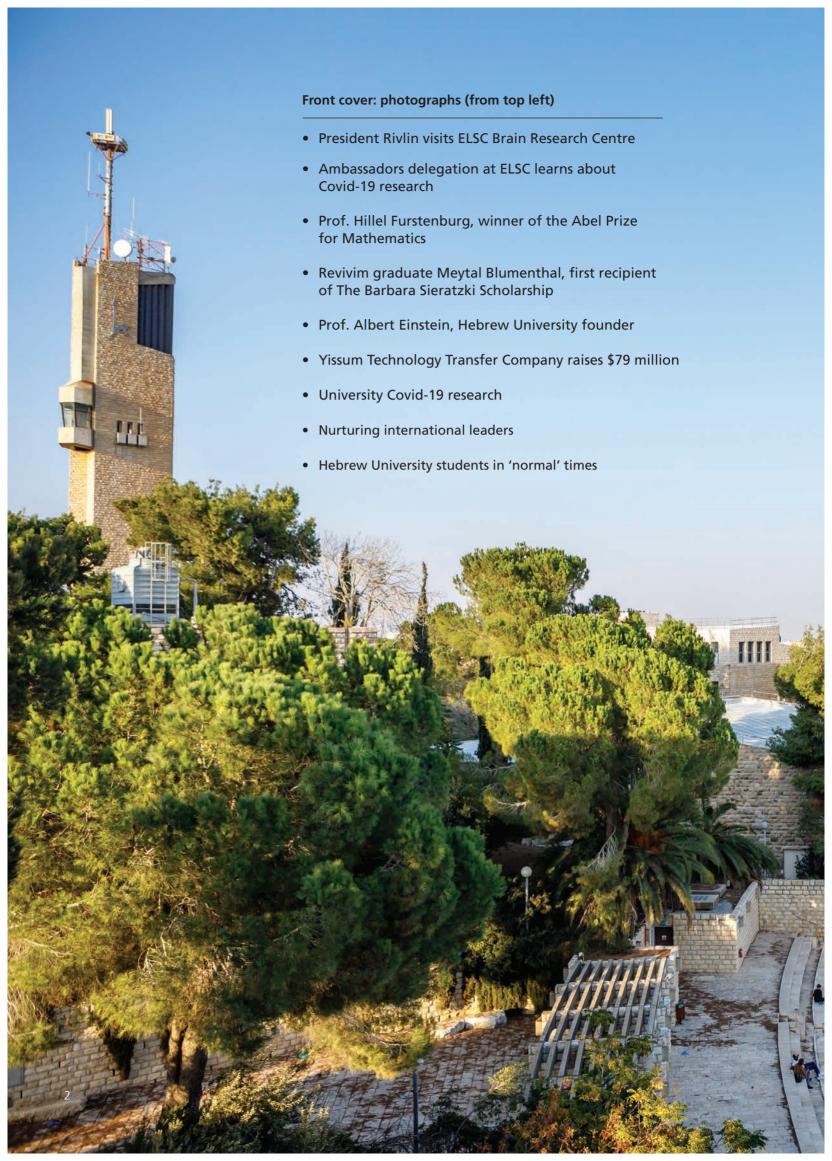
FUTURE

British Friends of 1926
The Hebrew University
Our Future is Here

2020/21





Hebrew University in Numbers



Years of transferring technologic	es
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10.750 Patents 3,030+ Inventions

1,050+ Licensed Technologies Spin-off companies 170

Global Reach

600	Academic agreements in 57 countries
105	Competitive research grants from
	the European Research Council
	since 2007 – € 190m
598	Postdoctoral candidates from over
	20 countries
220	Student exchange programme
	with 259 institutions in 41 countries
	University and faculty level
2,500	Students attend the Rothberg
	International School annually

Students

23,300	All Students
12,040	Undergraduates
6,141	Master's Students
2,253	Doctoral Students
301	Mechina (preparatory programme)
1,339	International Students

Teaching

6	Campuses
7	Faculties
14	Schools
315	Departments
983	Faculty members
1,300	Researchers
5.789	Courses

Awards of Excellence

302	Israel Prizes
99	Rothschild Prizes
54	EMET Prizes
14	Wolf Prizes
8	Nobel Prizes
1	Fields Medal in Mathematics
1	Abel Prize in Mathematics
1	Canada Gairdner International Award
1	Turing Award in Computer Science
1	Shaw Prize in Mathematics

Research

>100	Research centres
4,000	Research projects
6	Affiliated medical institutes
43%	Israel's biotech research
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Israel's leading centre of academic and scientific research

Rankings

#1 in Israel*

Top 0.5% of universities worldwide**

#25 in Mathematics**

#33 in Law**

#51-75 in Economics**

#76-100 Veterinary Science**

* source: QS World University Rankings 2021

** source: ARWU 2020 (Shanghai Jiao Tong University and supported by Shanghai Ranking Consultancy)

האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים THE HEBREW **UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM**

"A pluralistic institution, where science and knowledge are developed for the benefit of humankind, in an atmosphere free of discrimination and prejudice"

Prof. Albert Einstein, Nobel Laureate, Hebrew University Founder

In these exceptional times, the Hebrew University's resolve has been tested in numerous ways: continuity of teaching, widening research, keeping students, faculty and staff safe while adjusting to a challenging financial environment.

However, right now, great centres of learning and research can provide real inspiration and the Hebrew University has been no exception, applying resources and great minds to find global solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic helping Israeli society and nations beyond. Much of this has been thanks to the support of Friends around the world whose commitment

and friendship have been indispensable. British Friends continue to play their part; the challenges continue, requiring us to redouble our efforts as we look forward helping to secure a bright future for the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Law Kenje Isaac Kaye, Chairman



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Hebrew University

To suggest that this has been no ordinary year would be an understatement. The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked suffering, taken many lives, driven economic chaos and has tested leadership, political and societal alike.

The Hebrew University has been severely tested, operating over 3,000 courses online, attending to student welfare and their severe financial hardships, ensuring that research continued and that resources were invested in many teams working on COVID-19 solutions. In Jerusalem especially, student volunteers helped the City's social services in many ways, such as delivering medicines to those families or individuals alone, or housebound.

Multi-faculty experts from across the University along with administration staff gave of their expertise, knowledge, skills, time and often money to help the University get through a crisis. Yet classes continued, exams took place, research flourished, the local and broader Israeli communities were supported while international collaboration stepped up a gear as the brightest minds in medical science worked together in an effort to help fight the pandemic.

This edition of Future carries a number of stories that testify to the spirit of the Hebrew University in 'giving back'. You can also read many other related news stories including great success in securing coveted ERC (European Research Council grants), BIRAX awards for medical research into ageing, two major mathematics awards (the Abel and Shaw Prizes) and other news that reflects the broad range of academic activity of every faculty.

The priorities of the Hebrew University's seven year fundraising campaign are reflected in all that the University does and how it impacts: leadership for tomorrow, hi-tech Jerusalem, human health, internationalisation and collaboration, building capacity, better world, sustainable planet. Our global Friends network is a vital partner in times good and bad. The British Friends community has been stalwart in its support for over 90 years and especially in the past 12 months. It has been invaluable. The team and I thank you sincerely as well as for your future support. Looking forward to meeting takes on a whole new meaning. I hope we can meet soon whether locally or on campus where a warm welcome always awaits you.

Stay safe,

Nigel Salomon,
Chief Executive
British Friends of the
Hebrew University



What's New at HU

Judaism, Israel and Diaspora Conference

The Jewish Agency, Ruderman Foundation and Haaretz hosted their first ever Judaism, Israel and Diaspora Conference. The tone was humanistic in nature and not political. More than 2,000 attendees filled the International Convention Center in Jerusalem.

The vision of the conference was to expand the definitions of Judaism beyond the narrow religious boundaries and to illuminate the existence of Judaism as a culture, a nation and a shared identity for Israelis and Diaspora Jews. Only through a broader perception of Judaism is it possible to realize the Zionist vision of a Jewish and democratic state and to build a strong, open and respectful relationship between Israel and Diaspora Jewry.

HU President Prof. Asher Cohen spoke in the first session, emphasising higher education's role in society, to keep the doors to knowledge open and accessible to all, "Arab and Jew, man and woman, secular and religious, Israeli and exchange students".



Other speakers at the conference included Rector Barak Medina; Prof. Deborah Lipstadt; The Jewish Agency's Isaac Herzog; JFNA President Eric Fingerhut; French Rabbi Delphine Horvilleur; Israel's Reform Movement President Rabbi Gilad Kariv.

Israel Features in INSEAD Index

The Index, published annually by leading graduate business school INSEAD, evaluates a wide range of policies and practices impacting human capital and contributing to productivity and prosperity. The latest publication by the Paris-based school emphasises the

importance of readying business and talent for the increasing impact of artificial intelligence technologies.

The competitiveness of 132 countries was measured according to 70 talent-related variables falling within six pillars: enable; attract; grow; retain; vocational and technical skills and global knowledge skills.

The Index details that Israel excels worldwide in global knowledge skills (8th), reflecting creativity and problem solving expertise, and vocational and technical skills (12th), describing technical or professional skills acquired through vocational or professional training and experience.

Israel, the highest ranked country in the Northern Africa and Western Asia region, sits one place behind Japan and ahead of France and has improved its ranking in recent years, sitting in 20th place on average during 2018-2020.

INSEAD

Pluralism on Campus



Today, most Palestinian students in Jerusalem study in Palestinian and Arab universities. But in the last decade there has been a growing number attending Israeli academic institutions. The Hebrew University has also accepted Palestinian students in growing numbers. Last year there were 586 students from East Jerusalem undertaking doctorates and graduate degrees.

"It's a combination of factors.," says Michal Barak, who heads the University's department of cultural diversity, "University studies is one of the many changes that are bringing Jerusalem's Palestinian society closer to Israeli Jewish society. These include a rise in the demand for Israeli citizenship and in taking Israeli matriculation exams, as well as an increase in the number of Palestinians who work in West Jerusalem.

