

2022/23

British Friends of <sup>Since</sup> 1926  
The Hebrew University  
Our Future is Here

# FUTURE

LEADERSHIP FOR TOMORROW



# The Hebrew University in Numbers

## Technology Transfer YISSUM

|               |                                    |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>58</b>     | Years of transferring technologies |
| <b>10,900</b> | Patents                            |
| <b>3,050</b>  | Inventions                         |
| <b>1,140</b>  | Licensed Technologies              |
| <b>200</b>    | Spin-off Companies                 |

## Global Reach

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>256</b>   | Academic Agreements with Institutions in 45 Countries  |
| <b>110</b>   | Competitive Research Grants from the European Research Council Since 2007 > €200m              |
| <b>308</b>   | Postdoctoral Candidates from over 34 Countries   |
| <b>90</b>    | Student Exchange Programmes with 90 Institutions in 37 Countries, University and Faculty Level |
| <b>2,000</b> | Students Attending the Rothberg International School Annually from 80 countries                |

## Students

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>25,000</b> | All Students (includes students on special short-term courses) |
| <b>14,000</b> | Undergraduates   |
| <b>5,800</b>  | Master's Students  |
| <b>2,400</b>  | Doctoral Students  |
| <b>370</b>    | Preparatory Programmes (Mechinot)                              |
| <b>1,120</b>  | International Students   |
| <b>1,200</b>  | Other  |

## Teaching

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| <b>6</b>     | Campuses        |
| <b>7</b>     | Faculties       |
| <b>14</b>    | Schools         |
| <b>315</b>   | Departments     |
| <b>995</b>   | Faculty Members |
| <b>1,442</b> | Researchers     |
| <b>6,000</b> | Courses         |

## Awards of Excellence

|            |                                     |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>306</b> | Israel Prizes                       |
| <b>101</b> | Rothschild Prizes                   |
| <b>63</b>  | EMET Prizes                         |
| <b>15</b>  | Wolf Prizes                         |
| <b>8</b>   | Nobel Prizes                        |
| <b>1</b>   | Fields Medal in Mathematics         |
| <b>1</b>   | Abel Prize in Mathematics           |
| <b>1</b>   | Canada Gairdner International Award |
| <b>1</b>   | Turing Award in Computer Science    |
| <b>1</b>   | Shaw Prize in Mathematics           |

## Research

|              |                               |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>100</b>   | Research Centres              |
| <b>4,240</b> | Research Projects             |
| <b>6</b>     | Affiliated Medical Institutes |
| <b>40%</b>   | Israel's Biotech Research     |
| <b>4,242</b> | Research Grants               |

**Israel's leading centre of academic and scientific research**

## Rankings

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>1</b>     | <b>Israel</b> *                           |
| <b>77</b>    | <b>Worldwide</b> *                        |
| <b>1</b>     | <b>Israel</b> **                          |
| <b>195</b>   | <b>Worldwide</b> **                       |
| <b>24</b>    | <b>Mathematics</b> *<br>(Worldwide)       |
| <b>25</b>    | <b>Communications</b> *<br>(Worldwide)    |
| <b>30</b>    | <b>Law</b> *<br>(Worldwide)               |
| <b>51-75</b> | <b>Political Science</b> *<br>(Worldwide) |
| <b>51-75</b> | <b>Economics</b> *<br>(Worldwide)         |

\* Shanghai Jiao Tong Universities index with Shanghai Ranking Consultancy

\*\* QS Index



האוניברסיטה  
העברית  
בירושלים  
THE HEBREW  
UNIVERSITY  
OF JERUSALEM  
الجامعة العبرية  
في أورشليم  
القدس

*“We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.”*

Albert Einstein, Nobel Laureate, Hebrew University Founder

I'm honoured to be appointed BFHU Chairman, working with our trustees and accomplished professional team, building on the outstanding track record of the British Friends whose support for the Hebrew University dates back close to 100 years. Few such organisations have achieved so much and left such an indelible mark on humanity with award-winning research, visionary leadership, extraordinary Faculty and dedicated students.

Having visited the University for extended periods over the past year, I have been impressed by the energy, innovation and sense of purpose I found on campus.

Thank you for your support. We're all part of an international Hebrew University family of Friends whose concern is the University's ongoing success. I look forward to meeting you, both current and new friends to share the story of the Hebrew University as we head towards celebrating our centenary.



**Alan Jacobs, Chairman**

*British Friends of the Hebrew University*



In 1948, when Jerusalem was divided and Mount Scopus became inaccessible, teaching and research relocated across over 50 locations in Jerusalem and beyond. Such an abrupt upheaval might have meant the end of an extraordinary project: a University before a State. However – inspired by one of the great founders of the University, Albert Einstein – the Hebrew University entered a period of exceptional growth and development.

That spirit of fresh thinking and innovation still drives the Hebrew University today. After two very difficult years with Covid disrupting normal campus life, research and learning now flourish, major capital projects are on track, dignitaries and visitors are arriving in droves, and at all times the University's leadership has continued its responsibility to the world beyond the campus.

Over the past year, the city of Jerusalem has benefitted through collaboration with the local business eco-system. The University itself continues its pledge to increase and integrate minorities, absorb students and academics from Ukraine and to cooperate internationally, sharing knowledge and know-how. This includes Bahrain, the UAE and Morocco. All this while earning prestigious awards and increasing student numbers.

Locally, British Friends have been steadfast in their generosity, supporting a range of projects including

student scholarships and research programmes – many stories appear in this edition of FUTURE.

As we approach our 96th year, we welcome the appointment of Alan Jacobs as our new Chair, succeeding Isaac Kaye who in turn is appointed President. Alan was previously Chair of the Jewish Chronicle and a trustee of UJIA and UJS. He is currently a trustee of The Jacob Foundation, owner of the Jewish News, and founder and principal of London-based investment and advisory firm, Jacobs Capital. Alan is a law graduate of Queens' College, Cambridge and brings a wide range of skills and experience to the British Friends, both from the business and community worlds as well as deep personal and family connections to Israel; we all wish Alan well and express deepest gratitude to Isaac for decades of support and leadership.

I take this opportunity to thank you, our supporters, trustees and committed professional team for the collective effort of ensuring the continued excellence and leadership of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Read all about it here through the pages of FUTURE, or by visiting the HU campus where a warm welcome awaits.

**Nigel Salomon,  
Chief Executive**

*British Friends of the Hebrew University*



# What's New HU?

## Making a Better World Through Food Security



Twenty-seven professionals from 19 countries participated in a three-week MASHAV course hosted by the HU titled *Feeding the Future: Food Safety and Technology in Times of Global Change*.

MASHAV is the Agency for International Development Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel.

The participants hailed from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Commonwealth of Dominica, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Nepal, North Macedonia, Panama, St. Kitts & Nevis, Serbia, Thailand and Trinidad and Tobago.



## University of Illinois System and Hebrew University Launch Second Round of Joint R&D Teams



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and The University of Illinois System awarded \$200,000 to four new interdisciplinary research teams to drive innovations and advance collaboration between the universities.

The funded projects will focus on medical and agricultural breakthroughs that prevent and cure infectious diseases. The aim is to reduce antibiotic

resistance, prevent chronic tissue injuries, improve cell therapy and modify bitter tastes in foods while maintaining the healthy bitter compounds, as well as boost photosynthetic efficiency to increase crop yields.

"I am delighted to see a second successful round of applications," shared Oron Shagrir, The Hebrew University's Vice President for International Affairs. "This attests to the great potential of scientific collaboration between the University of Illinois System and Hebrew University. We look forward to growing a community of scientists who are dedicated to collaboratively applying innovative technologies to groundbreaking research," he added.

## Hebrew University Maintains ranking as Israel's Leading University - again!

The Hebrew University maintained its status as the leading academic institution in Israel and improved its overall world ranking from 90 to 77 in 2022. Further, HU was placed 17th worldwide in Mathematics and Communications and 30th in Law.

In Israel, HU was ranked first in Mathematics, Earth Sciences, Atmospheric Sciences, Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, Environmental Sciences, Water Resources, Food Sciences, Agriculture, Dentistry, Medical Technology, Economics, Law, Political Science, Communications and Public Policy.

Prof Asher Cohen, President of The Hebrew University, noted, "Academic and research excellence is part of HU's DNA. The amazing breakthroughs happening here will enable all of us to live better, healthier and, most likely, longer as well. HU's strong position helps our alumni pave the way to lead Israel to achievements on an international scale."



## Extending Women's Fertility & Reversing Aging in Human Egg Cells

Throughout much of the world, increasing numbers of women are delaying having their first child until they are in their late thirties, and even into their forties. At this age, their eggs are rapidly deteriorating and, even with IVF, their prospects of conception are far from guaranteed.



Reversing that deterioration is the ultimate goal of molecular biologist Dr Michael Klutstein, head of the Chromatin and Aging Research Lab in the Faculty of Dental Medicine at HU. This possibility has now come one step closer with recent research from his lab, carried out by PhD student Peera Wasserzug-Pash, in collaboration with clinicians from Hadassah Medical Center and Shaare Zedek hospitals. Their findings were published in *Aging Cell*.

It is the aging process that causes the failure of the system to keep these damaging elements repressed and inactive. In their paper, the researchers showed that anti-viral drugs reversed the process in mouse egg cells. There has also been similar success using genetic manipulation to insert two genes into the mouse egg cell DNA – the implanted genes produce enzymes which prevent the chain of events that leads to the activation of the damaging parts of the DNA. "Within a decade, I hope we will be able to increase fertility among older women using anti-viral drugs," shared Klutstein.



