

2021/22



British Friends of  
The Hebrew University  
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1926



BETTER WORLD, FOR A BETTER  
**FUTURE**





The Suzanne and Charles Goodman Brain Sciences Building, home of the Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences at the heart of the Edmond J. Safra Campus at Givat Ram.



# The Hebrew University in Numbers

## Technology Transfer

|                |                                    |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>57</b>      | Years of transferring technologies |
| <b>10,750+</b> | Patents                            |
| <b>3,000+</b>  | Inventions                         |
| <b>1,000+</b>  | Licensed Technologies              |
| <b>170+</b>    | Spin-off Companies                 |

## Global Reach

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>650</b>   | Academic Agreements with Institutions in 60 Countries   |
| <b>105</b>   | Competitive Research Grants from the European Research Council Since 2007 – €190m               |
| <b>640</b>   | Postdoctoral Candidates from Over 20 Countries  |
| <b>144</b>   | Student Exchange Programmes with 144 Institutions in 37 Countries, University and Faculty Level |
| <b>2,500</b> | Students Attending the Rothberg International School Annually                                   |

## Students

|               |                                  |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>24,600</b> | All Students                     |
| <b>13,250</b> | Undergraduates                   |
| <b>6,440</b>  | Master's Students                |
| <b>2,250</b>  | Doctoral Students                |
| <b>430</b>    | Preparatory Programmes (Mechina) |
| <b>1,270</b>  | International Students           |
| <b>970</b>    | Other                            |

## Teaching

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| <b>6</b>     | Campuses        |
| <b>7</b>     | Faculties       |
| <b>14</b>    | Schools         |
| <b>315</b>   | Departments     |
| <b>983</b>   | Faculty Members |
| <b>1,442</b> | Researchers     |
| <b>5,955</b> | Courses         |

## Awards of Excellence

|            |                                     |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>302</b> | Israel Prizes                       |
| <b>100</b> | Rothschild Prizes                   |
| <b>56</b>  | EMET Prizes                         |
| <b>14</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>&gt;100</b>   | Research Centres              |
| <b>&gt;4,200</b> | Research Projects             |
| <b>6</b>         | Affiliated Medical Institutes |
| <b>40%</b>       | Israel's Biotech Research     |

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

## Rankings

|                |                             |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>#1</b>      | in Israel*                  |
| <b>#90</b>     | of Universities Worldwide** |
| <b>#24</b>     | in Mathematics**            |
| <b>#30</b>     | in Law**                    |
| <b>#51-75</b>  | in Economics**              |
| <b>#76-100</b> | Veterinary Science**        |

\* source: QS World University Rankings 2021

\*\* ARWU 2021 university subjects index

(Shanghai Jiao Tong University and supported by Shanghai Ranking Consultancy)



האוניברסיטה  
העברית  
בירושלים  
THE HEBREW  
UNIVERSITY  
OF JERUSALEM

# *A new type of thinking is essential if mankind is to survive and move toward higher levels.*

Prof. Albert Einstein, Nobel Laureate, Hebrew University Founder

Another year of unprecedented challenges across the globe. The Hebrew University has not escaped the challenges impacting teaching and researching, student welfare, remote learning and financial stringencies.

The founders of the Hebrew University were both visionaries and dreamers for a better world, who like the generations that have followed, overcame endless hardships and difficulties to create a university with a culture of innovation and discovery and the sharing of know-how. Great minds continue to find solutions to the current pandemic yet also to think ahead to future issues afflicting humanity. The support of our Friends around the

world, their commitment and friendship have been indispensable.

The British Friends continue to play their part and for this I and fellow trustees are deeply grateful. Thank you for helping to ensure a brighter tomorrow for the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.



**Isaac Kaye, Chairman**  
*British Friends of the Hebrew University*



Another testing year for us all, the pandemic continuing to impact across the globe leading to radical rethinking about how we live as communities.

For the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, its 25,000 students along with faculty members and administrative teams, the past year has continued some sort of 'new normal'. Until Pesach, [Passover], the teaching of thousands of courses continued online. For new students in their first year of studies, they could not set foot on campus denying them the vital experience of student life. Few researchers had access to their laboratories. All in all, a challenging time causing personal and financial difficulties for many. Yet many of our students have risen to the occasion continuing extensive volunteering work serving the most disadvantaged communities across Jerusalem. In parallel, our researchers continued to collaborate internationally online and devoted their efforts to new innovations in testing, drug repurposing and in new insights into the impact of Covid on other medical conditions. In this ongoing period of uncertainty we nonetheless hope for significant breakthroughs.

This edition of Future carries many news items embracing a wide range of Hebrew University disciplines from new insights into Parkinson's, medical marijuana, archaeology discoveries, a clutch of new awards and research grant successes, international alliances such as with Amazon web services, climate and sustainability and, great

excitement receiving Israel's first academic visitors from Bahrain and the UAE. This year also saw the Hebrew University's Departments of Mathematics and Faculty of Law placed in the world's top 30. In addition, major capital projects have continued such as the new Hebrew University High-Tech park (which will provide a further boost to the economy and business eco-system of Jerusalem), a new biosafety research laboratory able to handle live viruses, the new Cheshin Centre for advanced legal studies and the NEQST Innovation Building for quantum and nanoscience. These projects and the many messages of thanks from student scholarship recipients attest to the invaluable and indispensable support from our Friends around the world. For 95 years British Friends have continued to be stalwart supporters in good times and bad.

Our relationships have for much of the year moved on line with few opportunities to meet face to face whether in the UK or on campus. Thank you for your support in all we do. I also take this opportunity to thank our trustees and hard-working professional team for their support and commitment. Together we are fuelling the work of the Hebrew University in building a better world.

Stay safe and well



**Nigel Salomon,**  
**Chief Executive**

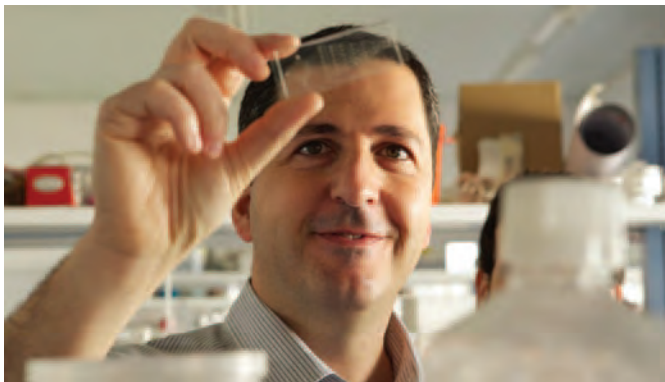


# What's New HU?

## Cancer Drug Development Without Animal Testing

A team of researchers led by Prof. Yaakov Nahmias, Director of the Grass Center for Bioengineering at the Hebrew University and founder of Tissue Dynamic, introduced a new technological approach that has the potential to rapidly develop new drugs without the need for animal experiments.

According to Prof. Nahmias, "Drug development is a long and expensive endeavour that is defined by multiple failures. The main reason being that clinical experiments are ultimately based on minimal information gained from animal experiments which often fail to replicate the human response."



The animals used in drug development have different genetics, physiology and metabolism than humans leading to a situation where successful therapies in animals often fail in clinical trials.

The Hebrew University team developed human-on-a-chip technology, using human tissues in a device which mimics human physiology, incorporating microscopic sensors in the human tissue itself enabling the team to precisely monitor the body's response to specific drug treatments. "What makes our technology unique is that it allows us to insert microsensors that offer us real-time information on how drugs work and when they stop working," Prof. Nahmias says.

Utilising this new technology, the researchers were able to show that a commonly used cancer drug causes a dangerous build-up of fat in human kidneys. They were then able to combine this chemotherapy with a different drug designed to limit the absorption of sugar in the kidneys and minimise the kidney damage.

Groundbreaking human-on-a-chip-technology will save time, money and certainly unnecessary suffering.