Home for the Holidays – But Will Grandpa Remember Me?

Currently, Alzheimer's affects one-in-ten adults over the age of 65. A research team headed by Prof. Hervé Bercovier, Charles Greenblatt and Benjamin Klein at the Hebrew University Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics has discovered that the Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine, originally developed for tuberculosis and commonly used to treat bladder cancer, may also be an effective treatment to prevent Alzheimer's.

"Data reaching back to the 1960s shows that countries treating bladder cancer patients with the BCG vaccine had a lower prevalence of Alzheimer's, but it hadn't been properly analysed," shared lead author Bercovier.

Bercovier and his team followed 1,371 bladder cancer patients receiving treatment at HU's Hadassah Medical Center. The average patient age was 68. During follow-up visits, 65 cancer patients had developed Alzheimer's. Those who had not received BCG as part of their treatment had a significantly higher risk of developing Alzheimer's than did BCG-treated patients. Further, when compared with the general (healthy) population, people who had never been treated with BCG had a 4-fold higher risk for developing Alzheimer's than did those who were treated with BCG.



Prof. Hervé Bercovier

The researchers have not developed a vaccine that prevents Alzheimer's, but the study is an important step to understand the ways in which our immune system is a major player in the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's and how the BCG vaccine, which modulates the immune system, may serve as an

effective preventative treatment to this crippling condition. And that could be the best holiday homecoming of all.

Hebrew U Team Strike Big Blow to "Superbugs"

Every year in the United States, over 35,000 people die and 2.8 million get sick from antibiotic-resistant infections. Now, a team led by Hebrew University's Prof. Nathalie Balaban and Shaarei Zedek Medical Center's Dr. Maskit Bar-Meir has shown that resilient bacteria may be treatable with currently available therapies, if doctors administer treatment within a short window of opportunity.

Like all living organisms, bacteria develop defences against hostile elements in their environment. One common tactic is "tolerance", lying dormant during treatment, because antibiotics can only spot and kill growing targets. This intermediary stage lasts only a few days and cannot be detected in standard medical labs. Therefore, doctors miss the tolerance window and with it the opportunity to treat a serious infection before it becomes altogether resistant.



Prof. Nathalie Balaban

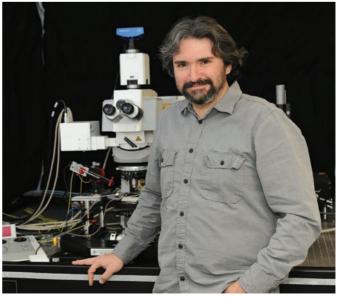
Balaban and Bar-Meir would like medical centres to adopt the laboratory test they developed, enabling doctors to quickly detect whether a patient's bacteria are tolerant of a planned antibiotic. Doctors could handpick antibiotics with a greater chance of success than blindly choose antibiotics for which the

patient may have already developed a tolerance. "Using the right combination of available antibiotic drugs at the outset could dramatically increase a patients' survival rate before their infection becomes tolerant to all the antibiotics in our arsenal," Balaban concluded.

Hebrew University Scientists Could Revolutionise Chemotherapy

Many who receive a cancer diagnosis can identify with hopes that chemotherapy will save the day, but for many patients, chemo's painful side-effects cause them to stop treatment prematurely.

Now, a research team headed by Prof. Alexander Binshtok, head of the Pain Plasticity Research Group at the Hebrew University's Faculty of Medicine and



Prof. Alexander Binshtok

Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences, has developed a method that delivers chemotherapy drugs directly to malignant cells, bypassing healthy ones. Binshtok and his team studied liver cancer cells and were able to successfully insert a low dose of doxorubicin, a chemotherapeutic agent, targeting cancer cells without harming healthy ones. In the future, the precision of this delivery method may allow doctors to prescribe lower chemo doses and to relieve patients from some of the harsher effects of chemo.

Teaching Old Drugs New Tricks

Researchers at the Hebrew University have developed an injectable antibiotic with a new mode of action, which could have a significant impact on the morbidity rate for pandemics such as COVID-19, Yissum, the technology transfer company of the Hebrew University announced.

Mupirocin, a highly effective topical antibiotic was reformulated to allow for intravenous delivery, and in doing so has created new properties to fight drug-resistant bacteria.

According to the European Antibiotic Resistance Organisation, 700,000 people die every year from resistant infections. For patients in hospitals with weakened immune systems, the danger is acute.



Prof. Yechezkel Barenholz

Prof. Yechezkel Barenholz, the chief researcher behind the study, said, "The ability to take an existing drug and alter the way it works can have a significant impact on the problem of antibiotic resistance and secondary bacterial infections and may pave the way for a new treatment regimen. We have had very strong results from relevant animal models, and are looking forward to moving into clinical trials with Nano-mupirocin (the nano-liposomal formulation of mupirocin), as we believe the potential of this discovery is immense."

The innovative treatment, which was advanced through the use of artificial intelligence (AI), was chiefly developed by Prof. Barenholz, who heads the Laboratory of Membrane and Liposome Research at Hadassah Medical School and Dr. Ahuva Cern in collaboration with Prof. Amiram Goldblum, all of whom hail from the Hebrew University Faculty of Medicine.

"Our study demonstrates how nano-liposomes have enabled the creation of a novel injectable antibiotic, and how we have overcome the limitations of existing antibiotics by using nano-technology approaches," said Dr. Cern. "This drug would fundamentally enhance the arsenal of antibiotics available to treat resistant infections, including those associated with COVID-19."

The Hebrew University researchers developed the treatment with their German colleagues at the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research.

Long Lost Human Relative Unveiled

Hebrew University researchers Prof. Liran Carmel and Dr. David Gokhman received significant international attention when they gave the world its first glimpse of Denisovan, the mysterious human species that lived 100,000 years ago but became extinct. Using DNA methylation maps, they reconstructed the Denisovan's anatomy from the barest of remains – the tip of a pinky bone and three teeth found in a cave in Siberia ten years ago.





3-D print reconstruction of a female Denisovan, plus early sketch

As for the accuracy of their Denisovan profile, Carmel shared, "A few weeks after we sent our Cell paper to peer-review, scientists discovered a Denisovan jawbone. Comparing this bone to our predictions we found it matched perfectly, proving our ability to reconstruct whole anatomical profiles using DNA extracted from a single fingertip."

There is still a long way to go to uncovering our ancient human cousin's lifestyle and habitats but Carmel and Gokhman's findings bring us one step closer.

Worker Bees Lose Sleep Over Larvae

Every parent knows it's tough caring for a new-born, but they'd be surprised to see their exhaustion shared by one of the hardest working creatures of all.

Worker bees tending to the young in the hive get less sleep compared to all the other bees. Scientists believe that certain chemicals produced by the larvae cause sleep deprivation.

A team at the Hebrew University say the findings add to evidence that animals can give up sleep if needed. The scientists said it will help research on whether sleep deprivation affects health or cognitive performance. Moshe Nagari, a postdoctoral fellow at the Hebrew University, added: "The fact that the nursing bees sleep so little, even when caring for pupae that do not need to be fed, was the most surprising. Before this study, we assumed that the main functions of activity around the clock without circadian rhythms in nurse bees is to provide improved feeding to the developing larvae, enabling them to grow rapidly."



Guy Bloch, a professor at Hebrew University and study co-author, added: "Our findings show that sleep is more plastic and less rigid than is commonly accepted. With bees, if there is no cost for sleep loss, it means that the brood-tending bees have a mechanism that allows them to significantly reduce sleep without a cost to their brain or other tissue."

Curiously, bee pupa – the stage of the development after larvae, where the eyes, wings and legs mature – do not move, make noise, and don't need to be fed. Yet the bees seemed to pass up sleep to care for them. When scientists removed the pupa from cocoons, they found some of the bees still lost sleep for a short period. This suggests the infants left behind a substance, such as a pheromone, which affected their sleep.

Student Stories



I am honoured to be one of the students supported by the British Friends of the Hebrew University. Thanks to your generous support I am one of the very few Gazan students who have had the privilege to continue to graduate studies in Israel in the past few decades. The financial and academic support that I received from you and all British institutions including the British Embassy and the British Council is helping me to realise my lifelong objectives.



I am currently finishing the third year of my PhD and in Prof. Yosef Buganim's lab, I had the wonderful opportunity to contribute to various projects that are related to further our understanding of Stem Cell Biology. In the past year, I participated in the International Society for Stem Cell Research 2019 at Los Angeles USA. I had the chance to meet and speak directly with many scientists around the world. Cutting edge research and recent clinical trials have shown me the meaningful effort that the scientific community is putting in to address unmet challenges in the medical arena.

In the last year, I was able to make a huge leap in my bioinformatics capability, and currently I'm participating in three projects.

I hope that my story as a young Palestinian scientist will encourage many young students to study and understand the common heritage this land endured for thousands of years. Thank you very much for enabling this opportunity.

Sincerely, Ahmed Radwan

A Tomato That Fights Degenerative Eye Diseases

The Hebrew University reported that a team of Israeli scientists has developed Xanthoma, a new tomato variety that can help fight degenerative eye diseases.

This new tomato is rich in zeaxanthin, a fat-soluble pigment whose function is to protect the plant against solar radiation, which could inhibit degenerative diseases by protecting the retina's light receptors from damage caused by ultraviolet radiation. This natural yellow pigment can be found mainly in corn, orange peppers, squash and citrus and in very low concentrations in melons, mangoes, apricots and peaches.



The researchers, led by Prof. Joseph Hirschberg, who specialises in plant genetics, molecular biology, and genetic engineering, said that adding zeaxanthin to a daily diet helps reduce the development of degenerative diseases, especially macular degeneration, which causes blindness in adults.

Hirschberg noted that Xanthomate – named for xanthophyll, the group of substances to which zeaxanthin belongs – was developed using classical genetic cultivation and hybridizations of different strains.

Zeaxanthin makes up more than half of the new tomato's pigments, which also has the vitamins and other essential nutrients found in common tomatoes, he noted. In fact, the new tomato strain has seven times more zeaxanthin than corn, which is the main source of this substance in today's diet.