The daily business newspaper *The Marker* has issued its 40 under 40, 2021 – the most promising, innovative and entrepreneurial winners on the scene. Of the 40, 13 are Hebrew University Alumni.

## Nurturing Diversity and Inclusivity on Campus

During a short visit to London, Prof Mona Khoury-Kassabri, HU's Vice President of Diversity and Strategy, met with counterparts at leading UK universities, covering issues around diversity and strategic planning while exploring bilateral academic and research ties and opportunities for establishing student exchange programmes.

In addition to media interviews, Mona was guest speaker at a British Friends parlour meeting. The event, facilitated by Laura Marks OBE, co-founder of Nisa-Nashim and founder of Mitzvah Day, saw Mona speak openly about her diversity role at the Hebrew University and some good cause for optimism. "We are fortunate" said Mona, "that The Hebrew University recognises its responsibility to meaningfully give students the feeling that they belong and more broadly feel equal and not discriminated against, to feel that the University belongs to all of us". In her very candid style, Mona adds, "there is a saying, diversity is being invited to the party, inclusion is being invited to dance".



L to R: Alan Jacobs (BFHU Chair), Laura Marks, Prof Mona Khoury-Kassabri

Prof Khoury-Kassabri was recently ranked #3 in *Globes'* listing of Israel's 50 most influential women.

A yellow rectangular advertisement with a red pushpin at the top left. The text reads: "www.bfhu.org", "The Hebrew University President's Report 2022 is now available, with a wealth of information about the University's progress.", and "Visit our website above to read the full report." To the right is a graphic of the report cover, which features the year "2022" in large, stylized numbers and the Hebrew University logo.

## The Bezalel Index of Jewish Art has Now Accumulated 400,000 Images



Passover plate made in Ukraine, c1900

The **CJA (Centre for Jewish Art)** at The Hebrew University has announced that the largest recent additions to the Index were the results of a number of recent endeavours.

These include a research trip along the Volga River (supported by Dr Betsy Gidwitz), the results of an important research trip to Croatia (supported by the Keller Foundation), the images of the Gross Family Collection, Tel Aviv, and documentation of all Jewish cemeteries in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg and Hajdú-Bihar Counties in Hungary, provided by our colleagues in ESJF European Jewish Cemeteries Initiative.

The Index continues to be recognised as a global repository of images of Jewish culture.

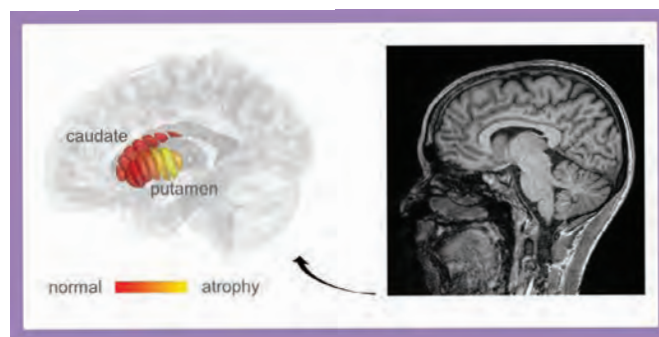
## Siblings of Children with Disabilities May Have Greater Cognitive Empathy

**Until now, there has been little research** about the positive effects of growing up with a sibling with disabilities. A new study published in *Child Development*, led by HU developmental psychology expert Prof Ariel Knafo-Noam and Dr Anat Perry, examines how growing up as a sibling of a child with disabilities may nurture empathy.



"Our findings indicate that siblings of children with disabilities may have greater cognitive empathy – that is, an understanding of others' thoughts and feelings – which is important as cognitive empathy is key for social skills," shared Yonat Rum, a postdoctoral researcher at HU and the University of Cambridge. The data showed that typically developing children who had a twin with disabilities scored higher in self-reported cognitive empathy than did typically developing children who did not have a special-needs twin. Contrary to predictions, no differences were found in emotional empathy and pro-sociality.

## Diagnosis of Early-stage Parkinson's Disease Now Possible



**Hebrew University researchers**, led by Prof Aviv Mezer, realised that the cellular changes in Parkinson's could possibly be revealed by adapting a related technique, known as quantitative MRI (qMRI). Their method has enabled them to look at microstructures within the part of the deep brain known as the striatum – an organ which is known to deteriorate during the progress of Parkinson's disease. Using a novel method of analysis, developed by Mezer's doctoral student, Elior Drori, biological changes in the cellular tissue of the striatum were clearly revealed. Moreover, they were able to demonstrate that these changes were associated with the early stages of Parkinson's and patients' movement dysfunction. Their findings were published 12 July 2022 in the prestigious journal *Science Advances*.

Drori further suggests that this type of analysis will enable identification of subgroups within the population suffering from Parkinson's disease – some of whom may respond differently to some drugs than others. Ultimately, he sees this analysis "leading to personalised treatment, allowing future discoveries of drugs with each person receiving the most appropriate."

## The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities elects ten new members

During the General Assembly of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities held in June 2022, ten new members were elected to the Academy, bringing the number of members to 143.

האקדמיה הלאומית הישראלית למדעים  
المجمع الوطني الإسرائيلي للعلوم والآداب  
THE ISRAEL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES



The five new Hebrew University members are

**Prof Shulamit Elizur, Hebrew Literature**

**Prof Michael Karayanni, Law**

**Prof Roger Kornberg, Molecular Biology**

**Prof Noam Nisan, Computer Science**

**Prof Ronit Ricci, Asian Studies, Comparative Religion**

Academy President Prof David Harel welcomed the new members, expressing his confidence that alongside their accomplishments in research and their excellence, they would contribute greatly to the Academy's work and enrich it with the best of their knowledge and experience.

## A World First: HU Engineers Enhance Cannabis Strain



Prof Alexander (Sasha) Vainstein

Throughout the world, the cannabis plant is gaining in popularity and legitimacy as a medical treatment for a broad range of illnesses. Now, researchers at the laboratory of Prof Alexander (Sasha) Vainstein at HU's Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment, supported by Mariana Bioscience Ltd, have successfully engineered a cannabis plant with higher levels of medically-important substances, such as THC.

Until now, there had been no way to tailor strains to produce certain cannabis substances or to alter the

ratio between them. According to Vainstein, "These study results will be valuable both to industry – to increase the yield of active substances, and to medical researcher — to cultivate and develop new strains for medical cannabis users." Vainstein added that more extensive experiments with the engineered plant are currently underway and should be available to cannabis industry leaders and medical researchers very soon.

## Hebrew University Professor Named New Head of the CERN Council

**CERN is a special place** where science and collaboration meet to answer some of the most fundamental questions about our world.

The CERN Council Geneva announced the election of Prof Eliezer Rabinovici as its 24th President.

Prof Rabinovici received his Ph.D. in high-energy physics at the Weizmann Institute of Science in 1974. In the following years, he worked as a research associate at Fermilab and at Lawrence Berkeley Radiation Laboratory, before returning to Israel and The Hebrew University as a senior lecturer in 1977, where he served as Director from 2005 to 2012.



"Throughout my 16 years as a member of the CERN Council, I have time after time been captivated by the commitment, collaboration, and knowledge of people who work together towards the same mission. I am honoured that the Council chose me as their next President, and thankful that I get the opportunity to serve CERN's scientific community, Member States and Associate Member States," said Prof Rabinovici.

Upon hearing the news, HU President Prof Asher Cohen congratulated Rabinovici, adding, "The election of Prof Rabinovici to President of the CERN Council is a badge of honour not only for Hebrew University but for the State of Israel and its institutes of higher learning."

## Hebrew University Professor Yuval Noah Harari Featured on 60 Minutes

**History professor Yuval Noah Harari** led a life of relative obscurity, teaching at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem until 2014, when he compiled his lectures and published a book, *Sapiens*, about the history of humankind. The book was originally published with the expectation that a couple of “history geeks” would find it interesting. Little did Harari know, *Sapiens* would go on to be translated into 65 languages and land on the New York Times bestseller list for 96 consecutive weeks, taking the world by storm and vaulting Harari among the world’s most influential public intellectuals.



Recently, 60 Minutes correspondent Anderson Cooper sat down with Harari to discuss his work, his life, and his now three best-selling books that brief readers on the history of mankind while proposing where the species could be headed in the future.

Watch the interview under NEWS on [www.bfhu.org](http://www.bfhu.org)

## Where were Herod the Great’s Royal Alabaster Bathtubs Quarried?

**From the Middle Bronze Age**, Egypt played a crucial role in the appearance of calcite-alabaster artifacts in Israel and the development of the local gypsum-alabaster industry. The absence of ancient calcite-alabaster quarries in the Southern Levant (modern day Israel and Palestine) led to the assumption that all calcite-alabaster vessels found in the Levant originated from Egypt, while poorer quality vessels made of gypsum were local products.

But a recent identification of a calcite-alabaster quarry in the Te’omim cave (in the Jerusalem hills), calls this hypothesis into question. A new study, recently published in the Nature journal *Scientific Reports*, scientifically refutes the hypothesis and, for the first time, allows the distinction between calcite-alabaster originating in Israel from that originating in Egypt. It

also confirms that calcite-alabaster objects, such as Herod the Great’s alabaster bathtubs, were actually quarried in Israel.



The research was conducted as part of Ayala Amir’s MA thesis at the Martin (Szusz) Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology at Bar-Ilan University in Israel, supervised by Prof Boaz Zissu and Prof Aren M. Maeir of Bar-Ilan University, and Prof Amos Frumkin of The Hebrew University.