## Prof. Mona Khoury-Kassabri appointed Vice President of Strategy and Diversity

Prof. Mona Khoury-Kassabri has been elected Vice President of Strategy and Diversity at HU. As part of her new role, Khoury-Kassabri will be responsible for broadening the ranks of the university's academic staff and student body with members from under-represented communities in academia.



This is the first time in the University's history that a member of the Arab community has been appointed to a senior position of vice president. It is also the first time that an Israeli university created a senior role to strengthen diversity and inclusion.

"I am deeply honoured to be the first Arab to serve as a Hebrew University Vice President. I feel confident that my experience both inside the classroom and in senior roles at the university will serve me well in promoting the strategic goals and inclusionary values of this great institution," Khoury-Kassabri shared.

"Multi-culturalism and diversity are at the very heart of the Hebrew University," added Prof. Asher Cohen, Hebrew University President



[www.bfhu.org](http://www.bfhu.org)

Our website is packed with information about the Hebrew University and British Friends, with easy links to news and events/webinars, sections 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.

## Origins of Parkinson's Disease

Parkinson's disease is the second most common neurodegenerative disease and affects more than 10 million people around the world. To better understand the origins of the disease, a team of researchers from HU and Penn State College of Medicine, have developed an integrative approach, combining experimental and computational methods, to understand how individual proteins may form harmful aggregates, or groupings, that are known to contribute to the development of the disease.



They said their findings could guide the development of new therapeutics to delay or even halt the progression of neurodegenerative diseases using alpha-synuclein, a protein that helps regulate the release of neurotransmitters in the brain and is found in neurons. It exists as a single unit, but commonly joins together with other units to perform cellular functions. When too many units combine, it can lead to the formation of Lewy bodies, which are associated with neurodegenerative diseases like Parkinson's and dementia.

## A Better World for Animals

Thanks to generous donor support and the skill and compassion of the clinical teams at the Hebrew University Koret Veterinary Teaching Hospital, many animals are enjoying a better world.

**One very lucky dog.** Parker, a seven-year old dog, was brought to the emergency and intensive care unit and seen by Dr. Zohar Nir following the intrusion of a porcupine quill into the right orbit. Following a CT scan, it appeared that the quill did not penetrate the

globe, but pushed it down and passed through the orbit for an additional 10cm reaching the back of the neck. Brain damage was ruled out by advanced imaging.

After evaluation by Dr. Lionel Sebbag and Dr. Dikla Arad (Hebrew University veterinary ophthalmologists), the dog was anesthetised for surgery and the quill was removed in its entirety.

When Parker recovered from the procedure it was clear that vision had been restored without any serious damage to his brain or other tissues. Clearly, Parker was indeed one lucky dog!



**Vision restored to Itay the Donkey.** A blind donkey who had been continually abused was mercifully rescued by police. The donkey, named Itay, suffering from severe visual impairment, was brought to a rescue shelter. There, he underwent several tests by Prof. Ron Ofri, head of Veterinary Ophthalmology and Dr. Oren Peer, his senior resident. They discovered that there is a chance that they can help restore Itay's vision!

Itay underwent cataract surgery on his right eye and his recovery was surprisingly good. In a number of post-operative rechecks, there was an improvement in the condition of the eye and vision. Despite some intraocular inflammation, HU specialists are very pleased but no more so than Itay the donkey!



## Going Green: Hebrew University Launches New Academic Center for Sustainability

As the world commemorated Earth Day 2021, the Hebrew University announced its new Center for Sustainability. The Center is being established to increase environmental research and teaching within the University and to promote sustainability projects across Israel.



In recent years, there has been widespread consensus regarding the critical importance of sustainability in the face of rapidly changing climate conditions. HU President Prof. Asher Cohen emphasised that “sustainability needs to be a central goal of our University”, adding, “while there is considerable ongoing ‘green’ activity across the University, it does not reflect the urgency of this issue for Israel and the world.”

The University has initially allocated one million dollars for the Center, which will be directed by HU Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture Prof. Yael Mishael and representatives from all HU campuses. The Center will encompass University fellows and graduate students, and will work with government officials, leaders in civil society and the private sector to promote sustainability efforts across Israel.

Alongside HU’s new Center for Sustainability, the University announced plans to expand its “Green Campus”, increasing the use of renewable energies, including solar panels at the Rehovot and Safra campuses. The University will also continue strict adherence to environmentally-friendly standards for all new campus buildings.

## Bad to the Bone

A team of researchers has proven the linkages between ultra-processed foods and reduced bone quality.

The study, was led by Prof. Efrat Monsonego-Ornan and Dr. Janna Zaretsky from the Department of Biochemistry, Food Science and Nutrition at the University’s Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture.

Ultra-processed foods – aka, junk food – are food products that undergo several stages of processing and contain non-dietary ingredients. They’re popular with consumers because they are easily accessible, relatively inexpensive and ready to eat straight out of the package. The growing prevalence of these products around the world has contributed to increased obesity and mental and metabolic impacts on consumers of all ages.



Prof. Efrat Monsonego-Ornan

Children tend to like junk food. As much as 70% of their caloric consumption is estimated to come from ultra-processed foods.

The study provides the first comprehensive analysis for how these foods impact skeletal development by surveying lab rodents, whose skeletons were in the post-embryonic stages of growth. The rodents that were subjected to ultra-processed foods suffered from growth retardation and their bone strength was adversely affected.

Children and adolescents consume these foods on a regular basis to the extent that 50% of American children eat junk food each and every day.

## University of Toronto and HU Groundbreaking Alliance

The University of Toronto and The Hebrew University are celebrating a groundbreaking alliance in research and student entrepreneurship. An event featuring HU President Asher Cohen, U of T President Meric Gertler and other prominent leaders from both communities, kicked off a \$15m fundraising campaign for the Alliance across Canada, Israel and beyond.

The Research & Innovation Alliance is built around two programmes. The first enables joint research efforts in the sciences or humanities with financial support for four-year studies and one-time seeded projects. The second, supports an "International Entrepreneurship Highway" in which students from Jerusalem travel to Toronto, and vice versa, to work as paid interns at startups while also studying and receiving mentorship at both universities.



Both university presidents expressed excitement for the Alliance and admiration for their partner institution. President Gertler said "The crisis has reminded us that our greatest challenges, from public health to climate change, are global in scope," he said. "Responding to these challenges requires collaboration among our brightest minds, transcending disciplines and borders."

## When Archaic Homo Met Homo Sapiens

A recent archaeological dig in central Israel unearthed evidence that Homo Sapiens, humans that inhabit the earth today, likely lived alongside a group of archaic humans known as the Middle Pleistocene Homo. This discovery, and the international collaborations that made it possible, provide the first evidence that the two human types lived at the same time and interacted with one another.

This discovery came about where a team of archaeologists, led by Dr. Yossi Zaidner of the Hebrew University, found stone tools alongside human fossils at a site called Neshar Ramla in central Israel. They shared their find with a team of dating specialists from France

(CNRS, Université Bordeaux Montaigne, National Museum of Natural History in Paris and Université Paris-Saclay) who dated them to 120,000 years ago, when Homo Sapiens and Neanderthals were the only known human species roaming Africa, Europe and the Near East.



Bones and other items found at the site.

Neshar Ramla, located near the modern city of Ramla, was an active site used by hominins roughly 120,000-140,000 years ago. As a result, an eight-metre layer developed, thick with the remnants of stone tools, bones of hunted animals and remains of ancient fireplaces accumulated there. Studying these remnants provides clues to how Neshar Ramla Homo lived, in this case, a quite sophisticated life, a skilled hunter of rhino, wild cattle, deer and horses.

## Revivim Programme Celebrates 20 Years

Revivim is an innovative honours programme of the Hebrew University, that targets Israel's brightest and best future educators. Each year, a rigorous selection committee accepts only a limited number of students, who are required to maintain a high academic average to remain in the programme. Revivim offers these excellent students the opportunity to complete a BA and MA in Jewish Studies, as well as teacher certification, in four concentrated years of study.