"As far as we know, this is the highest level of zeaxanthin achieved in any major agricultural crop in the world," the researchers noted. Put Down That Cup of Earl Grey Tea

Cancer in the small intestine is quite rare, whereas colorectal cancer, a neighbouring though much smaller organ, is one of the leading causes of cancer death for both men



To answer this question, Prof. Yinon Ben-Neriah at Hebrew University's Lautenberg Center for Immunology and Cancer Research and his team led by Dr. Eliran Kadosh, found that cancer mutations are not necessarily bad actors, in and of themselves. In fact, in certain micro-environments like the gut, these mutations can actually help the body to fight cancer, not spread it. However, if the gut microbiome produces high levels of metabolites, like those found in certain bacteria and antioxidant rich foods like black tea and hot cocoa, then it acts as a particularly hospitable environment to mutated genes and will accelerate the growth of bowel cancers. Ben-Neriah and his team kept aut microbiomes in mind as they took a closer look at gastrointestinal cancers, and may have found the reason why only 2% of cancers take root in the small intestine, whereas a whopping 98% take place in the colon. One major difference between these two organs is their levels of gut bacteria: small intestines contain few, whereas colons contain multitudes. "Scientists are beginning to pay more and more attention to the role gut microbiomes play in our health: both their positive effects and, in this case, their sometimes pernicious role in aiding and abetting disease," explained Ben-Neriah.

"Scientifically speaking, this is new territory. We were astonished to see the extent to which microbiomes affect cancer mutations – in some cases, entirely changing their nature," shared Ben-Neriah. Looking towards the future, those at high-risk of colorectal cancer may want to screen their gut-flora more frequently and think twice about the foods they digest, antioxidant and otherwise.

Hebrew University Team Unearths Canaanite Temple at Lachish

The Biblical Book of Joshua tells the story of the ancient Israelites entry into the Promised Land after 40 years in the desert. Now, a team of archaeologists led by Prof. Yosef Garfinkel at the Hebrew University's Institute of Archaeology and Prof. Michael Hasel, Southern Adventist University, Tenessee revealed, for the first time ever, extensive ruins of a Canaanite temple dating to the 12th century BCE that they uncovered in National Park Tel Lachish, a large Bronze Age-era settlement near present-day city Kiryat Gat.



"This excavation has been breathtaking," shared Garfinkel. "Only once every 30 to 40 years do we get the chance to excavate a Canaanite temple in Israel. What we found sheds new light on ancient life in the region. It would be hard to overstate the importance of these findings."

In addition to these archaeological ruins, the team unearthed a trove of artifacts including bronze cauldrons, Hathor-inspired jewellery, daggers and axe-heads adorned with bird images, scarabs and a gold-plated bottle inscribed with the name Ramses II, one of Egypt's most powerful pharaohs.

Thank you British Friends

Our 2019 Rosh Hashanah Appeal resulted in a very generous response from many supporters raising sufficient funds in support of a scholarship to an overseas student who will attend the Hebrew University's prestigious programme, International Master of Public Health, starting October 2020.

Our website will carry details of the scholarship recipient in due course and we'll report on progress in our regular e-newsletters.

Hebrew University Professors Win Prestigious EU Grants

Three professors at the Hebrew University have been awarded European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Grants, with up to 2.5 million Euro in long-term funding to pursue ground-breaking, high-risk projects.

Of the 2,052 applications received, only 185 (11%) won funding. Further, these grants are available only to researchers with a proven track-record of significant achievements. These ERC grants will not only allow scientists to further their groundbreaking research but also lead to job creation. An estimated 2,000 postdocs, PhD students and laboratory staff will likely be employed by the awardees.

The three Hebrew University's ERC Advanced Grant projects:

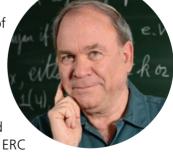
Prof. Yinon Ben-Neria Immunology and Cancer Research, HU Faculty of Medicine, awarded €3,200,000 to develop an "Onco-Destroyer" to treat adult acute leukemias.



Prof. Gideon Shelach
Asian Studies, HU Faculty
of Humanities. Awarded
€2,499,750 to study
"The Wall: People and
Ecology in Medieval
Mongolia and China".

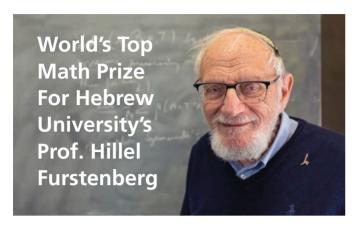


Mathematics, Ab Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. Awarded €1,628,750 to study "Stability and Testability: Groups and Codes TeStability". This is the third time Lubotzky has won an ERC Advanced grant.





Further recognition for Hebrew University Mathematics Excellence



The Abel Prize, often referred to as the Nobel of Mathematics, was established by the Government of Norway in 2001 "to give mathematicians their own equivalent of a Nobel Prize" and carries with it a cash award of 7.5 million Norwegian Kroners (\$834,000). Furstenberg, a Kristallnacht survivor, is the first Israeli to win this prestigious prize.

The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters awarded the Abel Prize to Hillel Furstenberg at the Hebrew University and Gregory Margulis at Yale University "for pioneering the use of methods from probability and dynamics in group theory, number theory and combinatorics".

Furstenberg and Margulis invented random walk techniques, a central branch of probability theory. A random walk is a path consisting of a succession of random steps. These techniques were used to investigate mathematical objects and introduced probabilistic methods to solve many open problems in group theory, number theory, combinatorics and graph theory.

"Furstenberg and Margulis stunned the mathematical world by their ingenious use of probabilistic methods and random walks to solve deep problems in diverse areas of mathematics," shared Hans Munthe-Kaas, chair of the Abel committee. "They brought down the traditional wall between pure and applied mathematics and opened up a wealth of new results... with applications to communication technology and computer science."

"Prof. Furstenberg's Abel Prize is a true honour for Hebrew University and for Israel, as a whole", shared Hebrew University President Prof. Asher Cohen. "Hillel is not only a world-class mathematician but a mensch and mentor to scores of students who have already changed the face of mathematics. We couldn't be prouder of his award, a Nobel-level achievement."



Prof. David Kazhdan of the Hebrew University has received the distinguished Shaw Prize on his contributions to the field of mathematics, the first Israeli to win the Prize.

Kazhdan is one of two recipients to win and share the Prize of \$1.2 million with another researcher from the University of Chicago, Alexander Beilinson. They won the Prize for their "huge influence on and profound contributions to representation theory, as well as many other areas of mathematics."

The Shaw Prize honours individuals who have recently achieved distinguished and significant advances in the fields of astronomy, life science and medicine, and mathematical sciences. "This is a great honour for me. Of course, I was very happy when I heard, and I'm more than happy to receive the award. But I didn't do anything, I've just engaged in math my whole life – and not for my own sake. I feel as though I'm in the good company of scholars and mathematicians who have received the award thus far," said Kazhdan.

Kazhdan currently serves as a member of the National Academy of Israel and of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States.

In 2016, the professor received the EMET Prize for Art, Science and Culture, an Israeli prize awarded annually for excellence in academic and profession achievements; the Rothschild Prize in 2010, an Israeli prize designed to support the advancement of science and the humanities in Israel and received the MacArthur Fellowship in 1990.

Kazhdan has been a professor of mathematics in the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences since he immigrated to Israel in 2004 from the USA, where he worked as a professor at Harvard, a position he gained after emigrating from the Soviet Union in 1975.

Jerusalem Ranks 6th = in New Global Startup Ecosystem Report

The Startup Genome report highlighted Jerusalem for its life science, biotech and AI strengths. Some 150 life science companies in Jerusalem benefit from an extensive municipal support net, according to the city statement. Examples include the BioHouse work compound at the Hadassah Medical Center Campus in Ein Kerem and BioGiv, a lab compound for young companies in the Hebrew University Givat Ram Campus.

Jerusalem also boasts some 80 Al companies, including Mobileye and Lightricks, and its technological edge in general and biotech and Al, in particular, relies heavily on its world-class academic institutes such as the Hebrew University and the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, as well as a growing local community and significant State and municipal support.

"Jerusalem has been making big strides in the high tech industry and will soon claim its status as the capital of the technology industry too," said Jerusalem Mayor Moshe Lion. He announced that the city will invest NIS 300 million (\$87 million) over the next few years in the city's knowledge industry with new offices and related industries.



"With a population of scientists, intellectuals, and determined entrepreneurs, Jerusalem has what it takes to succeed. Its rough character gives it an edge over the competition. There are currently 550 technology companies, 12 accelerators and hubs, and 18 investment funds in Jerusalem. Some 350 technology-related events are held in Jerusalem every year, and growing," Lion added.



Morton L. Mandel z"I and Barbara A. Mandel z"I (USA)



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem community, including our Friends around the world, deeply mourns the passing of Morton and Barbara Mandel.

Mort Mandel was a devoted friend who cared deeply about Israel and the global Jewish community. He supported groundbreaking educational initiatives that served to strengthen Israel, shape future generations of leaders, and foster academic and research pursuits at the highest levels.

Mort's many contributions to the University include the Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, the Mandel Scholion interdisciplinary Research Center, the Mandel Postdoctoral Fellowships and, together with his brothers, through the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation.

With his beloved wife Barbara, Mort maintained a decades-long partnership with the Hebrew University.

An Honorary Chair and past President of American Friends of the Hebrew University, Barbara helped to launch and fund successful campaigns in support of Hebrew University students, faculty and research. In over forty years of service to AFHU, Barbara served on the Executive, Budget and Finance, Campaign and Nominations Committees. Vice-Chair of the Hebrew University Board of Governors, she led major fund-raising efforts, and previously served in pivotal roles as International Campaign Co-Chair, and Deputy Chair of the Executive Committee. She was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace and the International Board of Overseers of the Rothberg International School.

In tribute to their contributions and unwavering devotion to the academic community, Morton and Barbara received Honorary Doctorates from the Hebrew University.