## President Yitzchak Herzog announces the Princess Alice Scholarship

**On his recent visit to the UK** Israel’s President Herzog met Prince Charles at his family residence, Highgrove House and announced an Israeli nursing scholarship is to be named after the Prince of Wales’ grandmother, Princess Alice, who protected a Jewish family during the Nazi occupation of Greece.



The late Duke of Edinburgh’s mother will be recognised with a Compassion and Perseverance Scholarship at HU.

“What Princess Alice did – she saved the whole family,” Evy Cohen, whose grandmother, aunt and uncle were sheltered by the Princess, told *The Guardian* in 2019. Clearly I wouldn’t be alive, I wouldn’t be here, wouldn’t be born if it hadn’t been for her,” she added.



## Hebrew University Offers Emergency Aid to Students & Professors from Ukraine

To date, 41 Ukrainian academics and university students have been accepted to continue their studies at The Hebrew University after, in a show of solidarity, HU offered academic hosting for Ukrainian academic staff and students. Fifteen have already arrived at HU's Jerusalem and Rehovot campuses.

The University established its Emergency Aid Campaign for Ukrainian Researchers and Students to enable them to continue their academic studies and research, which had been halted due to the unfolding crisis.

Dr Anastasiia Zinevych recently arrived in Israel. She and her husband decided to leave Ukraine after bombs fell nearby their home. "All we took with us were two laptops and a copy of my husband's poetry. I'm not Jewish, my husband is, but I felt such gratitude for this country and to Hebrew University for taking us in."



"Let us not close our eyes or ignore what is happening in Ukraine. As more resources become available, we hope to bring more Ukraine scientists and students to our research centers at Hebrew University. It is our moral duty," stated HU President Prof Asher Cohen.

When HUJI student Yoni Shrits joined a humanitarian mission to Ukraine a few months ago, he noticed that many problems at the Polish-Ukrainian border weren't being dealt with. For example, there were not enough Ukrainian and Russian speaking volunteers present. Back in Israel, Yoni recruited volunteers and donations through Facebook and organised another delegation to the border, to address exactly these needs. To honour his outstanding commitment, Yoni has been awarded HU's Rector's Prize.



## Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy Addresses HU

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed HU in a live speech from Kyiv on 23 June. The speech was broadcast on the university's social media channels and was followed by a Q&A with students and staff.



In his remarks, HU President Prof Asher Cohen welcomed Zelenskyy, saying that "[Zelenskyy's] address to the HU community is a seamless continuation of our policy to not remain indifferent when innocent people are killed, families are destroyed, and life is put on hold by an unjust and unnecessary war."

Zelenskyy was optimistic about Ukraine's candidacy for European Union membership; "We're moving towards a new future, closer to the European family. Soon we will be part of that family. This is for our children – to become a European state that will be part of the EU. This will provide us with strong protection."



## New Liquid Biopsy Detects Local Immune Activity

**Currently, the main way** to test our immune system's health is a blood test that counts immune (white blood) cells in the body. If the number comes out higher than normal, it may mean there's an infection in the body that the immune system is fighting off. However, these blood tests often fail to catch immune system activity in the body's remote tissues, such as those found in bone marrow, lymph nodes and other organs. In those cases, patients must follow-up with invasive measures, such as biopsies and expensive and potentially harmful imaging modalities such as PET/CT scans and MRI's. And even then, such advanced testing doesn't always detect the problem.

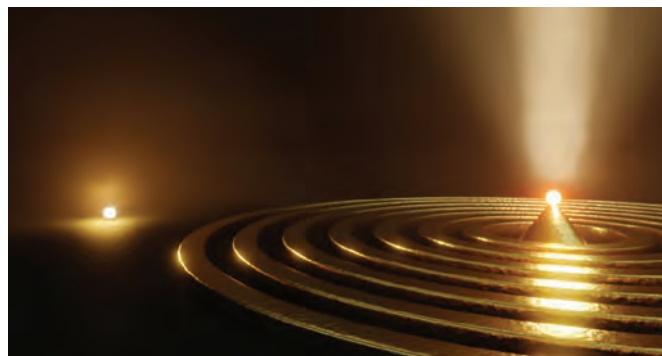


Now, a group of scientists, led by HU MD/PhD student Ilana Fox-Fisher and Prof Yuval Dor at HU's Institute for Medical Research-Israel Canada (IMRIC) have developed a novel method to monitor remote immune processes within those remote tissues and organs. "We're hopeful this new blood test will give clinicians a more accurate picture of the state of their patient's health" concluded Fox-Fisher.

## Keeping Data Secure on the Internet: Quantum Encryption Advances at HU

**Quantum computers will revolutionise** our computing lives. For some critical tasks they will be mind-bogglingly faster and use much less electricity than today's computers. However, and here's the bad news, these computers will be able to crack most of the encryption codes currently used to protect our data, leaving our bank and security information vulnerable to attacks. Currently, most computer security relies on mathematical manipulations that, at present, ensure a very high level of security – it would take a regular computer billions of years to break one of those codes. However, in our quantum future, new methods of encryption that rely on the laws of physics, will need to be developed.

One fruitful approach is to use the quantum properties of single photons (particles of light) to securely encrypt a message so that any attempt to hack it is immediately detectable by both the sender and recipient. However, getting a suitable source of single photons has been an immense challenge. Now, a team of researchers, led by Prof Ronen Rapaport and Dr Hamza Abudayyeh of the Racah Institute of Physics at The Hebrew University, together with Prof Monika Fleischer, Annika Mildner and others at the University of Tübingen in Germany, has achieved a significant breakthrough, bringing us closer to a simple and efficient method of quantum.

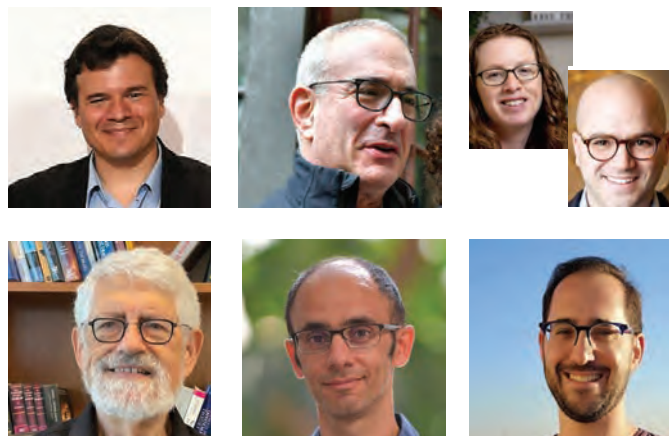


The team at HU developed a system that uses fluorescent crystals in the form of specks so tiny that special microscopes are needed to see them. Known as quantum dots, each dot measures much less than a thousandth of the width of a human hair. A laser beam shone at the quantum dot causes it to fluoresce and emit a stream of single photons.

The team is currently improving their device to provide an even more reliable and efficient stream of single photons that could be used in a wide range of quantum technologies.



## Awards! Awards! Awards!



Clockwise from top left

**Prof Pablo Jarillo-Herrero** MIT physics professor, won the 2022 Dan Maydan Prize for Nanoscience Research for his pioneering work on two-dimensional nanomaterials.

**Prof Joshua Angrist** and Guido Imbens, along with David Card, was awarded the 2021 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences for methodological contributions to the analysis of causal relationships, and empirical contributions to labour economics, respectively.

**Drs Moran Yassour & Haitham Amal** respectively at the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics and HU's Institute for Drug Research and School of Pharmacy, have been awarded the Krill Prize for Excellence in Scientific Research.

**Prof Haim Sompolinsky** of HU is the first Israeli to win the prestigious Gruber Neuroscience Prize for his seminal contributions to the fields of computational and theoretical neuroscience.

**Dr Shlomi Kotler** whose groundbreaking efforts were awarded the 2021 Breakthrough of the Year prize by the magazine Physics World for advancing humanity's understanding of quantum systems.

**Moshe Shenfeld** computer science PhD candidate at HU Wins Prestigious Apple AI Fellowship, one of only 15 awardees worldwide.

Two Hebrew University European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant recipients:

**Dr Yonit Hochberg** Faculty of Mathematics & Sciences. Project: Light Dark Matter: New Directions for Theory and Detection.

**Dr Mor Nitzan** School of Computer Science and Engineering. Project: Decoding the Multi-facets of Cellular Identity from Single-Cell Data.

## The Hebrew University of Jerusalem community mourns the passing of Mrs Lily Safra (z"l)

Mrs Lily Safra z"l, who headed the Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation for over two decades after the passing of her beloved husband, Edmond J. Safra, was a distinguished philanthropist, humanitarian and patron of the arts.

Her tremendous support enabled the Hebrew University of Jerusalem to significantly expand its research capacity, whether through endowing the science campus at Givat Ram, naming it in her husband's memory as the Edmond J. Safra campus, or through her leadership gift to establish the Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences (ELSC).



Lily Safra, together with her husband, also granted educational scholarships to thousands of young Israelis from economically disadvantaged backgrounds through the International Sephardic Education Foundation (ISEF), creating a new generation of leaders across Israeli academia and beyond.

In tribute to her achievements and her service to the Hebrew University, Israel, and humanity, Mrs Lily Safra was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Hebrew University in 2005.

Mrs Safra passed away on 9 July, surrounded by family and friends. She is survived by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, to whom she was always deeply devoted.

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem community, including our Friends around the world, mourns the passing of Mrs Lily Safra (z"l), and sends deepest condolences to the Safra family.

# YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

STUDENT  
STORIES

## **Liora Lederman – Fellows Programme from Cambridge University.**

My time so far at The Hebrew University has been incredibly valuable and fulfilling, academically, professionally, linguistically, and for my own personal growth and development. Although moving abroad alone seemed a daunting experience at first, my time at HU has really shaped me and enabled me to develop in ways I could never have imagined.

During the semester, I have gained a fascinating insight into Israeli life and culture, become fluent in Hebrew, and been provided with a fantastic internship opportunity relevant to my field of study and career path.

I would like to thank British Friends of The Hebrew University for making this once in a lifetime experience possible for me. I can't wait to start the next semester.

**Liora Lederman**



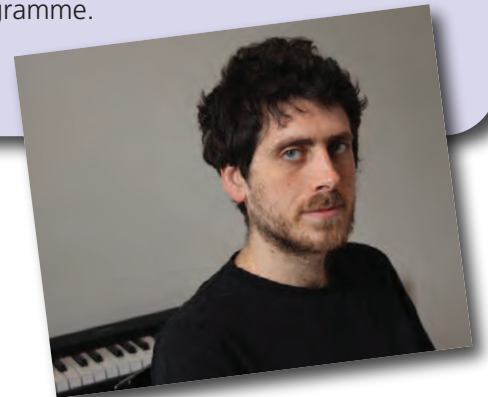
## **Uri Agnon – Composition PhD candidate the University of Southampton**

I am a BA and MA graduate of The Hebrew University currently in my fourth year of PhD studies at the University of Southampton. My practice-led PhD in composition looks at the relationship between activism and contemporary music-making.

I have composed during my studies half a dozen solo and chamber pieces, As part of my PhD I endeavour to theorise these works as well as music by others.

The support I have received from British Friends of The Hebrew University, alongside other scholarships and fellowships, has been crucial in allowing me to take part in this programme.

**Uri Agnon**



## **Yoav Wynne – Bladon Scholarship – Year Abroad from Birmingham University**

I have greatly enjoyed the challenges faced in my education at The Hebrew University, but have also pushed myself to explore the nature and culture of Israel outside of Jerusalem. I have taken almost every opportunity to experience different parts of the country and experience the rich history that Israel has to offer.

Looking back, I would not change a single thing of my time in Israel and at HU. I feel a lot more connected to the country and know my way around the streets of Jerusalem now, something I'll never lose. I'll be back as soon as I can, but for now I'm reminiscing with the photos and friends I made last year.

I enjoyed every minute of the exchange and am incredibly grateful to British Friends of The Hebrew University for their support in my wish to study Arabic.

**Yoav Wynne**

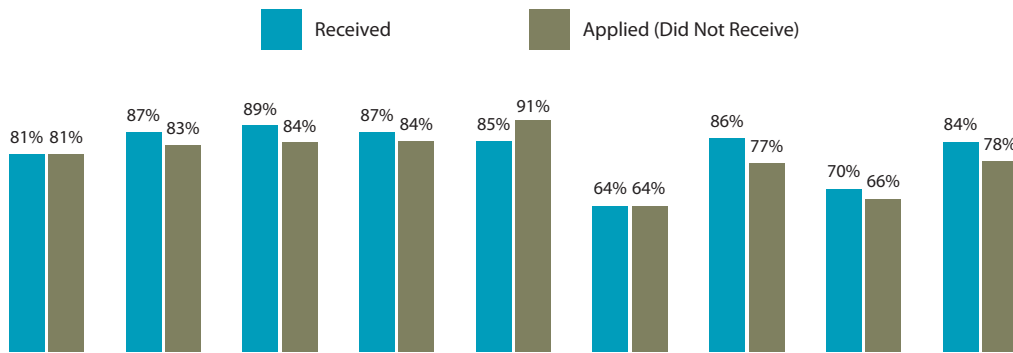


# Measuring the Impact of Financial Aid

Every year the Dean of Students office allocates needs-based financial aid to over 2,000 students (about half of the applicants who in turn represent almost a quarter of first year undergraduates). Until a partnership was

established with Social Finance Israel (SFI), it was not possible to reliably measure the social and financial impact of this aid. The Hebrew University is the first Israeli institution of higher education to carry out such a study.

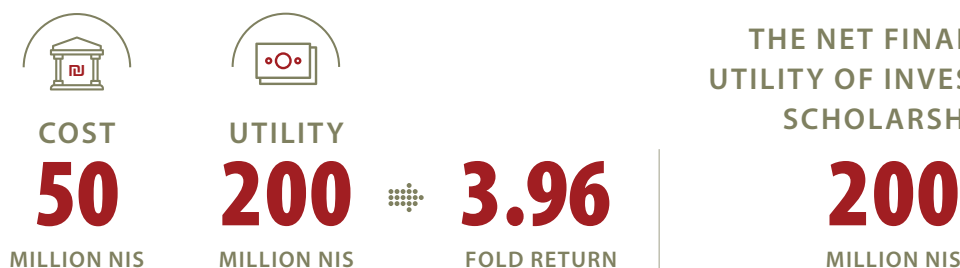
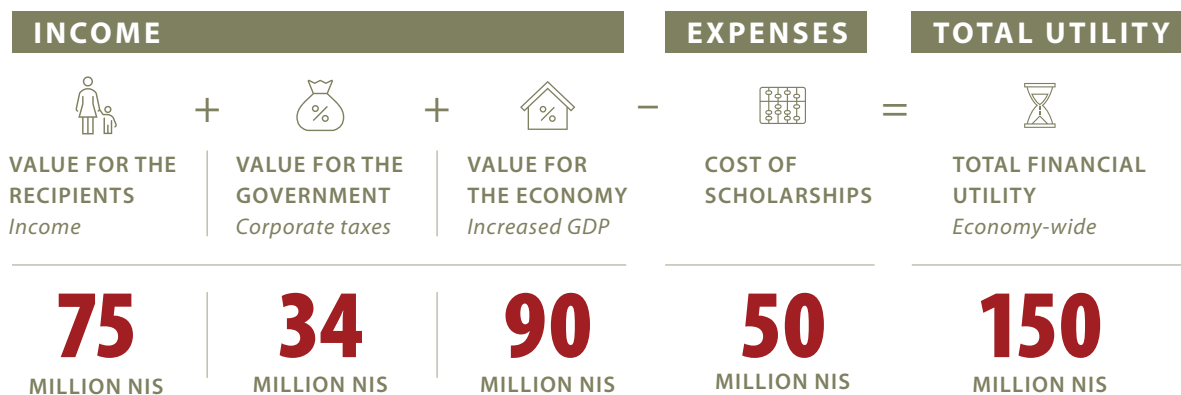
## A COMPARISON OF GRADUATION RATES BETWEEN STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED AID AND APPLICANTS WHO WERE NOT AWARDED AID (CONTROLLED FOR INCOME)



### THE BOTTOM LINE: SCHOLARSHIPS MAKE FINANCIAL SENSE

While it makes sense that students who are helped to graduate will increase their income, pay more taxes, and increase GDP, this study provided, for the first time, numbers to back up this claim. While 50 million NIS went towards need-based scholarships, the potential value created during these years, based on the recipients predicted income, will be 200 million NIS – translating into a 3.96-fold return.

## THE NET FINANCIAL UTILITY OF SCHOLARSHIPS



# Scholarships Funded by Generous Donations to our Medical Group Annual Appeal

STUDENT  
STORIES



Dear donors of the British Friends Medical Group.

I am currently in my final days of my second year of Hebrew University medical school. The past school year has been the most fascinating year I have experienced in my academic studies. For the first time I started studying anatomy and preparing for my clinical studies at an in-depth and high level and I feel that this year I acquired knowledge to an extent I did not know I was capable of.

I am looking forward to the next school year which will also be my final year in pre-clinical studies before moving on to studying in clinical rounds where I will finally get my first real exposure to the world of medicine. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to British Friends of The Hebrew University for your continuous support which helps me tremendously and allows me to focus on my studies towards becoming a doctor.

**Sincerely, Devora Amar**



Dear donors of the British Friends Medical Group.

I am in my internship year at Sorokahospital in Be'er Sheva. I am enjoying my time here and plan to continue my residency in (probably) internal medicine next year.

I definitely feel like a part of the staff and am happy to learn and contribute in the best way I can.

Thank you for everything you have given me, allowing me to get to this stage in my life.

**Sincerely, Ganit Elmaliach**

Dear donors of British Friends Medical Group.

I'm halfway through my internship year in Shamir (Assaf HaRofeh) hospital. I finished medical school last October, passing final exams with great success.

Last March I married Eizabeth, my partner of the last 6 years. Currently, I'm doing a rotation in orthopaedics and enjoying it thoroughly; I hope to be accepted into a residency program in this field after I finish my internship.