Revivim students commit to teach in the secular Israeli school system for a minimum of four years following their graduation. The programme is a response to a challenge: in today's Israel, high-school students are



often unfamiliar with basic Jewish sources and question their relationship to Jewish culture and values. The Hebrew University took up the Government's urgent challenge to reintroduce Israeli youth to their rich heritage in order to strengthen their Jewish identity and enable their active participation in the future of the Jewish people.

In schools across the country, Revivim graduates create positive experiences that allow young adults to discover the diverse and inspiring nature of Jewish history and develop a meaningful, creative relationship with Jewish culture. Currently, over 180 Hebrew University Revivim graduates are teaching in more than 100 schools throughout Israel.

## Hebrew University Establishes Multidisciplinary Center for Climate Research

The Center will use a state-of-the-art computer system, recruit new researchers and make the issue of climate accessible to the general public.



The Hebrew University, which considers climate issues as some of the most significant scientific problems the world currently faces, established the Center for Climate Science (HUCS).

The new center, headed by Prof. Hezi Gildor and Dr. Uri Adam, will make it possible to deal with the challenges of the climate crisis in the Middle East region. The Center's members will focus on building an up-to-date and accurate regional climate model.

The Center will allow ideas, research and interdisciplinary brainstorming around the climate issue to collaborate with the Meteorological Service and various institutions in the country.

Climate change in the Middle East region is expected to lead to dehydration, warming and desertification, along with an increase in the frequency of extreme climate events such as storms and heatwaves leading to floods and fires.

In order to prepare for this, climate forecasts are needed based on as up-to-date and accurate climate models as possible, using complex computer software that simulates the Middle East climate.

## Bahraini Delegation Promoting Coexistence, Tolerance Visits Israel

A leadership delegation from the King Hamad Global Center for Peaceful Coexistence in Bahrain visited Israel to promote cooperation in the field of coexistence and tolerance. The delegation, led by Dr. Shaikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Daij Al Khalifa, a member of the Bahraini Royal Family who serves as Chairman of the Center's board, visited The Hebrew University.

Following a tour of the campus, the two parties signed a memorandum of understanding to develop joint educational programmes designed to nurture Middle East leaders, along with others related to innovation technology and student exchanges.



Dr. Shaikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Daij Al Khalifa of Bahrain's King Hamad Global Center for Peace and Coexistence and HU President Asher Cohen, signed a memorandum of understanding for joint projects.



## An End to Invasive Biopsies?

In diagnostic medicine, biopsies, where a sample of tissue is extracted for analysis, is a common tool for the detection of many conditions. But this approach has several drawbacks – it can be painful, doesn't always extract the diseased tissue, and can only be used in a sufficiently advanced disease stage, making it, in some cases, too late for intervention. These concerns have encouraged researchers to find less invasive and more accurate options for diagnoses.



The research team (L-R): Gavriel Fialkof, Dr. Ronen Sadeh, Dr. Israa Sharkia, Prof. Nir Friedman.

Prof. Nir Friedman of the Alexander Silberman Institute of Life Sciences and Dr. Ronen Sadeh of the Rachel and Selim Benin School of Computer Science and Engineering, have published a study in 'Nature Biotechnology' that shows how a wide range of diseases can be detected through a simple blood test. The test allows lab technicians to identify and determine the state of the dead cells throughout the body and thus diagnose various diseases, including cancers and diseases of the heart and liver. The test is even able to identify specific markers that may differ between patients suffering from the same types of tumorous growths, a feature that has the potential to help physicians develop personalised treatments for individual patients.

The test relies on a natural process, whereby every day millions of cells in our body die and are replaced by new cells. When cells die, their DNA is fragmented and some of these DNA fragments reach the blood and can be detected by DNA sequencing. However, all our cells have the same DNA sequence, and thus simply sequencing the DNA cannot identify from which cells it originated. While the DNA sequence is identical between cells, the way the DNA is organised in the cell is substantially different. The DNA is packaged into nucleosomes, small repeating structures that contain specialised proteins called histones. On the histone proteins, the cells write a unique chemical code that can tell us the identity of the cell and even the

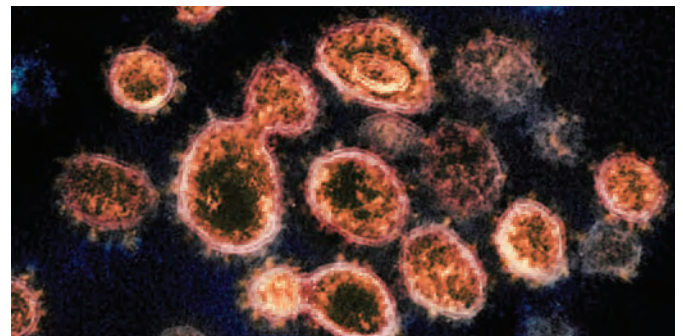
biological and pathological processes that are going on within it. In recent years, numerous studies have successfully developed a process where this information can be identified and thus reveal abnormal cell activity.

A new approach advanced by Prof. Friedman and Dr. Ronen Sadeh is able to precisely read this information from DNA in the blood and use it to determine the nature of the disease or tumour, exactly where in the body it's found and even how far developed it is.

## HU Researchers Identify Medicines that Offer Hope Against COVID-19

If medicines pass clinical trials for the treatment of COVID, they're also likely to prove effective for new variants, scientists say, as they target proteins that barely change between mutations.

They have identified three existing drugs that have good prospects as COVID-19 treatments, reporting that they illustrated high ability to fight the virus in lab tests. They placed the substances with live SARS CoV 2 and human cells in vitro. The results "showed that the drugs can protect cells from onslaught by the virus with close to 100% effectiveness, meaning that almost 100% of the cells lived despite being infected by the virus," said Prof. Isaiah Arkin, the Hebrew University biochemist behind the research.



"By contrast, in normal circumstances, around half the cells would have died after two days following contact with the virus." He added there are strong indications that the drugs will be robust against changing variants.

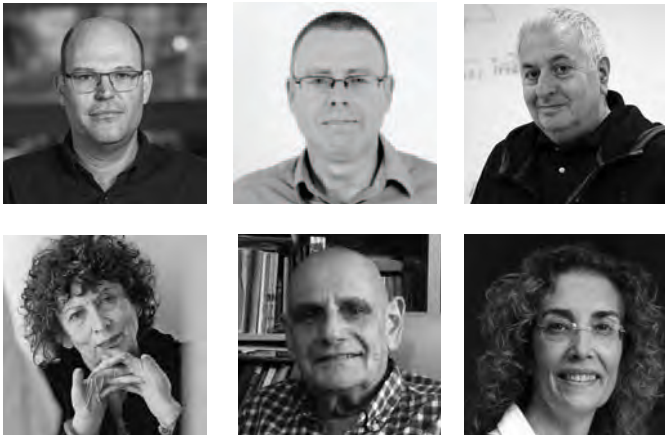
Arkin, part of a Hebrew University center that specialises in repurposing existing drugs, said that he screened more than 3,000 medicines for suitability.



Prof. Isaiah Arkin



## A Flood of Awards for the Hebrew University



Clockwise from top left

**Prof. Yoram Burke** Nobel Laureate in Medicine and Prof. Edward Moser have won a prestigious research grant of 10 million Euros, in order to reveal the principles of action of neural networks in the brain.

**Dr. Alon Eisenberg** from the Department of Economics recently won the Israel-France Foundation's Young Economist Award for 2020.

**Prof. Avishai Dekel** from the Racah Institute of Physics won the Landau Lottery Prize for Arts and Sciences for 2020, in the astrophysics and space category.

**Prof. Yehudit Bergman** from the Faculty of Medicine, and one of the world's leading researchers in the field of epigenetics is the winner of the Rappaport Award for Excellence in Biomedical Research.