The Technology Transfer Company of the Hebrew University

Founded in 1964, Yissum serves as a bridge between cutting-edge academic research and a global community of entrepreneurs, investors, and industry. Yissum has registered over 10,000 patents covering 2,800 inventions; licensed over 900 technologies and has spun out over 170 companies. Yissum's business partners span the globe and include companies such as Boston Scientific, Google, ICL, Intel, Johnson & Johnson, Merck, Microsoft and Novartis.

















Dr. Itzik Goldwaser New Yissum CEO

Yissum, the Technology Transfer Company of the Hebrew University, announced that Dr. Itzik Goldwaser will succeed Dr. Yaron Daniely as CEO of Yissum." I feel privileged to become Yissum's CEO and am looking

forward to deepening the relationships between industry and academia, maximising the huge potential of the Hebrew University's know-how, and adding value, together with Yissum's outstanding team," said Dr.



Goldwaser. "I've been with Yissum for almost ten years and have a keen appreciation for the vital role technology transfer plays in bringing innovation to the marketplace and to where it will have the greatest impact."

Yissum forms strategic partnership with Japanese VC fund

Yissum announced a strategic partnership with Universal Materials Incubator Ltd. (UMI), a 16.5 billion yen (\$152 million) venture capital investment fund from Japan.

The strategic partnership will focus on adapting Hebrew University technologies to the Japanese market allowing Yissum and UMI to grow their international presence and create joint investment opportunities.

UMI is investing in Yissum's Racah Nano Venture Fund, an investment vehicle focussing on Hebrew University innovations in advanced materials and nanotechnology. The Racah Nano Venture Fund has now raised over \$7 million from international and strategic investors. "Israel is a global leader in the startup ecosystem and one of our top international targets for finding investment projects that contribute to the development of the Japanese materials and chemical industries." said UMI chief information officer Dr. Shosuke Kiba.

Yissum Spinouts Raise \$79 million in 2020 Despite Coronavirus Uncertainty

Startups from Yissum raised \$79 million in the first half of 2020. Despite the continuing global uncertainty caused by the coronavirus and ongoing lockdowns around the world, 14 Yissum spinouts raised tens of millions of dollars in early stage funding rounds.

Investments were made in companies in the cleantech, agriculture and foodtech sectors as well as in life science, Al and education. Despite the fact that VC investments in the US and Europe were down, the number of VC deals in Israel reached an all-time record in the second quarter of 2020. The record amount of money raised in Israel was done so by just 174 companies.

"We're proud that the innovative companies emerging from research at the Hebrew University are continuing to grow even during these challenging times," said Dr. Itzik Goldwaser, CEO of Yissum. "The fact that \$79 million was raised by these early stage companies across a number of different sectors illustrates that the technology developed and cultivated at the Hebrew University is having a global impact."

Yissum spinouts that raised funds during in the first half of 2020 include Tissue Dynamics, an Al organ-onchip drug development company, and an immune-oncology biotech focused on cancer therapies.

Yissum serves as a bridge between cutting-edge academic research and a global community of entrepreneurs, investors and industry. Yissum's mission is to benefit society by converting extraordinary innovations and transformational technologies into commercial solutions that address our most urgent global challenges.

Meytal Blumenthal Revivim Alumna

Graduating four years ago from Revivim, Meytal, the first recipient of The Barbara Sieratzki Scholarship, still draws on the in-depth training she received to make her Bible classes meaningful as well as informative. Working in the prestigious Reali School in Haifa, her students hail from all over the country and include Christians, Moslems, Druze and Jews. As a 12th-grade teacher and the Bible teacher, she pioneered the school's elective programme in Jewish Studies and has made it her mission to bring the Bible's characters and topics to life for the whole student body.

In Bible Morning, Meytal launched all 400 twelfth-graders into an unforgettable experience. During the two-week run-up to the event, the 14 students in her elective programme took charge of whetting everyone's appetite by posting fun facts and Did You Know? riddles about the Bible all over the school. With signs on water coolers about Bible stories at the well and notes with the Biblical source of people's names on their lockers, Meytal heightened everyone's interest for the Bible Morning itself.



On the big day, half the grade enjoyed TED-style talks by various specialist teachers such as maths and art and even the custodian, who spoke about the Bible's connection with their own subjects. In parallel, the other half of the grade were "trapped" in an escape room designed to illustrate the most important events in the Bible, where they had to analyse the relevant Bible texts in order to uncover the clues. After both sets of students had switched and participated in both activities, they came together for the results of the competition, Did You Know in the Bible?, and a closing film in which she interviewed students and faculty about their favourite Biblical characters.

The Kennedy Leigh Research Complex for Ecosystem Services in Agriculture



For more than three generations, The Kennedy Leigh Charitable Trust has not only been a generous donor to the Hebrew University but has touched nearly every corner of the modern state of Israel.

It was Michael Kennedy Leigh, grandfather of current Chair Carole Berman who instilled in his children the importance of supporting Israel. The tremendous influence that Kennedy Leigh has over the years on the Hebrew University has impacted practically every faculty, although primarily in the Faculty of Agriculture in Rehovot, also the ELSC (Brain Sciences) to Biochemistry to support for new immigrant social workers.

The latest project undertaken by the Trust is the Kennedy Leigh Research Complex for Eco Systems in Agriculture – The Complex is now completed and the researchers are happily settled in their new home but unfortunately, due to the pandemic, a formal grand opening has been delayed. It is hoped that it will be possible to celebrate the inauguration of this Complex in the latter part of 2020.

The Hebrew University and the British Friends are very grateful for the generous, multi-generational, inspiring support of the Trustees of The Kennedy Leigh Charitable Trust.

The Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace

The Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace was the first and is the largest, research institute in Israel and the Middle East. The Truman Institute focuses on the countries of the Middle East as well as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Its researchers also study Asia, Africa and Latin America, examining them from an inter-disciplinary approach – historical, cultural, psychological, political and socio-economic. The Truman Institute highlights the value of tolerance and dialogue in advancing peaceful co-existence among peoples and nations. The Institute was founded in 1965 at the Hebrew University with the personal support of the 33rd President of the United States, Harry S. Truman.

From the Director's Desk

Prof. Vered Vinisky-Seroussi



The last few months have been a reminder of what are truly the most important things in life. All of us were called upon to question our way of life, our values, our beliefs, our social commitments and our ability to live with uncertainty. COVID-19 challenged the way we view and experience conflicts. A

small virus seems to refuse to acknowledge borders, old wounds and animosities.

In lieu of our planned annual conference, our doctoral students organised a special webinar that took place In April 2020 and attracted hundreds of attendees. Titled "Pandemic without Borders" the webinar addressed the issue of Gaza and Israel during corona and what will come afterwards.

Among the many questions our moderator, prominent Israeli journalist Tali Lipkin-Shahak, raised were: Can a public health crisis constitute a bridge to peace? What is the nature of a national conflict in the age of pandemics? What is the responsibility of Israel toward Gaza during such crises? Will the relationship between Gaza and Israel be affected by the way in which the public health crisis is handled? The webinar panelists also discussed the impact of US President Trump's "Deal of the Century" for resolving the conflict in the Middle East, versus the impact of corona on our region.



In January 2020 the Institute hosted, together with the Leon Charney Resolution Center, "Congress of the People: Israeli-Palestinian Travelling Negotiations Assembly."

On a rainy and very cold day, the Institute was filled with Palestinians and Israeli Jews – both young and not-so-young – who still believe in the value of peace talks and who wish to think seriously about viable solutions to the conflict. Many round tables were opened; as were people's hearts.

A taste of our research projects

Dr. Alexandra Herfroy-Mischler has been researching the various aspects of what she has labelled "agenda silencing." When the media cover intelligence operations failures, they have to conjugate with various levels of official censorship and self-censorship in order to silence the underlying purpose of the operation, as well as the reasons for its failure and the consequence the failure will have on politics.



Dr. Herfroy-Mischler posits that it would be enriching to see how this dynamic of publicising and censoring has been playing out in the media coverage of the recent Mossad operations designed to obtain COVID-19 testing devices (which arrived in Israel from Iran according to OSINT, but

without vital swabs), ventilators (in collaboration with Unit 81 of the IDF), and N95 medical masks. The Shin Bet has also been openly involved in cell phone tracking of coronavirus-guarantined individuals.

Dr. Herfroy-Mischler's research aims to grasp in what ways are the media passively disclosing declassified intelligence information to ease citizen's anxiety, impress enemy countries or inspire other countries.



המכון למחקר ע"ש הרי ס. טרומן למען קידום השלום The Harry S.Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace מצבר الأبحاث علم السم هاري س. ترومان لدعم السلام



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem is the foremost university in Israel, regularly ranked in the top 100 universities worldwide. Annually it attracts some 1,200 overseas students from more than 70 countries worldwide. In the course of their studies, students are opened up to a vibrant, cross-cultural and open-minded university experience in a beautiful campus setting combined with the unique environment of the city of Jerusalem. International students are invited to Israel to experience the outstanding first-class overseas study abroad programmes offered at the University's Rothberg International School (RIS). Students are welcome to pursue studies in a range of scholarly disciplines. Taught in English, the School's courses are designed to open inquisitive minds to new areas of knowledge and inquiry. Choose from Summer courses, Gap Year Programmes or an Ulpan, or become a full-time student at the University for an Undergraduate year abroad or a Master's degree.