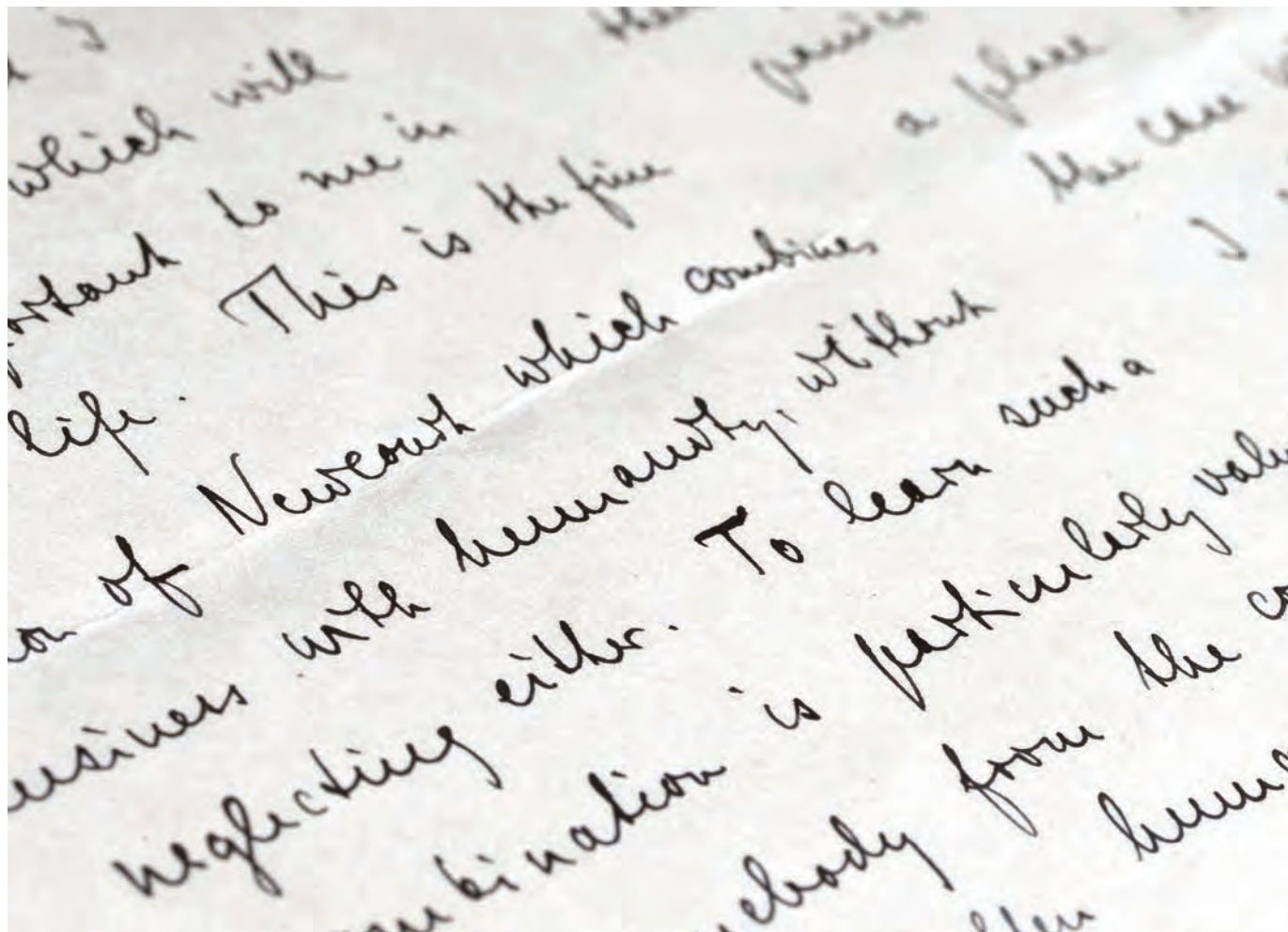
Six months from now, I will be able to practice medicine in Israel with a permanent license.

**Sincerely, Gilad Neshet** (soon to be M.D)





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



For more than 200 years we have proudly lent our support to the communities in which we operate, always aiming to combine business with humanity, without neglecting either.

Rothschild & Co Wealth Management provides an objective long-term perspective on investing, structuring and safeguarding assets, to preserve and grow the wealth of some of the world's most successful families, entrepreneurs, foundations and charities.

Nick Barran Head of Business Development, UK Wealth Management  
020 7280 5000 or [nick.barran@rothschildandco.com](mailto:nick.barran@rothschildandco.com)

[rothschildandco.com](http://rothschildandco.com)

*Extract from 1924 letter from Siegmund Warburg to Lionel and Anthony de 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.



**Founded in 1964, Yissum serves as a bridge between cutting-edge academic research and a global community of entrepreneurs, investors, and industry.**

## Lenses as Thin as 1/1000 of a Hair

New, cheap, lightweight flat lenses – around a thousandth of the thickness of a human hair – will be making their move from research labs to our shops and homes.



Currently, there are several kinds of flat-lens technologies available. However, the challenge is knowing which version is best suited to a specific application. This problem has been solved by Prof Uriel Levy, Director of HU's Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, together with postdoc student Dr Jacob Engelberg. They established a standard method to compare flat-lens technologies and designs, and published their findings in the leading journal *Nature Photonics*. "Adopting the standardised characterisation methods that we've proposed will help this field progress," Levy shared.

## The Future of Meat is Here



Israeli cultured meat company Future Meat Technologies has raised \$320 million in a funding round, bringing the company's total worth to \$600 million. U.S. food giants Tyson Foods and ADM, are expected to be part of an upcoming round.

Future Meat's technology is based on the work of its chief scientist, Prof Yaakov Nahmias. What's unique about the process is that unlike most artificially grown meat, it does not require the expensive use of stem cells.

## Kinoko Tech Wins HU 2022 Asper Prize for Emerging Startups

Kinoko Tech is the 2022 winner of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Asper Prize for Emerging Startups. Founded in 2019 by Dr Jasmin Ravid, Dr Daria Feldman and Hadar Shohat, Kinoko Tech develops fermentation products based on fungal mycelium that grows on legumes and grains, offering a solution for alternative proteins.



L to R: Dr Amnon Dekel, Dr Jasmin Ravid of Kinoko Tech, Prof Asher Cohen and Mrs Gail Asper

The NIS100,000 (\$29,000) cash prize was awarded by ASPER-HUJI Innovate – the centre of innovation at HU, created to nurture an entrepreneurial spirit amongst students, researchers and alumni at the University.

Forty-five start-up companies participated in the competition from which five finalists presented their startups ideas to a panel of members from HU's 2022 Board of Governors. During the course of the competition, entrepreneurs met with prominent investors from Israel's leading venture capital funds to receive feedback and improve their chances to raise capital. Those same investors picked the five finalists.



## Vitalunga Creates Novel Oral Drug to Enable Disease-free Aging

Vitalunga, the biotech startup based on the research led by Prof Einav Gross and Prof Shmuel Ben-Sasson of The Hebrew University's Faculty of Medicine, has developed a novel oral drug that aims to treat and prevent aging-related diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. While many successes have been made to extend lifespan in aging adults, disease-free aging has remained a challenge. Yissum announced that the novel drug has the potential to remarkably improve the quality of life of aging adults; Vitalunga is currently raising funds in order to begin pre-clinical trials.



"Prof Ben-Sasson and Prof Gross's findings have a high significance

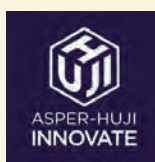
for the global aging population," said Dr Itzik Goldwasser, CEO of Yissum. "This milestone will bring the start-up one step closer to minimising the unbearable burden that aging-related diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's have on individuals, their families and the health care system as a whole"

## ASPER-HUJI Innovate Wins Prestigious International Prize

ASPER-HUJI Innovate – The Hebrew University's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship – won a prestigious international prize at the annual conference of the Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers in Higher Education (GCEC). The awards are designed to showcase and celebrate the very best of university entrepreneurship and we are thrilled that ASPER-HUJI Innovate won *Outstanding Emerging Entrepreneurship Center*, sharing the impressive title with Yale University and East Carolina University.

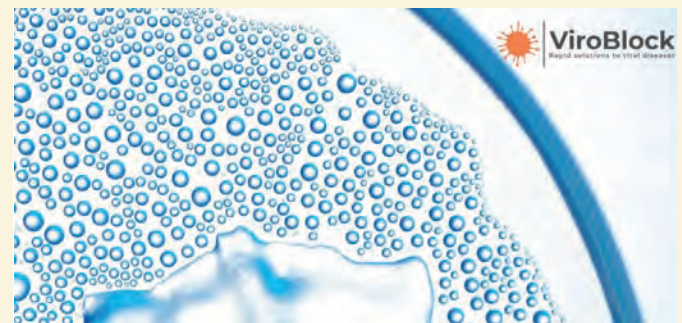


The GCEC includes 300 universities from around the world. The awards were announced during the GCEC conference in Baltimore, hosted by Loyola University Maryland and the University of Baltimore.



## Viroblock, a Hebrew University Startup, Announces Preliminary Success of Anti-viral Drug Platform

"Currently, there are no efficient, validated platforms for rapidly generating anti-viral drugs," says ViroBlock CEO and Founder Isaiah (Shy) Arkin, who is also an HU professor of biological chemistry in the Alexander Silberman Institute of Life Sciences. ViroBlock is working on a promising drug candidate for COVID-19 using an approach that can be duplicated with most other important viruses."

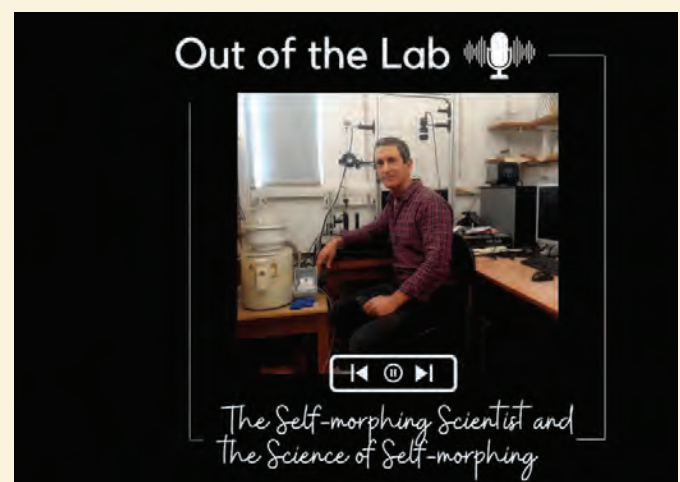


According to a new study conducted by pharma research company Evotec, ViroBlock's new technology platform demonstrated the potential to rapidly provide solutions for treating current and emerging viral threats, including COVID-19 and variants, influenza, Zika, West Nile, and Hepatitis B.