**Prof. Yair Zakovitch** from the Faculty of Humanities, ground-breaking scholar in literary aspects of the Bible and biblical interpretation, awarded this year's Israel Prize for Biblical Studies.

**Nurit Zarchi** awarded the prestigious Newman Prize for Literature, for her contribution to Israeli literature and being one of the most influential authors in the formation of the feminist cultural discourse in Israel.

## Hebrew University Mourns Passing of Leading Archaeologist Dr. Eilat Mazar

Dr. Eilat Mazar, a pioneering archaeology professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Institute of Archaeology died this year, aged 64. Mazar was a third-generation Israeli archaeologist who participated in digs from a young age, as the granddaughter of Benjamin Mazar, who excavated the Land of Israel during the British Mandate period.

Eilat Mazar specialised in the Phoenician culture of Israel's northern coastal plain and directed excavations in the City of David and the Temple Mount's southern wall.



Eilat Mazar holds jar fragment from 10th Century

During her tenure, Mazar discovered the possible remnants of King David's palace and a portion of an ancient city wall presumed to be built by King Solomon. In 2013, Mazar unearthed a trove of gold coins and a rare Byzantine medallion with a menorah (candelabra) etched into it. Most recently, Mazar made headlines when she unearthed clay seals "Belonging to Hezekiah, (son of) Ahaz, King of Judah" and later, seals that may have belonged to Isaiah the Prophet.

Mazar is survived by a daughter and three sons.



## The Impact of Medical Marijuana on Children, a Meta-Analysis

In recent years, the use of medical cannabis to treat sick children is on the rise, although questions remain about the benefits and safety of such treatments. Now, a team of researchers led by Prof. Ilan Matok has completed a first-ever meta-analysis of paediatric patients treated with medical cannabis to understand better the risks and benefits of cannabis use among young patients.



The meta-review was led by Prof. Ilan Matok at HU's School of Pharmacy and the David R. Bloom Center for Pharmacy, along with and PhD candidate Nir Treves. They presented their findings at the 31st Annual International Cannabinoid Research Society Symposium (ICRS) held in Jerusalem, for the first time ever.

Matok and his team found that medical cannabis is particularly successful at treating severe epilepsy and chemotherapy's pernicious side effects. However, the side effects of these treatments in kids is still an open question. As Matok explained, "since medical cannabis isn't widely recognised as an accepted or regulated drug, there simply haven't been enough studies to know whether it's appropriate for children."

The team looked at seven clinical studies involving approximately 500 young patients (under 18 years of age). Despite the limited number of participants, they were able to glean both positive and negative effects of medical cannabis use on kids' mental and physical health. For example, the team found that CBD (cannabidiol) is effective at decreasing the number of severe seizures in children, especially those with hard-to-treat epilepsy. However, CBD also greatly suppresses their appetites. They also found that several cannabis plant ingredients used in medical treatments adversely affect children's mental state, causing fatigue, apathy, dizziness, and lethargy.

The study of medical cannabis in children is still in its infancy. Since cannabis is not registered as a

medication, it is often prescribed to children on an as-needed basis with limited clinical evidence. "Whereas Pfizer and Moderna were able to conduct clinical trials for their COVID-19 vaccine on kids, few top-notch clinical trials exist for cannabis use in children.

## Hebrew University Entrepreneurs Win Prestigious \$3m Prize



Hebrew University Alumni Entrepreneurs have won the prestigious international @IBMWatson XPRIZE for 'AI in the service of humanity', receiving \$3m from IBM Watson, the first Israelis to win the competition. The team's AI technology is geared towards tackling the main challenges faced by malaria elimination campaigns by creating custom models, built with tools like IBM Watson Studio for Cloud Pak for Data, to predict the number of small water bodies caused by weather, enabling it to optimise the timing for launching larviciding operations.



## A New Academic Era with Morocco

The Hebrew University has signed a memorandum of understanding with Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) in Morocco. This partnership will promote academic collaborations between the two universities – from student and academic staff exchanges to joint research and collaborative degrees. As described in the text of the agreement, both universities are committed to "innovation on a global scale" and will collaborate on areas of mutual interest, namely agriculture, business, pharmacology, natural sciences, mathematic and computer engineering. The goal of UM6P is to train the pioneers who will lead the field of applied research and innovation in Africa.

COVID-19 permitting, both institutions are planning delegation visits and meetings among leading faculty.



## Facing Climate Change Together for a Better World

United Arab Emirates (UAE) Minister for Food and Water Security Mariam Al-Muhairi met with representatives of the Hebrew University to promote a research and innovation partnership based on FoodTech and Agtech.

This meeting marks the first official visit of a senior UAE government official to an Israeli academic institution since Israel and the UAE normalised ties as part of the US-brokered Abraham Accords.

Among the topics discussed were plant adaptation to heat and desert-like conditions, intelligent uses of water, and the latest innovations in agriculture. Both Israel and the UAE are keenly interested in finding the most efficient use of their resources and in securing high-quality seed and food production in this age of climate change and global warming.



Dean Chefetz and Mariam Al-Muhairi talk tomatoes.

As Dean Chefetz shared, “The UAE Minister’s visit to the Hebrew University is both prescient and historic. We are known as a world leader in foodtech and agritech. We look forward to sharing our know-how with our neighbours in the Middle East.”

## Strong Connection Between Coronavirus and Strokes

Ever since the coronavirus became a widespread global pandemic, medical researchers have sought to understand how the virus impacts other medical ailments, especially neurological ones. In early 2020, New York’s Mount Sinai Hospital reported that five younger patients stricken with COVID-19 experienced strokes after their diagnosis. This worrying report led researchers to fear that the virus could lead to an increase of stroke risk even in patients with no history of vascular disease, like high blood pressure, diabetes or smoking.

Ronen Leker, Professor of Neurology at the Hadassah-Hebrew University Teaching Hospital contributed to this research, along with 89 researchers

from 136 academic institutions around the world. The study analysed data from patients who tested positive for the coronavirus after they had been hospitalised for stroke and other serious brain events.

The researchers analysed whether there were differences in the MRIs of patient after contracting COVID-19 and after the onset of their stroke and also examined whether there were geographic factors that impacted the severity of the stroke.

“This study further strengthened our understanding of the connection between the coronavirus and strokes in younger patients, as a result of blockages in larger blood vessels,” Leker explained.

## The Hebrew University: Top 100 in the World

Reinforcing its place as Israel’s foremost centre of advanced learning and research, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is now ranked 90th in the 2021 Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU)’s evaluation of higher education institutions. This marks the University’s best showing since 2016 placing it firmly in the top 1/2% of world universities.



The Hebrew University was ranked several times among the top 50 worldwide subjects report: 30th in Law, 25th in Communications and 24th in Mathematics.

President Prof. Asher Cohen shared, “This ranking is a tribute to the standard of excellence demonstrated day in and day out by Hebrew University staff, students and professors alike; the coronavirus pandemic demonstrated to the world the importance of strong research and scientific scholarship.”

Shanghai Ranking Consultancy, the independent body which publishes the yearly ARWU, bases its rankings on several key indicators, including the number of alumni and staff awarded Nobel Laureates and Fields Medalists, the number of highly-cited researchers and the number of articles published in the prestigious journals Nature and Science, among other criteria.



## The Graveyard Never Lies

For the past year and a half, many of our decisions regarding whether it is safe to fly to country X or to vacation in country Y have been based on a given country's reported COVID-19 deaths.

Now, two young researchers, one from Israel and one from Germany, have teamed up to set the record straight about countries' reported COVID-19 deaths. Instead of relying on countries' published COVID-19 death rates, they created the World Mortality Dataset, the largest existing collection of overall mortality data, to uncover the true rate of COVID-19 deaths in more than 100 countries. They published their findings in eLife journal.



Researchers use historic expected deaths data to predict the number of expected deaths in coming months and years. However, pandemics, wars, natural and man-made disasters cause additional deaths, above and beyond the expected. These are known as "excess deaths".