NEW! 'STEAM FOR SOCIAL CHANGE': A GAP-YEAR BRIDGING HI-TECH AND SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

This new programme, in collaboration with Carmel 6000 tech company, is an amazing opportunity to do a full-time internship in Jerusalem's Hi-Tech hub. Begin the year with a six week programming Boot Camp, and then along with a team of Israeli and International students work on your own Social Tech innovative invention. This is an extraordinary way to invest in your future and receive real experience in the most supportive and exciting atmosphere.

https://overseas.huji.ac.il/academics/undergraduate-programs/steam/

FIRST YEAR STUDY ABROAD - GAP YEAR

The Hebrew University Gap-Year Programme is a fantastic way to immerse yourself in Israeli life, culture and language. Come for one semester or a full academic year, begin with a Hebrew Ulpan to improve your Ivrit and continue with studies in subjects of your choice alongside students from around the world. Choose from more than 200 courses taught by world-recognised professors in a large variety of topics. See, experience, and learn about Jerusalem in the most hands-on way possible.

https://overseas.huji.ac.il/academics/undergraduate-programs/first-year/

UNDERGRADUATE STUDY

Considering an exchange programme or a year abroad during your British university degree? Imagine studying the archaeology of Jerusalem, while walking the streets of the City; or a course on prospects for peace in the Middle East in the light of current events unfolding daily in Israel; or studying the Hebrew language in the land of its birth. Combine advanced level education with a wide variety of trips, lectures, discussions and nights out with other Israeli and International students, while experiencing and learning about Israel first-hand.

https://overseas.huji.ac.il/academics/undergraduate-grams/ugrad-usap/https://overseas.huji.ac.il/academics/undergraduate-grams/exchange-students/



GRADUATE PROGRAMMES

International StartUp MBA, Human Rights, Jewish Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, Hebrew and Non-Profit Management are only a few of the International Graduate programmes that the Hebrew University offers. Degree, non-Degree, Research, Ph.D and visiting fellow tracks are available for relevant applicants. The Hebrew University offers students a world-class education with a strong focus on academic research and international cooperation.

https://overseas.huji.ac.il/academics/international-graduate-programs/



Short-term Summer Courses and Special Programmes are offered enabling students to combine an enriching academic experience with the opportunity to live and breathe the subject matter. There are stimulating, accredited summer courses available to undergraduate and graduate students, as well as mature candidates with academic qualifications. RIS also offers a range of intensive Hebrew courses taught by Israel's best Hebrew teachers, from 3 to 7 weeks in the summer or winter. For those inspired to improve their Hebrew, this is the place for you.

https://overseas.huji.ac.il/academics summer-and-short-term-programs/





Cassandra Weinstein, graduate from Lancaster University, studied for an MA in Non-profit Management and Leadership: "Studying and living at the Hebrew University has been very interesting and a complete contrast to studying at Lancaster University. Professors are extremely approachable and very international, providing their own perspectives of the field, allowing for a more rounded and global view of the nonprofit world. In a short space of time I have made good friends and have learnt a lot about the third sector. I have also got to travel around Israel and the West Bank and met locals whilst attending Shabbat Dinners and services and always have a place to go to for these—the hospitality in Israel and in the Jewish community is unmatched."

STUDENT GRANTS

The British Friends organisation is the primary source of UK funding to the University. One of our prime objectives is to ensure British students have access to study there. We believe money should never be an obstacle to achievement and we offer awards based on merit and need. Through scholarship support we endeavour to help all our students meet their financial needs whenever we can. In addition, many Hebrew University programmes are MASA accredited, an Israeli government initiative designed to encourage diaspora Jews aged 17 to 30 to come to study in Israel. Thus, Jewish students wishing to study at the University for a semester or longer may be eligible for Israeli government scholarships.

For more information regarding the programmes above, have a look at the Rothberg International School's website: https://overseas.huji.ac.il

Contact Gill Benson on 020 8349 5757 or email students@bfhu.org to talk further about financial assistance available to students at UK and Irish universities.

Scholarships for the Galil

UJIA & British Friends of the Hebrew University Joint Scholarships programme



Ten talented students from the North of Israel have been granted university tuition support for the full three years of their undergraduate degrees at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel's foremost centre of advanced learning and research. These generous scholarships jointly funded by UJIA and the British Friends of the Hebrew University aim to bring opportunities of access to a first class education to the younger residents of the Galil who face challenging levels of deprivation.

"The Galil has been an area of focus for the UK Jewish community for a number of years" said Mandie Winston, UJIA's Chief Executive. "Investing in worthy students to access higher education at a great university is an integral part of our objectives. In turn we look forward to the students returning to their communities to use their new-found knowledge and skills to develop the Galil further."

The students come from diverse backgrounds reflecting the complex ethnic, religious and cultural mix of the Galil.

"We are delighted to partner UJIA in this important project" added Simon Arenson, Development Director of the British Friends, "the Galil students have an opportunity to develop their talents and benefit from further education at the Hebrew University, a world class institution"

They have now completed the second of their threeyear undergraduate course all commenting that, relieved of financial pressures, they have all been able to throw themselves into their studies. The diversity of the group is reflected in their various fields of study including political science, accounting, pharmacology, education, social work, economics, nutrition, chemistry, psychology and Asian studies.

The UJIA scholarship will not only impact one person's life, it will impact a whole society in the long term.

Amjad

In the shadow of the Corona crisis, my family is again in a bad financial situation, because both of my parents work in the Ministry of Education. So again, I'm grateful and thankful for your generous scholarship. It truly makes a huge difference for me.

Shira

Thanks to the UJIA scholarship, I now have the grades to towards a master's degree. Thank you very much for helping me achieve my dreams! Inbar

I hope that this degree will lead me to better understanding of the legal and political situation. I now work in the Attorney General's Office at the Justice Department. I could not afford to accomplish all of this without your help. Thank you again. Yonathana





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The Kaye Innovation Awards

Isaac Kaye established the annual Kaye Innovation Awards in 1993. The awards highlight innovation with potential for income generation, principally through royalties for the University. Applications must be well focused and accompanied by recommendations but unlike grant proposals anyone from the most senior to the most junior staff and students may apply.

The winners demonstrate not only good science but also a focus on commercial viability. Isaac Kaye has always been active on behalf of The Hebrew University. He served as Chairman of the South African Friends organisation and became an active member of the University's Board of Governors. Following his move to the UK, Isaac joined the British Friends and continued as a member of the Board of Governors of The Hebrew University. He is currently Chairman of the British Friends.













(L-R) **Prof. Amos Nussinovitch**, 1st Prize Researcher – Developing edible protective films to extend postharvest shelf life of fresh and processed fruit and vegetables.

Prof. Elka Touitou, 2nd Prize Researcher Breakthrough technologies for novel Pharmaceutical cannabinoid products.

Prof. Ruth Gallily, 3rd Prize Researcher – Cannabidiol as a major drug for anti-inflammatory and autoimmune diseases.

Orit Berhani, 1st Prize Student – Natural killer cells as an immunotherapeutic for targeted cancer therapy.

Amijai Saragovi, 1st Prize Student – Devised a novel strategy that enable T cells to exclusively utilise alternative carbon source to glucose

BIRAX Awards £2.8 Million for UK-Israeli Research Into Ageing

The British Council and the British Embassy, Israel gave the go-ahead to seven, new, three-year bilateral scientific projects in the field of research on ageing. The work carried out by top institutions in the UK and Israel. The projects were awarded nearly £2.8 million in total from BIRAX.

BIRAX Ageing will bring together scientists from the Hebrew University, Hadassah Medical Centre, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Centre, University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, King's College London, and Queen's University Belfast.

The projects will focus on various aspects of ageing and how it affects diabetes, vascular disease, neurodegenerative disease such as Multiple Sclerosis, brain imaging, as well as the use of technology for macular disease research.

British Ambassador to Israel, Neil Wigan OBE said, "I am excited that seven new projects have been selected for the first call of BIRAX Ageing, the latest phase of our flagship science research programme. These cutting-edge research collaborations not only position the UK and Israel at the forefront of ageing research worldwide, but also reaffirm the close connection between British and Israeli academic communities and establishments."

BIRAX Ageing

BIRAX Ageing research looks at the global challenges of ageing, bringing together world-class and complementary scientific capabilities to promote healthy ageing. It aims to establish and grow a substantial new academic community and support ground-breaking collaborative research in the field of ageing, funding both research mobility and joint research projects over the next five years. This crucial research will be generously supported by Pears Foundation, The Israel Ministry of Science and Technology, The Parasol Foundation Trust, Charles Wolfson Charitable Trust, The Rosetrees Trust, Diabetes UK, The British Heart Foundation, and MS Society.



Sir Trevor Pears CMG, Executive Chair of Pears Foundation added, "Since its establishment in 2011, the BIRAX Initiative has earned its excellent reputation for successfully nurturing UK-Israel scientific exchange for the advancement of knowledge. We are proud to have been the founding partner of this important initiative, which will have an enduring impact and legacy, and are delighted to be part of a family of committed partners."

Suzanne Perlman z"l



Suzanne Perlman was born in Budapest in 1922. As a young bride of 17, she moved to Rotterdam with her husband Henri. In May 1940, just three days before the Nazis bombed Holland, the couple fled. They arrived in Paris where they were advised to immediately make their way to one of the Dutch overseas territories. Suzanne and Henri boarded the last boat out of Bordeaux. Arriving on the Caribbean island of Curacao, Suzanne managed to get a loan to open a small luxury store selling gifts, tableware and art. But it was painting that enabled her to connect with her new environment. With a palette of vibrant tropical colours, Suzanne began to depict the people and places of the island. Exhibitions all over the world would follow. She often spoke about "the dynamism of the inimitable brushstroke, which is your unique voice, your signature." In the 1960s, the great Viennese expressionist artist Oskar Kokoschka personally invited Suzanne to work alongside him in his studio, and last year one of her paintings was acquired by the renowned Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam.

Suzanne's Jewish identity was at the centre of everything she did. Curacao is home to the oldest synagogue in the New World. The synagogue inspired many of Suzanne's works.

Her philanthropic endeavours were manifold and she was a great supporter of Israel. The Hebrew University was very close to her heart and in 2009 she became Chair of the British Friends Women's Group Committee. Suzanne organised concerts, events and debates with leading figures in the community and hosted many of these events at her home in London. Even recently, 97-year-old Suzanne rarely missed a committee meeting, still coming up with creative fundraising ideas. She was passionate about the work of the Hebrew University. She understood the enormous potential of its world-class scientific research in medicine, the environment and national security. For Suzanne, helping to finance the scholarships which allowed disadvantaged students to study at the University remained a great source of satisfaction throughout her life.