"With our propriety technology, ViroBlock can identify targets in a new viral threat (or variant), develop inhibitors against it and determine the resistance potential of the virus against the new drug, all at an unprecedented pace," Arkin says.

## Out of the Lab

Welcome to Yissum's podcast series – Interesting and entertaining episodes from faculty leaders currently available on our website [www.bfhu.org](http://www.bfhu.org) (news section)



# Jerusalem comes to London...

"An intimate and inspiring evening, once again meeting local and Hebrew University friends", is how 150 guests described the British Friends gala dinner at Claridge's.



L to R: Shy Arkin, Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, HE Mrs Tzipi Hotovely Israel's Ambassador to the UK, Alan Jacobs BFHU Chair

Themed *Better World*, guests mingled with early career researchers from the Hebrew University working on challenges facing the global community, health, environment, nutrition, civil society, peace.

Under the auspices of Tony Page, chef Yuval Shany, 'the face of modern Israeli cuisine' treated guests to a variety of exotic tastes and aromas.

In his short welcome address, newly appointed British Friends Chair Alan Jacobs added "few such organisations have achieved so much and left such an indelible mark on humanity with award-winning research, visionary leadership, extraordinary Faculty and dedicated students. This is in no small part due to the dedication of Isaac Kaye whose support for The Hebrew University spans seven decades. I know that we will continue to benefit from his unparalleled experience as British Friends President".

Screened messages included HU President Prof Asher Cohen, Chairman of the HU International Board Dan Schlessinger and Israel's President Yitzchak Herzog. Other videos shared the history of The Hebrew University and the world class *Research for a Better World*, the fundraising campaign for the evening.

Thank you to everyone for supporting *Research for a Better World* (see page 19)n



L to R: Prof Shy Arkin, Dr Jonathan Bohbot, Alan Jacobs, Dr Einat Albin, Dr Rana Eseed, Prof Nir Bar-Gil, Nigel Salomon



L to R: Lord Pannick QC, Embassy spokesperson Ohad Zemet, Ambassador Hotovely



Chef Eyal Shany



# Research for a Better World

Thank you to our gala dinner guests and new donors for continued investment in new young faculty, a critical asset of The Hebrew University which helps maintain international excellence.

At the core of The Hebrew University's extraordinary array of innovation and scholarship are the scholars who make it possible. Each year the University welcomes over 50 new researchers encompassing the full spectrum of academic fields in which it excels into its ranks.

The Hebrew University invests significant efforts in recruiting the most promising Israeli young minds, while seeking to enrich and further diversify its research and teaching approaches by hiring top scholars from abroad and from among groups historically underrepresented in Israeli academia.

Let's meet two of the latest crop of great researchers.

## Dr Daniel Sharon

**Solving Global Warming, One Battery at a Time**

Dr Daniel Sharon joined the Institute of Chemistry at the Hebrew University following his postdoctoral studies – on a Fulbright scholarship – at the Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering of the University of Chicago while also carrying out research at the Material Science Division at Argonne National Laboratory.



Dr Sharon is researching ways to pivot away from liquid batteries to solid-state batteries. The use of solids reduces the volatility and explosivity of molecules. This means that they are significantly safer, thus allowing for their use in much higher energy technologies.

The greater the capacity we have for storing energy, the less vulnerable the world is to climate change and the havoc it wreaks, and any breakthrough brings us a step closer to clean energy.

*"I dream of turning Israel into a driving force in the production and storage of green energy. We need it in Israel. We need it around the globe. And I believe we can do it."*

Affiliation: Institute of Chemistry, Faculty of Science.

## Dr Aya Ben-Yakov

**Experience & Memory in the Brain**

How are real-life experiences transformed into discreet memories and how are those memories stored and retrieved? During her postdoctoral studies, Dr Aya Ben-Yakov made a breakthrough discovery: revealing how the brain transforms experience into long-lasting memories. She uncovered the role of the hippocampus (the region of the brain central to memory formation and imagination) in segmenting our continuous everyday experiences into distinct events for storage in long-term memory.



At her lab in the Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences (ELSC), Dr Ben-Yakov is employing a range of naturalistic stimuli (movies, stop-motion, and animation) to illuminate the basis of human memory formation and organisation. She also plans to use fMRI data to explore fundamental properties of hippocampal function and their contribution to ongoing experience.

*"I am constantly amazed at the link between the brain and our personal memory of events. My goal is to learn how we encode real-life events that unfold over time and store them in our memory."*

Affiliation: Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences.

# Thank You British Friends, from the Faculty of Law

On behalf of The Clinical Legal Education Center at the Faculty of Law, we take this opportunity to acknowledge the support of British Friends of The Hebrew University and express our deepest appreciation.

CLEC's efforts are touching thousands of lives today, assisting the unprivileged in their struggles to attain their legitimate rights, in the eight clinics we are currently operating. These efforts are allowing disadvantaged individuals and communities accessibility to justice and the fulfillment of their rights. The CLEC's team is extremely proud to undertake this important task, while nurturing young minds and their commitment to social justice among its student participants.

In the 2021/22 academic year, the Clinical Legal Education Center continued to be a leading player in hands-on legal action that benefits underprivileged populations, and in educating law students by

exposing them to the practical realities of law 'on the ground' and developing their understanding of how the law impacts the most marginalised and vulnerable among us.

**Eight Clinics:** Representation of Marginalised Populations; Criminal Justice; International Human Rights; Rights of Youth at Risk; Economic Development of Women; Innocence Project; Rights of People with Disabilities; and Multiculturalism and Diversity. In 2022/23 we are again happy to open the Clinic on Human Rights in Cyberspace.

**Students:** A total of 145 students participated in the Clinics, helping hundreds of families, individuals and groups to exercise, defend and realise their rights. We would like to share with you our achievement and successes story at the beginning of 2023. We look forward to our ongoing partnership with British Friends of The Hebrew University and to the continuation of our strong friendship and warm ties.



*International Masters students come to the Hebrew University to gain world-class knowledge and skills, later using their new-found expertise back home to improve health, nutrition, food supply and general living conditions. In the past 40+ years, over 1,000 graduates have come from some 100 countries.*

STUDENT  
STORIES

## Aatish Gurung – Nepal

I aim to feed the rural poor in Nepal. My academic degree and profession has been instrumental in positioning myself as a rural development activist and I have worked with rural communities in different areas, with a positive response. I want to return to Nepal to implement the many innovative technologies I will learn in Israel, to establish and promote research-oriented, sustainable farming in Nepal and to engage in agriculture for the economic development of the nation. I have found Israeli people energetic and polite and I have been impressed by their work in rural areas. Working with them has built my confidence and motivation to complete my post-graduate study at Hebrew University and I aspire to apply for this programme as well.

## Julian Limantara – Indonesia

I want to improve agriculture in my country, so I did my BSc. in Agroecotechnology in Diponegoro University, where I had several projects: orchid tissue culture, hydroponic cultivation, bacteria isolation, crop cultivation research with LED light, PCR and DNA electrophoresis to prepare and support my knowledge for my master's degree programme. I believe that Israel is the leader in agriculture, especially in technology and genetics, so it is very interesting for me to go to Israel to learn agriculture. In the future, I hope I can maintain agricultural systems in my country, which consist of technology and cultivating systems, so I can improve the lives of farmers in Indonesia.

**We remain grateful to Pears Foundation for their significant ongoing support for international scholars in public health, agricultural sciences and Glocal (local community development).**

**Pears  
Foundation**



## The Alumni Association helps to:

- Promote close relationships between alumni and the University
- Forge connections among alumni
- Build a community that supports and contributes to the University's academic and research activities
- Facilitate mentorships between alumni and the student population

Connect internationally at <https://alumni.huji.ac.il>

or Register at [www.bfhu.org/opt-in](http://www.bfhu.org/opt-in)



**Connect** – HUJI Connect allows you to both reconnect with old classmates as well as enabling you to utilise the trusted Hebrew University environment to expand your professional network

**Give back** – Introduce, employ and offer to act as a mentor to our graduating students

**Expand** – Leverage your professional network to get introduced to people you should know

בוגריה העברית  
האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים  
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM



# Follow Us on Social Media

There are so many ways to connect!

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|  | LinkedIn /BFHU1925                                     |
|  | Website <a href="http://www.bfhu.org">www.bfhu.org</a> |

**British Friends of The Hebrew University**  
Our Future is Here

# New Buildings and Projects

## The Kennedy Leigh Research Complex for Ecosystem Services in Agriculture

This special research complex will support efforts to deal with growing global challenge of understanding and maintaining the delicately balanced ecological system – 75% of crops worldwide rely largely on pollinations by insects and other animals – in turn a component of the continuity of human life.



The facility has profound impact for the work in multi-disciplinary research undertaken at the Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment in Rehovot.

We are enormously grateful to the Kennedy Leigh Charitable Trust for their decades of support to The Hebrew University.

## Hujitech Hi-tech Park



Hujitech Hi-tech Park is a revolutionary project, a bridge between research and academia and Jerusalem's thriving innovation eco-system, three buildings comprising some 150,000m<sup>2</sup> expecting to create some 5000 new jobs.

