to Gold and beyond, are produced. ULTRASAT will put Israel – and Israeli scientists and engineers – at the forefront of a global movement to explore the Universe with small, affordable satellites.

Prof. Waxman is married to Vered, father to Chen (1990) and Iddo (1991), and grandfather to Avigail (2022), Ofer (2024), and Lia (2024).