BRITISH FRIENDS EVENTS

Women's Group

The BFHU Women's Group focuses its fundraising activities for scholarships at the Faculty of Agriculture, thus assisting the education of students at the cutting edge of research in plant and animal science, food and nutrition.

In October, Dr. Martin and Mrs Nitza Sarner kindly gave their home for a sold-out and highly enjoyable concert recital and masterclass with classical pianist **Edna Stern**.

Unfortunately, owing to the Coronavirus lockdown no other events could be arranged for 2020 but the Committee hope to be up and running again as soon as is feasible; they would like to express their thanks and gratitude to their supporters for their understanding.





Community and Controversy

In the 1860s, the new critical study of the Bible became the subject of a public controversy among Anglicans. Anglo-Jews were aware of the controversy and even spoke out. This lecture explored how Anglo-Jews reacted when one of their own went down the same critical path.

In January 2020, British Friends of the Hebrew University in partnership with the Institute of Jewish Studies, UCL hosted a lecture by **Dr. Edward Breuer**

Dr. Breuer, a native of Montreal, taught at the University of Pennsylvania and Loyola University before moving to Israel with his family in 2001.

Dr. Breuer currently teaches in the Department of Jewish History at the Hebrew University and at the Rothberg International School.





Honours Club

The BFHU Honours Club is an exclusive group now of almost 100 members who have all participated in a Legacy Mission to the Hebrew University and have pledged a legacy in their will. Usually 4 annual events are organised for this special group of donors.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic only one gathering took place after which all events moved to the 'digital world' using Zoom, which has proved to be a great success.



Chanukah encounter with Hebrew University postgraduate students

Hebrew University students, who received scholarships from British Friends, were special guests at a Chanukah tea, allowing them to share their experiences studying at some of the UK's leading universities including Oxford, LSE and UCL.

British Jews in the First World War – We were there too

This is a unique cross-community project designed to capture, record and preserve the impact, experience and contribution of British Jewish communities during the First World War era.

Alan Fell, the project director, gave a fascinating presentation about the Project demonstrating its interactive website and digital archive which at the centre of the project, will be a permanent record of the lives of Jewish men, women and families during 1914-1919 with details of their military and Home Front activities, ensuring their stories are not lost for future generations.

To see more go to www.jewsfww.uk

Unit 669 Israel Air Force Combat Rescue and Evacuation Unit

Amit Zac, former member of Unit 669 gave a thought-provoking presentation about this elite unit of the Israeli Air Force. He graduated in 2012 from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and is now undertaking a PhD at Oxford in Law and Economics with the support of a scholarship from the British Friends.

Unit 669 carries out search and rescue missions often behind enemy lines and is considered one of the four premier elite units of the IDF.



Established after the Yom Kippur war its initial mandate was to extract and provide initial medical treatment to downed (and possibly injured) pilots beyond lines. In later years the unit also participated in the extraction of soldiers of other arms of the Israeli Defence forces, civilians and rescue operations worldwide.

The unit is a symbol of professionalism and high quality – the hope of every stranded or wounded soldier.

Legal Group

As a result of lockdown and the prohibition of face to face meetings, members of the BFHU Legal Committee held a Zoom meeting with the new Dean of the Hebrew University Faculty of Law, Prof.Daphna Lewinsonhn-Zamir.

The committee was grateful for the opportunity to at last meet the Dean, as her trip to London had been cancelled. She spoke of her background in Law and how the Law Clinics run by the Clinical Legal Education Centre at the Law Faculty, had been assisting local

marginalised communities in and around Jerusalem to deal with the myriad of issues, both financial and social, caused by the pandemic.

It is hoped that Daphna will be able to meet the whole legal committee on a future visit to London when the postponed event with Prof. Philippe Sands QC and Joshua Rozenberg QC can be rescheduled in 2021.

Join the Hebrew University International Alumni Community

הצטרפו לקהילה הבינלאומית של בוגרי האוניברסיטה העברית

انضموا الى الرابطة العالمية لخريجي الجامعة العبريه



Our Alumni group seeks to maintain a lifelong association with former graduates of Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

In March 2020, British Friends invited Alumni of the Hebrew University to a fascinating lecture evening held in London. The lecture was given by **Ohad Zemet**.

Ohad, a law graduate and Alumnus of The Hebrew University, is a Diplomat at the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, currently spokesperson of the Israeli Embassy in the UK. Previously he was head of the political and economic department in the Israeli Embassy in Egypt. Before joining the diplomatic corps, he served as a legal adviser in the Department of International Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel.

Once students graduate, BFHU Alumni helps them keep in touch with their contemporaries through its regular e-newsletters and at Alumni events.

HUJI Connect helps graduates to both reconnect with old classmates as well as utilise the trusted Hebrew University network to expand professional connections.







Join the Hebrew University International Alumni Community

Are you a Hebrew University Graduate?

Register at www.bfhu.org/opt-in to be kept informed about our local events, many exclusive to Alumni.

To connect internationally go to www.hujiconnect.com Great for networking with old Hebrew University friends

For further information please contact Simon Arenson at simon.arenson@bfhu.org

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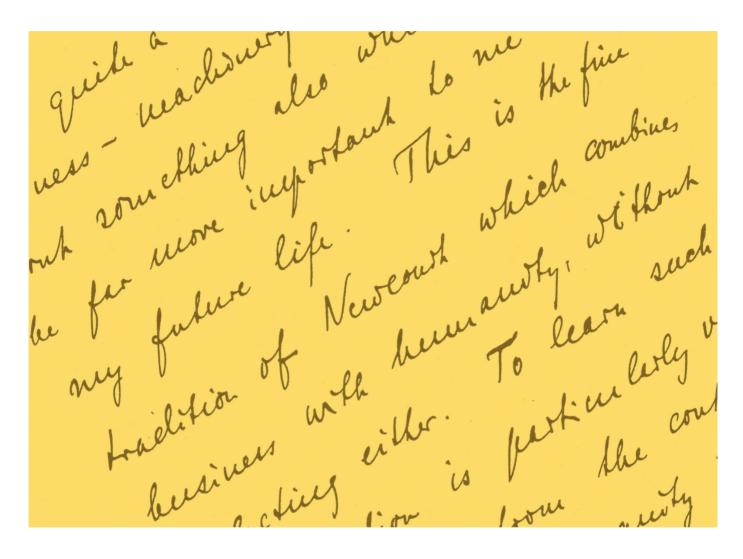








We are proud to support the British Friends of The Hebrew University



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Extract from 1924 letter from Siegmund Warburg to Lionel and Anthony Rothschild, thanking them for teaching him about business and 'the fine tradition of New Court, which combines business with humanity without neglecting either.' Courtesy of The Rothschild Archive.



These Scholarships are Funded by Generous Donations to our Medical Group Annual Appeal

"Dear donors of the British Friends Medical Group, I feel so fortunate to be a recipient of this scholarship and for your continuous support. I am now finishing the fifth year of my clinical education in medical school. In the last two years, I learnt about the different medical fields. In my final year I can choose the department to study in.

The Coronavirus has affected us all greatly. So much is still unknown. The financial and social consequences of the quarantine are starting to show. The clinical aspect has been severely affected, but I had the fortune to be in departments with excellent doctors, who view education as a calling.

This scholarship has been a true gift. With your help I can achieve my goals and hope, in the future, to be able to return the favour by helping others".

Sincerely, Ganit Elmaliach Faculty of Medicine: Degree M.D.





"Dear donors of the British Friends Medical Group, I would like to thank you once again for your generous contribution. I am close to finishing my fifth year of medical school and this year has been challenging in new ways – having to change the way we live, study and work due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

This academic year has been largely focused on clinical rotations, which I have thoroughly enjoyed, although some have been cut short because of the pandemic.

Next year is my final year in medical school and I owe a lot to you. Your donation has given me the peace of mind to focus on my studies and the chance to excel. Especially now, in a time of financial insecurity felt across the world, your donation is appreciated more than ever".

Yours respectfully, Gilad Nesher Faculty of Medicine: Degree M.D.



The David Pearlman Collection of Palestine Postcards

An exceptional new archive for the Hebrew University

An historically important and unique collection of Palestine Postcards has been generously donated by David Pearlman (London). The collection includes cards published and produced both in Palestine and beyond in the period from 1892, when the first picture postcard was produced. It forms the most complete known collection of Palestine Postcards, both institutional and private.

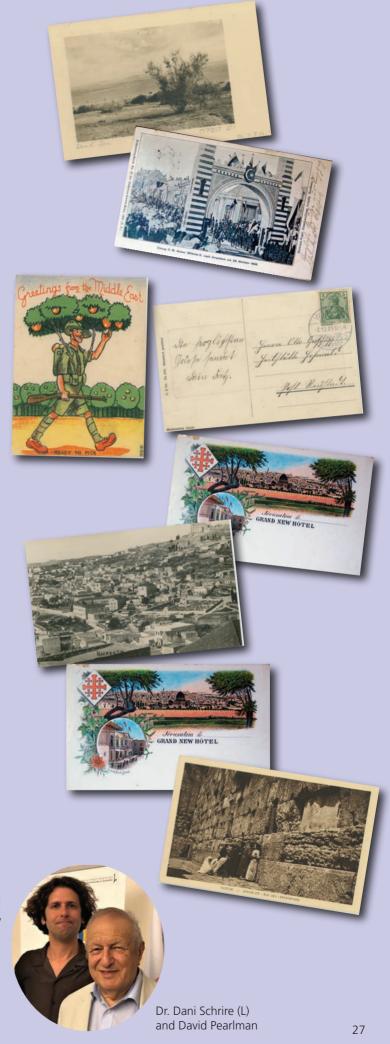
The entire collection comprises more than 130,000 postcards, by far the largest in the world of this type and reflects the care, commitment, interest, enthusiasm and expertise that characterise David's work, a labour of love, over 55 years.