This exciting new venture, with construction already underway, is the first such hi-tech park on any Israeli university campus, cementing The Hebrew University as a leader in technology and innovation. Located on the Edmond J. Safra campus, companies already present cover high-tech, cyber, biotechnology, nanotechnology, medicine and pharma.

## The Barry Skolnick Biosafety Level 3 National Laboratory

The cornerstones have been laid for this facility of national importance.



Since the onset of the Coronavirus, The Hebrew University has been developing diagnostic screenings, therapeutic treatments and vaccines to prevent and minimise the disease. But essential to battling such viruses is the ability to conduct research that involves direct contact with the live virus without infecting those engaged in the research or the surrounding environment.

The Hebrew University's Barry Skolnick Biosafety Level 3 (BSL3) National Laboratory will provide a facility fully equipped to provide necessary protection to its researchers. No other civilian or academic biosafety level 3 exists in Israel – putting the Hebrew University at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19 and future pandemics.

The BSL3 is located on The Hebrew University's medical campus adjacent to the Hadassah Medical Center in Ein Kerem, Jerusalem.

## The André Cohen Deloro Building for Computational Medicine



Always at the cutting-edge of research, the Faculty of Medicine has embarked on a major new initiative – the establishment of the Center for Computational Medicine bridging the gap between data science and patient care replacing the ‘one size fit all’ approach with data-driven personalised health solutions’. This facility will constitute the most advanced focal point in medicine in Israel, radiating its influence throughout the country, and establishing Israel at the forefront of global leadership in biomedical research and treatment.

## The Justice Mishael Cheshin Center for Advanced Studies in the Faculty of Law

Housed on the third and fourth floor of the Baron de Hirsch Meyer Building, The Justice Mishael Cheshin Center for Advanced Legal Studies unites all advanced academic learning in law by graduate students and junior researchers in a spacious, open and light-filled facility. Established by the Faculty of Law in partnership with the Cheshin Family in 2016, the building is a testament to the work of former Deputy Supreme Court President and Hebrew University graduate, Mishael Cheshin and his lifelong dedication to judicial activism. The inauguration of this first-class facility in the presence of the Cheshin family, took place during the 2022 international Board of Governors gathering.



## NEQST Innovation Building

The Hebrew University is a known leader in the fields of nano and quantum science. To leverage the potential synergy and provide cutting-edge infrastructure to each, the University is embarking on a bold initiative to create a new home for the Quantum Information Science Center together with the Harvey M. Krueger Family Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology. The NEQST (Nanoscale Quantum Science & Technology) Innovation Building is co-locating those two disciplines and will combine their expertise and resources, making the building a hub for groundbreaking and life changing solutions. This project is made possible in part by support from Patrick Drahi. The building, constructed according to green building standards, will ensure energy efficiency and sustainable development.



NEQST will house 15 labs that will offer access to state-of-the-art technologies and technological expertise enabling pioneering research in nanoelectronics, nanophotonics and 3D printing.

## The Heidi Rothberg Imaging Center at the Koret School of Veterinary Medicine

This centre, to be built at the largest veterinary hospital of its kind in the Middle East, will house an MRI, a functional MRI, a new CT machine, an X-ray room for small animals and an X-ray room for large animals. It will also include two ultrasound rooms and a conference room that will serve students and the imaging department. A donation has also been made for the construction of an amphitheatre and a lameness test-track for dogs and horses.



# International Board of Governors Gathering, Jerusalem

After a gap of three years the HU family finally gathered in Jerusalem.

Over 200 friends from 25 countries came together to celebrate achievements, learn about new discoveries, commemorate friends, honour generous supporters and acknowledge great researchers and students.

The opening reception took place in the shadow of the National Library of Israel on the HU Edmond J Safra Campus in Givat Ram, with a recorded welcome from Israel's President Yitzchak Herzog.



HU Vice President Yossi Gal greets guests



Dancing in full swing at the opening session



British Friends Cocktail – from the rooftop bar of the Mamilla Hotel. Fifty guests in the presence of friends, students, faculty and HE Neil Wigan OBE, Britain's Ambassador to Israel. Pictured are BFHU Chair Alan Jacobs and HU President Prof Asher Cohen



Honorary Doctorate conferred posthumously on Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks z"l accepted by his brother, Eliot Sacks



An Honorary Doctorate to Quentin Tarantino, flanked by the HU President and HU Rector



The annual convocation, some 300 PhDs conferred



Over 30 honourees at the Wall of Life ceremony





Harel Beit-On, Chairman of the Board, opens the Honorary Fellowships ceremony



Winners of the Polonsky Prizes for Creativity and Originality in the Humanistic Disciplines



The Kaye Innovation Awards winners



Kinoko Tech Wins Hebrew University 2022 Asper Prize for startups



The opening of ASPER-HUJI Innovate's space, with ribbon-cutters including Gail Asper and Dr Amnon Dekel, Head of the Centre



The first plenary session with special address from Dr Andrii Chuzhikov, Ukrainian professor



Rami Kleinstein, one of Israel's leading music artists, performs at the closing event



The HU Chamber Orchestra, part of the closing event

# The School of Business Administration and International Relations

STUDENT  
STORIES

**The School of Business Administration and International Relations** at HU was the first Business School established in Israel, and has since played a key role in shaping the Israeli landscape of business leadership and management and developing the next generation of Business Leadership in Israel. The Business School maintains close relationships with leading academic and business institutions around the world, thus giving students access to participate in exchange programmes, international conferences in Israel and abroad.

British Friends are grateful for a generous donation from a family trust with whom we enjoy a long and close relationship. The trust agreed to support 12 Business Exchange Travel Grants. Six students having now completed the course and the remaining six hope to travel shortly.

Omer



I was lucky enough to get my first choice and study in Seoul, in one of South Korea's top universities – Korea University (KU) I want to thank you for the donation of my scholarship, allowing me this great opportunity of travelling abroad, expanding my horizons, and learning more about what the world has to offer.

Ofri



Thanks to your generosity, I had an amazing experience in EDHEC business school in Lille, France. I appreciate the opportunity I had to experience and learn in another country. Thanks to your kindness, I was given an experience that will remain a significant milestone in my life.

Eliza



Visiting France for a whole semester at the Emlyon Business School was a once in a lifetime experience. Having this new perspective of the world and people out of Israel was very insightful and inspiring. It is hard to put into words how grateful I am for your support, which was tremendously helpful during my exchange journey.

Mor



Because of the education I am getting now, I will be able to support others like you have helped me. When that day arrives, I will know that it is thanks to the help you gave me today.

Noa



I was offered a chance to travel to the US to attend an exchange program at a Kelley Business School in Indiana University. This opportunity is now opening doors for me.

**HUJI BITES** A series of short, easily digestible talks on subjects that matter



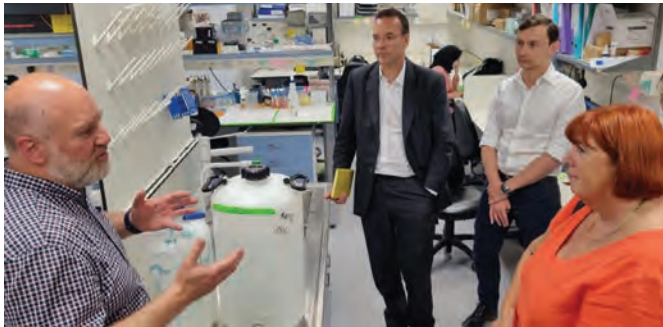
Visit our website [www.bfhu.org](http://www.bfhu.org) and, in the news section, scroll down to find a growing number of HUJI Bites.

After the challenges of Covid, HU's campuses have once again become a destination of choice for many political, ambassadorial, cultural and academic delegations.

# Dignitaries stream back to The Hebrew University



Middle East Minister, Rt. Hon. Amanda Milling MP (2nd R)



Scott McDonald, British Council CEO (centre)



Israel's cabinet meets on campus - Prime Minister Yair Lapid (R)



Senior Moroccan Academic Delegation Visits Hebrew University



U.S. Ambassador to Israel Thomas Nides (L)



Michal Braverman-Blumenstyk, Microsoft R&D Israel (2nd R)



Ecuador's President Guillermo Lasso (L)



Ireland Minister of Foreign Affairs/Defence, Simon Coveney (L)



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's First Visit to Israel



# STUDY AT THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY

**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 80 countries worldwide. In the course of their studies, students are exposed 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 stimulate inquisitive minds in new areas of knowledge and enquiry. 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.

### 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 broad 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-programs/>

## 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/>

## SUMMER PROGRAMMES AND HEBREW ULPAN

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/>

## STUDENT GRANTS

The British Friends organisation is a major source of UK scholarship 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, visit the Rothberg International School's website: <https://overseas.huji.ac.il>**

**Contact Gill Benson on 020 8349 5757 or email [students@bfhu.org](mailto:students@bfhu.org) to talk further about financial assistance available to students at UK and Irish universities.**

# British Friends News and Events

## LEGAL GROUP

Since the early 1950s ties between the British Friends legal group and The Hebrew University's prestigious Faculty of Law have strengthened and deepened.

The group continues to support the Faculty's pro bono law clinics where law students alongside qualified attorneys, provide advice and guidance to the many diverse and disenfranchised communities in Jerusalem. In addition, support is provided to Hebrew University students attending the Centre for Transnational Legal Studies in London. Lor Pannic's QC heads the group's committee.



**The 2021 Lionel Cohen Annual Lecture** (since 1953) was given by Lord Burrows QC, Justice of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, Professor of the Law of England and senior research fellow at All Souls College,

Oxford, who spoke on *Judges and Academics, and the Endless Road to Unattainable Perfection*. The lecture was given on Zoom.