To calculate a given country's true COVID-19 death toll, Ariel Karlinsky, a graduate student at the Hebrew University's Bogen Family Department of Economics and Dmitry Kobak from Germany's Tübingen University collected mortality data from 103 countries. "We gathered mortality data to answer a number of questions," Karlinsky shared. "We wanted to find out whether the pandemic caused excess deaths in the countries we covered and, if so, to what extent."

Several Latin-American countries, namely Bolivia, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru underreported their COVID-19 deaths, even though the number of excess deaths sustained during the pandemic period was over 50% higher than the number of expected deaths, eg Bolivia's true number of COVID deaths is likely 2.5 times higher than they reported – 36,000 deaths instead of 15,000. In Ecuador, it's 2.9 times higher – 64,000 deaths instead of the 22,000 reported, while in Mexico, the figure is 2.1 times higher – 471,000.

Meanwhile, other countries have obstinately continued to underreport their COVID-19 deaths. The true number of pandemic deaths sustained by Russia is likely four times higher than reported – 551,000 deaths instead of 135,000. In Belarus that number is 14.5 times higher – 5,700 deaths, instead of 392, and in Uzbekistan 29 times higher – 21,500 deaths, instead of the 740 reported. Tajikistan wins the underreporting prize with a COVID-19 death rate 100-times higher than reported – 9,000 deaths, instead of 90.

The former Soviet Union is not alone in vastly underreporting its COVID-19 deaths. According to the Karlinsky-Kobak study, Nicaragua's true number of pandemic deaths is 50 times higher than stated – 7,000 coronavirus deaths instead of the 137 reported.

However, Australia and New Zealand's death rate during the pandemic was actually lower than previous periods. This is likely due to their virus-containment efforts, that included border closures, social distancing and mask-wearing which decreased their overall number of deaths during the pandemic period.

Among European nations, the team found that many countries faithfully reported their pandemic deaths. Per 100,000 people, the United Kingdom suffered 159 deaths, France 110, Switzerland 100. The Czech Republic suffered 320 pandemic deaths and Poland 310. Denmark and Norway were unique in that they experienced no excess mortality during the pandemic. The United States had 194 excess deaths per 100,000 persons.

In the Middle East, Israel's excess deaths during the coronavirus pandemic were actually lower than their reported figures – 5,000 instead of 6,400, as reported. This is likely due to a decrease in the overall number of deaths from non-COVID 19 respiratory infections during the winter months. At 58 excess deaths per 100,000 persons, Israel fared better than its neighbouring countries (which provided overall mortality data). Egypt's excess deaths were 13 times higher than reported – 196,000 instead of 15,000, Iran's were 2.15 times higher – 115,000 COVID-19 deaths instead of 54,000 and Lebanon's figures were 1.23 times higher than reported – 9,000 deaths instead of 7,300.

"Our results present a comprehensive picture of the impact of COVID-19," Kobak shared. "We hope these findings and their methodology will lead to a better understanding of the pandemic and highlight the importance of open-source and fast mortality reporting."

**Founded in 1964, Yissum serves as a bridge between cutting-edge academic research and a global community of entrepreneurs, investors, and industry. Available Technologies • Agriculture • Chemistry & Materials • Cleantech & Environment • Computer Science & Engineering • Covid-19 • Food & Nutrition • Humanities / Social Sciences • Life Science & Biotechnology • Micro & Opto Electronics • Nanotechnology • Veterinary & Animal Sciences**

## Hebrew University and Amazon Web Services Establish Quantum Computing Research Agreement



Based on California Institute of Technology's campus, AWS's Center for Quantum Computing brings together quantum computing

researchers and engineers to accelerate development of quantum computing algorithms and hardware. The AWS's efforts include collaborations with universities for sponsored research in cutting-edge domains. The latest of these collaborations is funding a team of researchers at the Hebrew University's Quantum Information Science Center (QISC) and Racah Institute of Physics to advance the understanding of quantum gates – fundamental building blocks of quantum computers. HU's Prof. Retzker will lead the research group, as part of his role as a Principal Research Scientist at AWS. Yissum is coordinating this process. This collaboration is the first between AWS and any Israeli academic institution in this field.

The faculty at the Hebrew University realised that the field of quantum information is one of the key areas in the world of science and technology in the 21st century. As early as 2011, HU took up the challenge and opened the QISC, where the leading academic minds are currently working to promote research in this field.

Prof. Retzker noted, "We are at a unique moment in the history of science, when abstract theoretical ideas can progress quickly to become pragmatic technology accessible through on-demand cloud services, with potentially enormous impact on human society over time. It is my great privilege to be part of this process."

## Pioneering Machine Learning Algorithms Protect Smart Homes

Amsterdam-based smart home company Gamgee and Yissum, announced a partnership to develop machine learning algorithms that enable seamless identification of multi-vendor IoT [Internet of Things] devices to better protect and integrate diverse systems.

The ability to identify and authenticate devices on the home network is the cornerstone for the smooth and secure operation of smart home networks. As the complexity of the digital ecosystem at home grows, quality identification and authentication of devices is fundamental for assuring full protection and easy management of the network.

"The supposed goal of the randomisation of the digital identity of connected smart devices is to improve data privacy. However, randomising a few smart devices has practical implications for the other (IoT) devices and Wi-Fi network in the home. It restrains the quality of digital services, impedes inter-device operability and – paradoxically – impairs cybersecurity. Due to the randomisation, other vendor appliances – such as light bulbs, speakers, or cameras – would remain unidentified and unverified, turning them into a potential gateway for illicit users to the otherwise protected smart home environment," explains Shaul Levi, the Chief Innovation Officer of Gamgee.



"We're very pleased to have been able to connect Gamgee with Prof. David Hay and to facilitate a collaboration that can be mutually beneficial," said Dr. Itzik Goldwaser, CEO of Yissum. "We were able to find a way for a midsize company to be able to enjoy the technological edge of academic research and reap the economic advantages of such a collaboration."



# Take a Campus Tour

Grab your hard hat and check the impact that new donations have on the campus of the future and how they are laying the groundwork for cutting-edge research and innovation.



## HUJI-Tech High Tech Park

With three buildings spanning a total area of 127,000 sq.m, an additional tower with a total area of 140,000 sq.m, and the expectation to create approximately 5,000 new jobs – High Tech HUJI Park will bridge academia and industry, providing a home for start-ups while fostering innovation across the University community.

This new exciting venture, the first high-tech park in Israel on a university campus, will solidify the Hebrew University as a leader in technology and innovation.

A main advantage of the High Tech Park is the Edmond J. Safra Campus location. Already home to 50 companies, including international companies in high-tech, cyber, biotechnology, nano-technology, medicine and pharma, the expanse of the park and its facilities will allow for even more rental space,

business opportunities, collaboration and expansion. The park will have development centers, offices and laboratories on campus, and bright, open and versatile spaces that will be conducive to study, research, leisure sports and work.



# The Justice Mishael Cheshin Center for Advanced Legal 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. His widow, Ruth Cheshin, has been involved in the project since its inception, and seeks to

make the Center a physical and intellectual hub of all graduate level research and teaching in the field of law. The Center's main space is an extensive area whose large glass walls and adjacent wraparound terrace offer views of the Mount Scopus Campus' main pedestrian thoroughfare and of the historic David Wolffsohn Building. The space will be used for large events and gatherings.

The Cheshin Center is part of a University-wide endeavour to create innovative graduate school-style centers that cater to different types of study. The third and fourth floors include a multitude of rooms, offices and workspaces that allow for lone study, havruta-style pairs, small seminars, workshops, and formal lectures.

## The Barry Skolnick Biosafety Level 3 National Laboratory

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 the Coronavirus 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. This will allow researchers to have direct access to patients and patient samples and be open to civilians, academics, and clinical researchers across Israel.