The postcards were produced by over 1,500 different publishers. The collection includes messages from notable individuals and holds a mine of information ready for further research into a variety of areas, including historical events such as The Kaiser's visit in 1898; The entrance of General Allenby into Jerusalem in 1917; The visit of Arthur Balfour in 1925 for the opening of the Hebrew University, development of towns and settlements, Tel Aviv, Rechovot and Haifa; Betzalel Artists and Zionist Artists Meir Ben Gur Aryeh, Ephraim Lillien, Zeev Raban; Palestine viewed by the Christian World; Arab and Bedouin life and dress.

This precious collection, a treasure trove for researchers of many fields, has a new home in the Hebrew University's Folklore Research Centre headed by Dr. Dani Schrire whose team – graduate students at the Program for Folklore and Folk-Culture Studies headed by Prof. Hagar Salamon – has an immense amount of (joyous) work ahead in preparing this archive for academics and public alike. These postcards join cards gifted over the years by Josef and Margit Hoffmann and Ralph Perry.

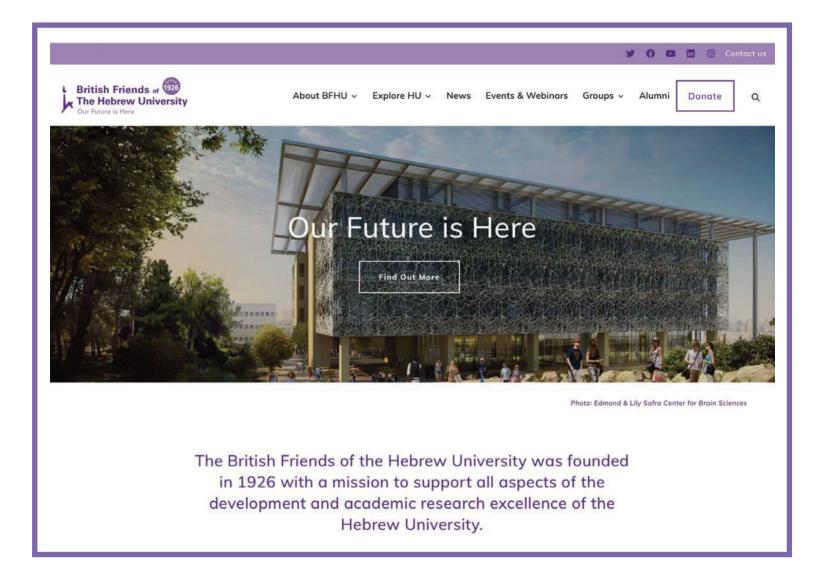
At a lecture given on campus attended by the British Ambassador in November 2019, David concluded his inspiring talk with the words "I am fulfilling a dream of 'kibbutz galuyot' (ingathering of the exiles) or rather 'kibbutz gluyot' (collection of postcards) – they are coming home and are ready for study".

When Chancellor of the Hebrew University, Prof. Menahem Ben-Sasson visited the Folklore Research Center and laid his eyes on the collection, he compared it to the Cairo Genizah (which is currently stored mostly in Cambridge). This statement coming from a Genizah scholar cannot be taken for granted. It reflects the weight of responsibility to maintain the collection and continue David's project, but it also reflects the sheer magnitude of the undertaking that lies ahead. Our website www.bfhu.org will carry further updates.



www.bfhu.org

Our new website - please visit us



Welcome to our brand new website. We've listened to your feedback and built a brand new site packed with information about the Hebrew University, about the British Friends, easy links to news and events/webinars, section for our groups, for study in Israel (and how to apply for a grant), and access to publications.

Booking tickets to events is easier than ever.

The website also provides links for self-care management of opt in preferences and opt out.

And now you can easily follow us on social media including Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube with quick links to a vast library of recordings of expert-speaker Hebrew University webinars.











Helping over 1,000 Students Overcome Hardship during Lockdown

In the early days of lockdown leading up to Pesach, thousands of Hebrew University students found themselves learning remotely and often isolated – or volunteering to help in providing support in the community around Jerusalem. Many of them, as well as their parents, lost their jobs, resulting in severe financial hardship. The British Friends of the Hebrew University joined a fundraising campaign led by Israeli Friends, Hebrew University Alumni and the University's leadership, leading to vital emergency grants for over 1,000 students. A generous response from UK donors to our Pesach 2020 Appeal was matched by BFHU discretionary funds doubling all local donations, the total sum being remitted to the Hebrew University for prompt distribution as needed.

On behalf of the Hebrew University and indeed the students themselves, thank you to those who supported our call for help. Below you will find notes of appreciation from some of the recipients:



"In these difficult times
of the Corona, we are studying from
home with ZOOM and all job opportunities
are at risk. I am teaching English with ZOOM.
The support I received helped me in this difficult
time to focus more on my assignments for the
University and will certainly help paying for
my school bills" Nimrod
(Education and Political Science)

"I am from a small Arab village, my parent's financial situation is difficult and the current crisis threatens a successful completion of my studies. However I am inspired to help others and give back to the community. Therefore, I decided to help combat the covid outbreak by volunteering in the testing labs where the lack of sufficient workforce exacerbates overtime as the virus spreads"

Rula (Medicine)

"Thanks to people
like you, I could continue
my studies with fewer concerns
on our economical situation. There
are no words that could describe my
huge gratitude towards you for
helping my family in this hard time.
I only wish for better days to come,
where I could help others just
like you helped me" Michael
(Computational Biology)

"Because of my mother's cancer illness, we've been really struggling to keep our heads above the water with our finances. I wanted to say thank you from the bottom of my heart, for the great aid that you have given me. This donation will be a great help for me as it can relieve me and my mother from our difficult situation that hit us this past year." Veronika (Linguistics & Asian Studies)



"The COVID-19 crisis has an impact on my family's finances, my mother had to close her small business at the beginning of the crisis, and short after that my father was forced in an unpaid leave. Helping me wasn't easy for them, but the crisis made it nearly impossible. I am again grateful for your donation. It gave me a breathing space to finish this semester with less worries.

Best wishes and good health" *Anna* (*Pharmacy*)

"I cannot work right now.

My father does not work because of the
Coronavirus, my mother does not work at all,
my brothers finished their studies with honour,
my brothers finished their studies with honour,
one became a dentist, and the other became a
one became a dentist, and the other became a
teacher. Words would never be enough to express
teacher. Words would never be enough to express
the students and having that you care about
the students and having you as a support for
the students and having you as a support for
them fills me with hope and motivation.
Best wishes" Zena (Pharmacy)

" I don't have financial support from my parents. When the Corona situation began, I was left with no income. This situation has put me on a hard spot. I am so thankful for your generosity. Thanks to the donation I will be able to maintain a stable financial situation this month, hopefully things will go back to normal soon. In the future I want to work as a nutritionist and help as many people as possible. Thanks again for your donation. I really appreciate it. Wish you all the best" Knan (Nutrition)

COVID REPORT

Hebrew University Scientists Develop Low Cost Portable Ventilator

The new device "AmboVent" was developed for countries that suffer shortage of ventilators amid the coronavirus pandemic. It was purchased by over 20 countries. The device, based on bag-valve mask ventilator used in ambulances, includes a robotic arm and a smart computer system.



The scientists successfully tested the tool in the Hebrew University's laboratories at Hadassah Ein Kerem Hospital.

Hebrew University Researchers Develop COVID-19 Diagnostic Test That's 10x Faster

Prof. Nir Friedman at Hebrew University's Institute of Life Sciences and School of Engineering and Computer Science and Prof. Naomi Habib at HU's Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Science have developed a faster and cheaper way to test of COVID-19 using materials commonly found in diagnostic labs.

Testing for COVID-19 currently involves extracting RNA molecules from a patient's swab sample to see whether they confirm the presence of the COVID-19 virus. The new method can do the same thing, but four-to-ten times faster. It's based on magnetic beads and works both robotically and manually. The robotic protocol was tested at Hadassah Hospital and is fully operational."

Another advantage to this new testing method is its low price. The test relies on materials that are readily available and easy to manufacture locally, making it significantly cheaper than imported kits. We've tested hundreds of clinical samples from Hadassah Hospital and our results were identical to those kits currently being used.

Hebrew University Alumni at the Front Lines: Combatting COVID-19 Worldwide

The Hebrew University-Hadassah Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine's International Master of Public Health (IMPH) currently has over 900 Alumni worldwide, and maintains an active Alumni network.

Holding key positions across the globe, IMPH Alumni are truly at the front lines of the pandemic, as they are involved in setting national or local policies, planning, coordinating and providing health services, as well as developing other responses to the Coronavirus crisis. Many of these Alumni reached out to their alma mater for professional advice and guidance.

In response, the Hebrew University-Hadassah Braun School, in partnership with MASHAV (Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), launched the BRAUN-MASHAV Global COVID-19 Forum.



To date, 12 webinars have taken place, featuring Israeli and international public health practitioners and researchers who share their experiences, successes and challenges fighting COVID-19. In addition, participants have the opportunity to ask questions, share their experiences and network.

Approximately 40 Alumni,

representing 15 countries, participate in each session. These have included members of the national task forces in Ghana, Kenya, and Nigeria; World Health Organization officials from Sierra Leone and North Macedonia; and other Alumni in decision-making capacities in Albania, Honduras, Colombia, Ethiopia, and Norway/Afghanistan – among others. Many are graduates of the Hebrew University thanks to Pears Foundation, lead partner and generous supporter of scholarships, Alumni activities and localised programmes.

Edmond De Rothschild Foundation Donates 15 Million NIS to Fund Corona Research at Hebrew University

The Edmond de Rothschild
Foundation has generously
provided the Hebrew University
with 15 million NIS to fund
coronavirus research. The
donation will fund 60 research
teams working to find a vaccine,
produce faster and cheaper testing

methods, and develop targeted treatments for those afflicted by COVID-19.

Prof. Asher Cohen, HU President: "Since the outbreak of the pandemic, many researchers and laboratories at the Hebrew University have been working tirelessly to develop a scientific solution to the corona challenge. Several of these efforts are already close to market".