**The 2022 Lionel Cohen Annual Lecture** was delivered by Lord Burnett of Maldon, Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, who spoke on the subject of *Institutional Independence and Accountability of the Judiciary*. The event was held on campus at The Hebrew University with Lord Burrows in attendance.



## HONOURS CLUB

**Honours Club members** have committed to a legacy in support of The Hebrew University, enjoying events both social and educational.

In July David Pearlman gave an illustrated talk about his 100,000-strong Palestine postcards collection, the most definitive in the world. The collection now resides at the Hebrew University providing a rich source of research material.



Unable to attend a recognition ceremony in Jerusalem, David (R) was honoured with the presentation of the Jerusalem Crown, the bible of The Hebrew University. It is the official bible for the swearing in of Members of the Knesset and of the Presidents of the State of Israel.

## WOMEN'S GROUP

**The group's scholarship was awarded** this academic year to Hilit Yehezkel, a first-year student in the Department of Biochemistry and Food Science at the Faculty of Agriculture. Prior to this she served as a combat soldier in the IDF. She remains extremely grateful that the BFHU Women's Group enabled her to embark on her degree.



## GLASGOW GROUP

**This regional group established in the late 1940s**, once again generously supported The Hebrew University with their annual Jerusalem scholarships for needy students in the Humanities, Medical and Agricultural Faculties. Additional support came from the community in the form of family-named grants.

# Persian Silk Carpet Donated to The Hebrew University

The biblical themed carpet dates back to the late 19th century from the city of Kashan, in modern day Iran and is now displayed in the Yitzchak Rabin Building at the Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies.

Kashan was known worldwide as a centre of high quality silk and textile carpet manufacturing.

The carpet, owned by the Lichtigfeld family, who fled Dusseldorf for England in 1939, was generously donated in their memory by their children, Stephen and Felice Betty Rose-Litchfield.



## CEREMONIES

**The 26th anniversary** of the Sir Sigmund & Lady Hazel Sternberg Prizes for Interfaith Understanding ceremony had five awardees. It was hosted by Prof Eviatar Shulman, with greetings from Ruth Tamir and thanks from Noam Tamir. The ceremony took place on Zoom.

**With over 70 years** of family support for the Hebrew University, the Birk Prizes in agriculture, law and more recently clinical legal education date back to the early 1990s. This year, a total of six prizes were awarded at a well-attended ceremony on the Mount Scopus campus. Words of welcome were given by Angela Camber, daughter of the late Ellis and Alma Birk. (see photo)

Congratulations to the worthy winners!



# Legacy Mission 2022 – More Than Just Memories



The Legacy Missions at The Hebrew University provide those of us with any level of interest in Israel with an extraordinary insight into everything from the beginning of the University to its closure from 1948 to 1967 when the campus was spread over Jerusalem to ensure that education continued to its reopening on Mount Scopus after the Six-Day War. Being able to visit the various schools is a treat in itself and there is something for everyone.

In addition you get to see parts of Jerusalem that will surprise and delight you with people who are just as interested in exploring this wonderful city as you are. This is a dual treat which benefits both the University and the donors equally and leaves a lasting memory.

**Roberta Tish**

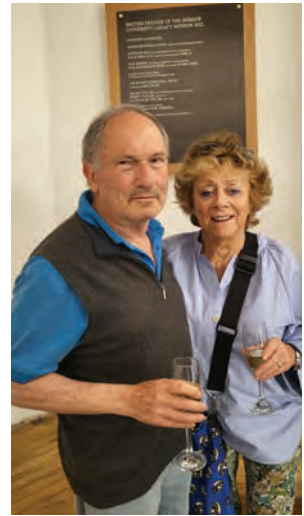
Janice and I were participants on the 2022 legacy mission ably hosted by Gill Benson and Nigel Salomon.

It was not the first time we were guests of The Hebrew University but we learnt a great deal more about the continuing remarkable achievements of that institution and the devotion of its staff and pupils.

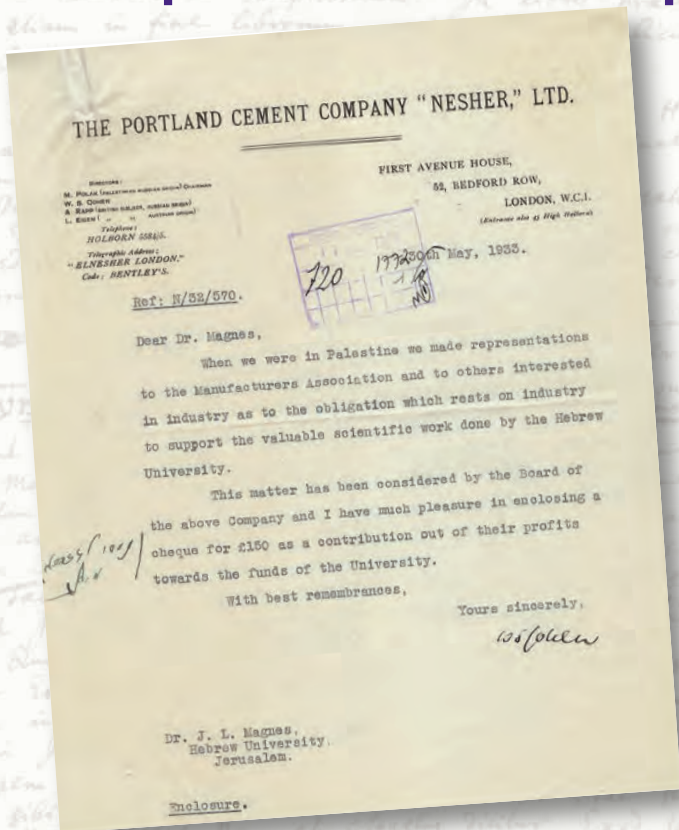
A particular highlight for us was the visit to the veterinary hospital in Beit Dagan as it surpassed our expectations so much.

Thank you all for organising this mission.

**Janice & Steven Parnes**



## Help us celebrate – please rummage around



**In the run up to celebrating 100 years since the establishment of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem,** We're searching for historic documents and archive materials related to The Hebrew University and/or British Friends.

Please contact us if you have something that may be of interest as we join this endeavour to link the past, present and future of The Hebrew University for its centenary celebration.

Contact [lindy.diamond@bfhu.org](mailto:lindy.diamond@bfhu.org)



# Join us for a stunning free trip To Israel, Jerusalem and The Hebrew University

FULLY PAID FOR BY OUR SPONSOR

## October 2023



Thanks to the generosity of our sponsor, British Friends of The Hebrew University is privileged to offer an unmissable and exciting **FREE 8 day Living Legacy visit to Israel, 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 visitors. 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 Jerusalem and its environs in air-conditioned coaches with English-speaking guides**
- **Discover and be inspired by one of the world's top 100 universities**
- **Delicious kosher cuisine at top restaurants**
- **Exclusive access to The Hebrew University's eminent researchers, teachers and enthusiastic students**
- **Relax in a safe, secure and welcoming environment**
- **Return travel date can be changed in advance for an extended holiday**

**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).

For more information about the Mission contact Gill Benson on **020 8349 5757** or email [gill.benson@bfhu.org](mailto:gill.benson@bfhu.org)

*Legacy Mission excludes travel 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.*

 **British Friends of**   
**The Hebrew University**  
Our Future is Here

# DIARY DATES... don't miss out

## SEPTEMBER 2022

Veterinary Teaching Hospital – Head of A&E, Dr Efrat Kelner, Zoom

13 – Graduation Ceremony – Class of 2022 International MSc in Agricultural Sciences, Rehovot

14 – Masters Graduation Ceremony in International Public Health, Jerusalem

19 – ASPER-HUJI Innovate, the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at The Hebrew University OPEN Venture Creation Program's Fourth Annual Demo Day, Jerusalem

## OCTOBER 2022

27 – Inauguration, access ramp, Cheishin Law Building, in memory of Judith Shaw z"l, Jerusalem

## NOVEMBER 2022

15 – Biennial Neuberger Lecture, Prof Simon Baron-Cohen, Jerusalem

16 – Persian carpet unveiling, Jerusalem

22 – BFHU/Anglo-Israel Archaeological Society event, Zoom

## DECEMBER 2022

Honours Club – Chanukah Tea, London

25-29 – Limmud Winter Festival with HU speaker, UK



## FEBRUARY 2023

Annual Thea Zucker Memorial Lecture – in partnership with UCL Institute of Jewish Studies, London



## MARCH 2023

Medical Group – hosting Tzameret medical students, London

16 – Legal Group annual dinner with Lord Burnett, London

Sternberg Prizes in Interfaith Understanding ceremony, Jerusalem

## APRIL 2023

JW3/HU lecture, Einstein Nobel Prize Centenary, London

## JUNE 2023

London Design Biennale, HU Racah Institute of Physics, London



Ellis & Alma Birk prize awards: agriculture, law, clinical legal studies, Jerusalem

Lionel Cohen Annual Lecture with Dame Hazel Genn, Jerusalem

9-14 – 86th International Board of Governors gathering, Jerusalem

## OCTOBER 2023

25 October - 1 November Legacy Mission 2023, Israel

Diary dates are subject to confirmation and change. Visit our website for current information.

## Can't Travel?

Come and join us on four short fascinating virtual campus tours. Just go to our website [www.bfhu.org/news](http://www.bfhu.org/news) and search for 'wish you were here' or scan this QR code.



## Are you missing out?

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For more information contact Alison Baker on 020 8349 5757 or [alison.baker@bfhu.org](mailto:alison.baker@bfhu.org)



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