The lab will have two wings: a virus isolation and tissue study wing as well as an animal research wing which will house biological (mouse) models infected with the virus. The facility will be built according to the strict BSL3 standard, equipped with a special air conditioning system that operates at lower air pressure to prevent virus leakage and a full array of advanced testing and experimentation tools and high-level protective gear.



# 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 has embarked 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 will co-locate those two disciplines and 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 state-of-the-art building includes a glass exterior, enabling the use of natural light to brighten the interior and provide a bold and dynamic outer appearance. The building will be constructed according to green building standards, ensuring 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 workspace will be constructed as a flexible lab, sharing equipment to leverage resources, thus supporting more engagement and collaboration between researchers and ensuring faster results.

# Another successful year for the Glasgow Group

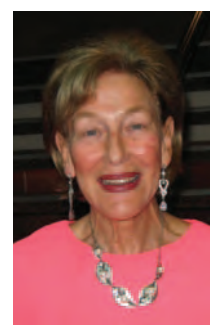
A message from the committee



The Glasgow Friends formed in 1939 and, with the exception of the war years that followed, has raised funds for the Hebrew University for over 75 years. In the 1960s and 1970s, the Glasgow Jewish community numbered some 17,000. For a number of years the group hosted fundraising dinners with prominent guest speakers. Since then, like all UK provincial communities, numbers have dropped substantially. Glasgow's Jewish community is now approximately 3,500 and the committee has had to adapt.

The Group has a core of annual subscribers whose contributions support the Glasgow Jerusalem scholarships. However, the main goal is to obtain family scholarships and major donations for prizes for needy students. Members are also encouraged to include the University in their will. This year, following the sad passing of co-chair Ann Furst, her family, friends and committee members donated a substantial sum in her memory. Several students will benefit over the next few years from this fund.

Thanks to generous supporters and a number of significant bequests, the Glasgow Group, now the only active provincial group in the UK, has raised over £600,000 in the past year.



Ann Furst z"l

## Norah Babirye, Master in Agricultural Sciences Scholarship from BFHU's 2020 Rosh Hashanah Appeal

STUDENT STORIES



This scholarship will enable me to gain a deeper understanding of the global and local perspectives of nutrition sciences. I intend to use this knowledge to better manage patients and clients with malnutrition and nutrition related outcomes; design and implement both

evidence-based and cost-effective interventions to ensure better utilisation of Uganda's agricultural and natural resources. I am passionate about food and nutrition especially of rural areas and this is showcased in my core roles at Mildmay, Uganda.

In future, I plan to initiate more research in interventions towards micronutrient intake, which is currently a public health concern in Uganda, as well as develop innovative teaching curricula for social health enterprises in Uganda.

I am eager to further my studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 2021-22, because it has a rich standing of academic excellence, especially this course. Studying at the Hebrew University will also expand my interaction with other international students in building my networks to nurture my career goals; I need this financial assistance as my own financial capacity cannot allow me to achieve this.



# 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 with 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 final year of their three-year 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.

My parents are unable to help me pay for my studies. Thanks to the UJIA scholarship, I can fulfil my aspiration. You made it possible for me to learn; I hope that one day, thanks to my studies, I will be able to give back to the world.

**B.A. in International Relations, Communication and Journalism**

Thanks to your generous support last year, I was able to continue and concentrate on my studies. I am grateful for the UJIA scholarship, which makes a huge difference for me.

**B.A. in Geography & Asian Studies**

We are a large family with a lot of expenses and a low income. Your economic support helped me to focus more on my studies. I really appreciate your consideration to encourage me, and other students, to help get a higher education.

**B.Sc.Agr. in Nutrition**

My parents are unemployed thus cannot afford to pay for my academic studies. The UJIA scholarship is a great help and, thanks to your support, is making my dream become a reality.

**B.A. Business Admin & Accounting**

I am the first in my family to attend university, hoping to continue towards a master's degree. Financially, I could not have afforded to attend my studies without your help. Thank you again.

**L.LB. in Law**

I wish to convey my profound appreciation for the UJIA scholarship. Thanks to your kindness I can immerse myself in my studies and put all my efforts into them. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

**B.Sc. in Chemistry**



# The Hebrew University Alumni Association

The Hebrew University's alumni comprise over 280,000 graduates. **The Hebrew University Alumni Association** works to maintain strong ties between alumni and the University, ensuring that they are active and engaged

## 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**  
[www.hujiconnect.com](http://www.hujiconnect.com)

**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 enables 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

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





# HEBREW UNIVERSITY ALUMNI:

**Dr. Maureen Malowany,**  
MPH Alumni Academic Coordinator.

“The Hebrew University-Hadassah Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine’s International Master of Public Health Program (IMPH) currently has over 900 alumni worldwide. Holding key positions across sectors, IMPH alumni are truly at the front lines of the pandemic: setting national or local policies, coordinating and providing health services, communicating with the public, and more.”

*We established a dedicated COVID-19 group in response to an alumnus who was tasked with developing his country’s pandemic protocols.*

**Prof. Yehuda Neumark,**  
Director of the Braun School

“The IMPH program maintains an active alumni network over many platforms including WhatsApp. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, alumni have actively reached out to each other and to their alma mater for professional advice and guidance, as well as to share their experiences on the ground. While preventive measures are identical worldwide (e.g. hygiene and masks), IMPH alumni have come up with creative, context-specific solutions to combat the virus in their home countries.

Another way IMPH alumni came together was through the MASHAV-BRAUN School Global COVID-19 Forum, co-launched by the Braun School and MASHAV (Israel’s Agency for International Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). Eighteen webinars connected IMPH alumni with Israeli and international public health practitioners and researchers and provided an opportunity for participants to share their own experiences, successes, and challenges fighting COVID-19. The webinars covered a variety of topics: mental health services, food security, personal protection, cyber-surveillance, protecting vulnerable populations, virus sequencing to understand variations, smoking behaviour and tobacco control, aging populations, and more.”

*Each week we are reminded of how much we can learn from one other, and how much we are dependent on one another to tackle this global public health crisis.*

**Dr. Sandra Gómez Ventura, MPH, PhD**  
(IMPH 1996)  
**Researcher and Independent Consultant, Honduras**

“When the pandemic struck, I was teaching tele-medicine to medical students in rural areas. Later, through the Shalom Association, MASHAV in Guatemala, and the International Federation of Medical Students Associations (IFMSA), I taught these skills to an additional 300 practitioners.



Dr. Sandra Gomez Ventura (2nd from right) during collection of PPE

I co-founded three different pandemic-related organisations. First, the Honduras Research Consortium, an umbrella group of 30 researchers. Second, the UNITEC Observatory of Dengue and COVID-19, which issues a bi-weekly national report. The third is Frena la Curva Honduras (FLCH, Flatten the Curve), a map-based website for posting needs, offers, and learning about nearby organisations that offer assistance. Along with Foundation Lucas, UNITEC, and Aliv.io, FLCH established a free tele-medicine clinic. Together with Fundación Lucas and IFMSA Honduras, FLCH organised donations of PPE. I conducted trainings on preventive measures, the safe disposal of PPE, developed manuals for safely using public transit, with over 2,000 people accessing this information on Facebook.”

*Thanks to IMPH, I learned how to work with people from different cultures and how to conduct research. I see myself as part of a large community, where I can ask and give advice. IMPH alumni are my family.*

# FIGHTING COVID-19 WORLDWIDE

**Peter Waiswa**, MBChB, IMPH, PhD  
(IMPH 2003)

**Associate Professor, Makerere University, Uganda**

“My specialty is health systems and policy with a focus on reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition (RMNCAH/N). I belong to an independent group advising the WHO General Director on continuing these services during the pandemic, with an emphasis on low and middle-income countries.