Baroness Ariane de Rothschild: "We see science as a key tool to enhance human capabilities and it is symbolic that Israel, with its world-leading academic institutions and medical centres, would lead also on this front. The Rothschild family stands beside Israel and I am sure, together, we will overcome this crisis".

Miki Kliger, Rothschild Foundation Vice Chairman: "As in the past, the Rothschild family stands by the State of Israel during its difficult times. Alongside its day-to-day activities to reduce gaps in Israeli society through higher education, the Edmond de Rothschild Foundation is committed to helping the State of Israel and its residents through this current pandemic".

Prof. Reem Sari, HU Vice President for Research and Development: "The Edmond de Rothschild Foundation's generous donation will shorten the timeline for much needed corona diagnostic kits and treatments. I would like to personally thank all the researchers, lab assistants and students who have mobilised 24/7 to wipe out the virus".

Prof. Uriel Levy, Director of HU's Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology: "My deepest thanks to nanotechnology researchers at Hebrew University. They have been working around the clock to find diverse solutions for this global threat, efforts that will ensure a swift return to our pre-corona lives".

Cholesterol-Lowering Drug May Hold Key to Stopping COVID-19

Could a simple drug, that has been on the market for decades, be used to treat COVID-19? A research team led by Hebrew University's Prof. Yaakov Nahmias says that early research looks promising.

Over the last three-months, Nahmias and Dr. Benjamin tenOever at New York's Mount Sinai Medical Center have focused on the ways in which the SARS-CoV-2 (aka, the coronavirus) changes patients' lungs in order to reproduce itself. Their major finding is this virus prevents the routine burning of carbohydrates. As a result, large amounts of fat accumulate inside lung cells, a condition the virus needs in order to reproduce. This new understanding of SARS CoV-2 may help explain why patients with high blood sugar and cholesterol levels are often at a particularly high risk to develop COVID-19.



Prof. Yaakov Nahmias (r) and Dr. Benjamin tenOever

Viruses are parasites that lack the ability to replicate on their own, so they take control of our cells to help accomplish that task. "By understanding how the SARS-CoV-2 controls our metabolism, we can wrestle back control from the virus and deprive it from the very resources it needs to survive," Nahmias explained.

With this information in hand, Nahmias and tenOever began to screen FDA-approved medications that interfere with the virus' ability to reproduce. In lab studies, the cholesterol-lowering drug Fenofibrate (Tricor) showed extremely promising results. By allowing lung cells to burn more fat, Fenofibrate breaks the virus' grip on these cells, and prevents SARS CoV-2's ability to reproduce. In fact, within only five days of treatment, the virus almost completely disappeared.

"If our findings are borne out by clinical studies, this course of treatment could potentially downgrade COVID-19's severity into nothing worse than a common cold," Nahmias concluded.

Hebrew University Hosts Diplomatic Corps in Israel



Ambassadors from around the world visited and toured ELSC (Edmond & Lily Safra neuroscience research) laboratories and heard from University management about how the University is working to fight COVID-19, and more broadly about the University researchers direct.

For many of the Ambassadors this was their first time visiting the University.

President Rivlin Calls for Research Collaboration

President Reuven Rivlin visited the Brain Research Center at the Hebrew University in June. The President reiterated the need for collaboration between Israeli research institutes to find a vaccine for the coronavirus. He added "I have no doubt the government should bring together all the institutions that are working to fight coronavirus."

Addressing the researchers, Rivlin said "Combining them is critical. A merger of this kind could turn the State of Israel into the authority on dealing with the virus, particularly if we have additional waves of the disease ahead. We have the most wonderful people. Bring them together."





Catch up on the Hebrew University expert-speaker webinars

Unable to meet, unable to visit campus, Friends and guests worldwide have joined the 'new norm' digital world enjoying expert speakers on diverse topics. These have ranged from COVID-19 subjects – medical science research, impact on families, challenges to the global economy, innovation during the pandemic – along with other Hebrew University areas of expertise – autism, Jewish education, 3D printing, cannabinoid research.

Guests, often as many as 350 from many countries, commented not just on the quality

of presentations and the opportunity to pose questions but also a feeling of being part of a 'connected' international community during such difficult times.

On YouTube you can view any prior webinar, at your convenience. Access to these webinar video libraries is available on our website, www.bfhu.org where you will also find information about new monthly webinars both from the Hebrew University and the British Friends.



COVID-19, Metabolism and Your Lungs: Why You Should Care, and What We Are Going to Do About It

Hebrew University English Media



Tikkun Olam - Social Responsibility and Legal Aid

Hebrew University English Media



Covid-19: Entrepreneuring the Morning After, Featuring Dr. Amnon Dekel & Ayelet Cohen

Hebrew University English Media



Parents of Children with and without Disabilities in Corona Times: Preliminary Findings

Hebrew University English Media



The Day after COVID-19 Lock down: Needing to Focus on the Vulnerable

Hebrew University English Media



The Financial Implications of the Coronavirus Pandemic

Hebrew University English Media



Coronavirus and the Future of Immunotherapy

Hebrew University English Media

DIARY DATES... don't miss out

SEPTEMBER 2020

8

Hebrew University Agricultural Sciences International Masters graduation (on campus)

9

Webinar: Learning to Live with Autism. No Such Thing As One Size Fits All

Hebrew University Public Health International Masters graduation (on campus)

10

Webinar:

The Impact Revolution. Impact Investments and Social Entrepreneurship

16

Webinar: Life in the Balance. The Honey Bee Perspective

OCTOBER 2020

22

Honours Club: Cookery demonstration – Silvia Nacamulli

NOVEMBER 2020

Medical Group: Prof. Yuval Dor

Alumni Group: Webinar from the Hebrew University – in Hebrew

22

Albert Neuberger Memorial Lecture Prof. Simon Baron Cohen (on campus)

DECEMBER 2020

Honours Club Annual Chanukah 'meet our students' event

Young Professionals Chanukah gathering

Women's Group Chanukah party

FEBRUARY 2021

Alumni event

Joint event with UCL Institute of Jewish Studies: Treasures of the Hebrew University Center for Jewish Art

MARCH 2021

Legal Group guest speaker event

Ω

Sternberg Prizes Ceremony – in Interfaith Understanding (on campus)

9

Birk Prizes Ceremony – in Law and Agriculture, (on campus)

Medical group event – Hosting Hebrew University 'Tzameret' medical students

APRIL 2021

14-21

British Friends annual legacy mission to Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and The Hebrew University (in partnership with the Australian Friends of the Hebrew University)

MAY 2021

Legal Group Annual Dinner

21-26

International Board of Governors Gathering 2021 (includes the annual awards for academic achievements, hon. doctorate and hon. fellowship ceremonies)

JUNE 2021

Visit to the UK of Pears International Masters Alumni

For further details of all events including additional Hebrew University expert-speaker webinars, please go to: www.bfhu.org/events/

Sir Clive Callman z"l



His Honour Sir Clive Callman – a Circuit Judge and for 24 years Deputy High Court Judge in the Family Division – was arguably, ahead of his time, insisting in putting the child's needs at the heart of every divorce case that came before him.

Outside work, Sir Clive adored news, politics, economics, history and Israel. Not least he adored his family. Passionate about educational opportunity, he became a Senator of London University and a Governor of Birkbeck College London and the London School of Economics. Sir Clive offered decades of public and discreet voluntary service to both institutions and individuals.

Keenly interested in the Middle East, he was committed to trying to combat discrimination and political hatred. He wanted to help both Jewish and non-Jewish young people. Elected as a Governor of the Hebrew University in 1992, he also served on the Student Affairs Committee in the UK until his death. Sir Clive was involved in setting up the Sir John Balcombe research fund in Family Law, and The Lord Taylor of Gosforth project for research into Criminal Law. In addition he supported pioneering medical and scientific discoveries.

A keen advocate of religious tolerance, Sir Clive never forgot the circumstances of his arrival in Britain and those who helped him and his family set up their new life. It was his refugee experience and his efforts to obtain further education that informed Sir Clive's political views and desire to 'give back' and his imperative for the continuation of the Jewish people.

His Honour Sir Clive Callman was Knighted by the Queen Elizabeth II in 2012 for services to Law, Education and Charity.



Thanks to the generosity of our sponsor, the British Friends of the Hebrew University is privileged to offer an unmissable and exciting **FREE 8 Day Living Legacy visit to Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem**. Explore Jerusalem with its unique history and culture. Visit some of Israel's most interesting and historic places. Be inspired when you visit all four campuses of the Hebrew University, where you will meet some of the world's finest academics and brightest students. See for yourself research and innovation not usually accessible to tourists. Whether you travel as a couple, with friends or on your own, you are sure to meet like-minded people, make new friends and thoroughly enjoy the experience.

- Scheduled daytime flights from and to London
- Top class 5-star hotel
- Expert guided tours of Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and its environs in air-conditioned coaches with English speaking guides
- Delicious kosher cuisine at top restaurants
- Discover and be inspired by one of the world's top 100 universities, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Exclusive access to the Hebrew University's eminent teaching staff, researchers and enthusiastic students
- Relax in a safe, secure and welcoming environment
- Return travel date can be changed in advance for an extended holiday

For more information about the Mission contact Gill Benson on 020 8349 5757 or email gill.benson@bfhu.org

To qualify: you must be over 60, agree to participate in the full programme and willing to commit to a legacy to the University of £15,000 per person (£25,000 per couple).



Legacy Mission excludes Insurance. Programme and dates subject to change. Terms and conditions apply. British Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem Reg Charity no 209691 Reg Company No 06350828 Get online to follow exciting developments at the Hebrew University https://campaign.huji.ac.il

and at the British Friends www.bfhu.org

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If you are a UK taxpayer the government will add 25p to every £1 you donate to the BFHU at no cost to you. You must pay an amount of income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April one year to 5 April the next year) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that the charity of British Friends of the Hebrew University will reclaim on your gifts for that tax year. If you pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all your gifts, then it is your responsibility to pay any difference.