I also support the Ministry of Health by drawing upon national data to develop evidence-based responses to the pandemic. These include advocating for services,

advising stakeholders on ways to circumvent the virus’ effects and conducting RMNCAH/H presentations and training for districts and hospitals. On the clinical side, I belong to an independent advisory committee overseeing a Ugandan trial of convalescent plasma transplants for COVID-19 patients. All this has been possible by collaborating with the Uganda Ministry of Health, the World Health Organisation, UNICEF, academia, other districts, and civil society organisations.”

*My work has been influenced by two aspects of my studies at the Hebrew University, namely community-oriented primary care and epidemiology training.*



Dr. Peter Waiswa with kids in the Luuka district.



**Prof. Adesegun Fatusi**, MChB, MPH, FWACP, PhD (IMPH 1995)  
**Vice-Chancellor, University of Medical Sciences, Ondo, Nigeria.**

“In April, the Governor of Ondo appointed me to the State’s 7-person COVID-19 Response Fund Committee (RFC), which mobilises and manages funds to fight the pandemic in Ondo, home to 3.5 million people.



Explaining an isolation ward features

In July, he appointed me to head the state’s Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC), which monitors the rate of contagion, coordinates the different ministries’ responses, formulates strategies and policies, and advises the government. I led the IMC in outlining a strategic roadmap against the pandemic based on scientific and evidence-based approaches, along with community education and engagement, and enforcement of preventive measures. The IMC worked with local and international partners, including the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control, UNICEF, and the private sector.

Through the RFC and in partnership with the IMC, the University of Medical Sciences, UNICEF, and the private sector, we established three new isolation wards, expanded the Infectious Diseases Hospital, constructed a molecular biology lab, obtained 4 new ambulances, and purchased equipment, including 2 ventilators.”

*All this was possible because I am recognised as a public health expert – the foundation for my career was provided by the IMPH program!*



After school visit monitoring compliance to Covid-19 regulations

**Öykü Turunç**, MD, (IMPH 2020)  
**Research Assistant & Resident Doctor, Dokuz Eylül University Faculty of Medicine, Izmir, Turkey**

“The pandemic broke out during my IMPH studies. I was called back to Turkey to work on the front lines and continued my classes online. I work in the department of public health, which established a contact tracing system for health workers who test positive for the virus. I call to assess these workers’ condition and identify the source of infection. Next, I call their contacts to determine the risk of infection and the best course of action. Our four-person team makes approximately a hundred phone calls a day. I also work in the COVID-19 Pandemic Clinic for Hospital Workers, where I assess and test workers who suspect they may have been infected, referring them to the contact tracing team when necessary. We handle approximately 80 cases a day.



At work in Pandemic Clinic

In addition, all doctors work bi-monthly shifts in the Emergency Pandemic Clinic, assessing and caring for community members who display COVID-19 symptoms.”

*The knowledge and skills that I gained at the Hebrew University are invaluable to my work preventing the spread of the Coronavirus among the 4,000 health workers at my hospital.*

**Rilwan Raji, MBChB, MPH (IMPH 2013)**  
**Vice-Chancellor, University of Medical Sciences,**  
**Ondo, Nigeria.**

"I ordinarily detect, report, investigate, and curtail diseases of public health importance in Cross River State, home to over 4 million people. The Coronavirus response now consumes half my time.

Most importantly, I worked to convince the sub-national government that hiding suspected cases posed a danger to public health.

I worked with the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to develop an action plan and trained 2,000+ surveillance personnel in detection, contact tracing, and isolation practices.



Dr. Rilwan Raji training airport authority staff on COVID-19 prevention and control at Margaret Ekpo International Airport Calabar, Nigeria

Working with the NCDC, the public sector, and the local public health department we upgraded the infectious disease hospital and Calabar Teaching Hospital laboratories, introducing PCR testing. Access to a local lab has increased testing and made it easier to detect and isolate cases.

Along with a number of local UN agencies, I participate in bi-weekly coordination meetings and have trained nearly 5,000 health care workers. Providing them with knowledge, PPE, and sanitization measures has reduced their infection rates from 30% to 7%.

Working alongside UNICEF colleagues, I have been involved in the development and dissemination of educational materials on hygiene and preventive measures in the community."

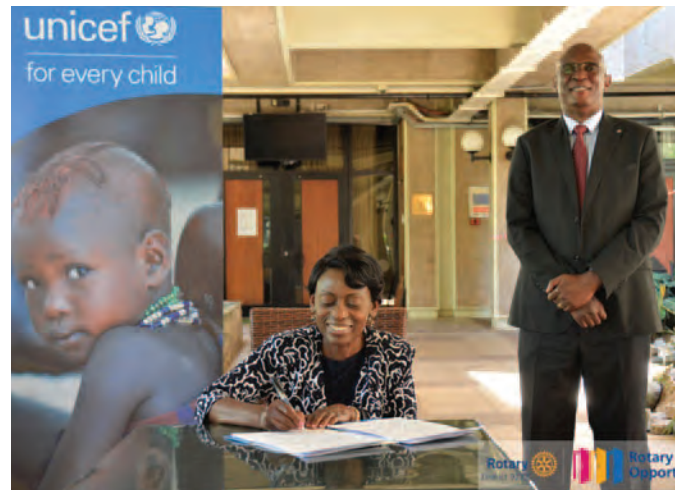
*My ability to support the Nigerian government in responding to the COVID-19 outbreak was greatly assisted by the classwork and project in Community-Oriented Primary Care at the Braun School.*

**Ambassador Dr. Josephine Ojiambo, MBChB, MPH (IMPH 1989)**  
**Lecturer at University of Nairobi & Kenyatta University; Rotary International representative to UNICEF Kenya & UN office in Nairobi; Director of the Peter Ojiambo Foundation**

"Since the outbreak, I have been serving as Rotary International's liaison to the Ministry of Health's national task force. In this position I have been involved with the deployment of sanitation measures, PPE, and other necessary supplies across Kenya – enabling over 5 million handwashes and distributing 46 thousand food packages.

I recently signed a memorandum of understanding between Rotary and UNICEF Kenya to provide the sanitation necessary to re-open 400 schools in January 2021, enabling 160,000 students to safely continue their studies.

I also serve as liaison to the National Business Compact on the Coronavirus (NBCC), which is part of the Ministry of Health's national task force. Working with the private sector, NGOs, and academia, I've helped fundraise and advise the Ministry of Health on strategic responses and behavior changes, including deploying 7,500 hand-washing stations to hotspots.



Amb. Dr. Josephine Ojiambo Signing Rotary UNICEF for schools

I was recently appointed Director of the Peter Ojiambo Foundation, where I undertook a survey of Kenyans living with disabilities under the Coronavirus, in order to inform national – and county-level communications, services, and product design during the pandemic."

*The MASHAV-BRAUN webinar series truly expanded my choice of interventions, as I drew upon the wealth of knowledge of IMPH alumni.*



# Our Passover Appeal 2021

Thank you for helping our needy students during such challenging times

Back in March with some degree of optimism on the horizon, Hebrew University students were facing immense challenges with all 3,000+ courses being taught remotely and research impeded by limited access to laboratories. Our Pesach Appeal this year focused on establishing a Hardship Fund in aid of students, many of whom had lost their jobs and, often whose parents had become unemployed.

Our collective assistance in the UK supplemented that of Friends Associations across the world as well as within Israel, helping to make real impact.

We count upon our students in every generation to work unceasingly towards a better world with new discoveries in all fields of human endeavour. For our Legal Group Friends donations were designated in support of the pro bono law clinics operated by the Faculty of Law.

Here are just two expressions of student appreciation. Your support has literally been invaluable to them. There are many more such students.

STUDENT  
STORIES

**Ofir K** is a first student pursuing an MA in Business Administration. One of three children, she has no financial support from her parents, who are in debt following a prolonged divorce. Her father is unemployed and her mother has health issues finding it difficult to work. Ofir has been on unpaid leave from her job, without any source of income.

**Yara B** is in her fifth year of MD studies at the Faculty of Medicine. She has four siblings, one of whom is also a student. Her father is a tour guide, but due to Coronavirus has been unemployed. The family subsisted on the mother's minimal income. Yara found it hard to pay for her living expenses and her studies, which didn't allow her time to work. She was in need of a scholarship in order to finish her medical studies.

## Sravani Kante IMPH Scholarship

STUDENT  
STORIES

My desire to extend my knowledge and my enthusiasm towards health care motivated me to study for a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Following graduation, I worked for Primera Medical Technologies, reviewing electronic health records (EHR) in order to monitor the quality of patient care and safety provided in US hospitals to improve patient outcomes. I then worked as Duty Medical Officer (DMO) in Sunflower Hospital to August 2020. I have chosen Masters of Public Health to develop and apply holistic approaches to organisational safety and health. My interests are in control categories and interventions which enable the recognition, development and continued improvement of health in the workplace.

My desire for both a broader understanding of public health and specialised knowledge in workplace safety have led me to this graduate program. I truly believe my professional background and my degree provide the foundation required to build on these skills with the knowledge I will learn in the IMPH program.

Post-MPH career plans I intend to return to work in India, preferably in the government sector. IMPH training positions open to me include Government and Public Services Research or applied work as a Public Health Officer. The IMPH will strengthen my skills as a programme coordinator, open new areas of interest, perhaps within the NGO sector or with the World Health Organisation.

I am so grateful to attend this course. Since I joined the programme, I have learned so many areas in both

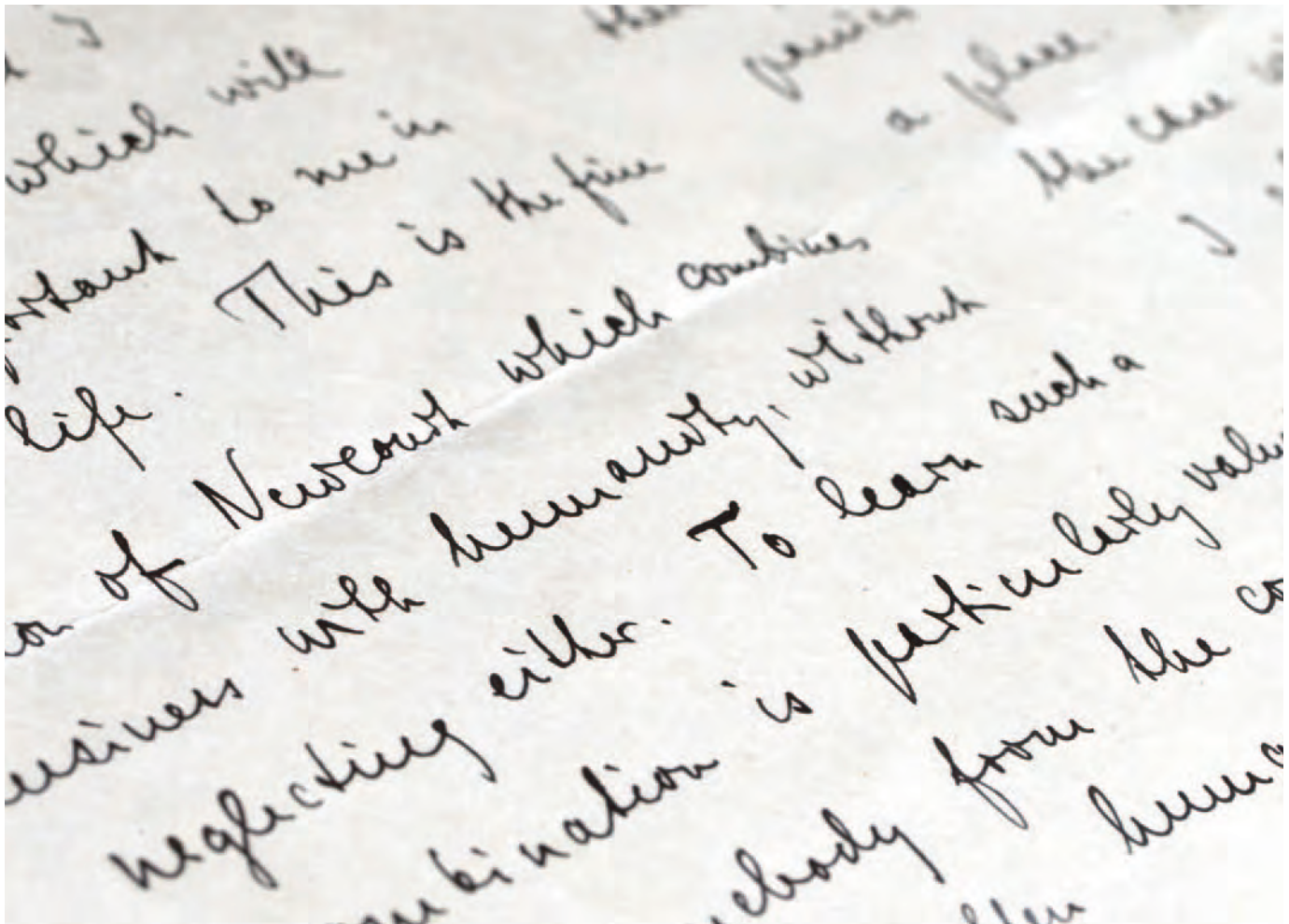
theoretical and applied public health. It will give me more confidence for future endeavours.



Sravani's Masters Scholarship is funded by British Friends supporters, who donated to the 2019 Rosh Hashanah appeal. Thank you!



# 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.

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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.

 **Rothschild & Co**  
Wealth Management





## 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 70 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.

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



**Ariel Cohen** – Ariel Cohen – Visiting Research Fellow in social theory and philosophy at The Richard Koebner Minerva Center for German History "Researching at the Hebrew University has been everything I hoped it would be, and in fact has exceeded my expectations. All members of the university community have been kind and gracious with their time: right from the administrative and secretarial staff to the academic members of my research group."

## 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/>



**Charlotte Storer** – Glocal student "I would like to take this opportunity to express how deeply thankful I am for your financial support, without which I would have not been able to fully pursue my MA studies in International Development at The Hebrew University in Jerusalem. It has meant the world to me to be supported in order to be completely immersed in the Glocal program. I am continuously delighted to study with an amazing network of colleagues, inspiring professors and with the prospect of being able to apply all the academic grounding practically in the field during my internship. Looking ahead, I am extremely thrilled for the upcoming academic year and strongly feel that this MA is the beginning of my professional future."

## 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, 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](mailto:students@bfhu.org) to talk further about financial assistance available to students at UK and Irish universities.**



Trilateral Fellowships Programme for Palestinians

# Israel-UK-Palestine GROWTH PhD Fellowship

Graduate Research Opportunities in Water Technology and Health

The Israel-UK-Palestine GROWTH Fellowship Scheme was established to promote scientific links between Israeli, British and Palestinian researchers and to contribute to the development of science and research in those three countries.

In March 2021 the British Embassy and the British Council in Israel held their biennial UK-Israel Science Days (virtually this year). One of the events was a meeting showcasing the academic programmes in a trilateral context. The event was hosted by HM Ambassador to Israel Neil Wigan OBE, and chaired by Professor Lord Robert Winston, the co-chair of the UK-Israel Science Council and a strong advocate of this Trilateral Fellowships programme.

In this highly inspirational event, the Doctoral Candidate Fellows spoke about their experience to

date and the impact that the programme has made to their careers, personal lives and their social circles. They also expressed their aspirations for helping and sharing their knowledge with their communities as well as furthering their careers. They are all students of the Hebrew University. The British Friends is a partner to this programme having sponsored Ahmed Radwan over several years and plans soon to support a further student.



## Are you missing out?

Keep updated with news, events and much more from the Hebrew University.

Be the first to hear of new developments and scientific breakthroughs and register for webinars on a wide range of topics with leading professors and scientists.

Don't miss out, opt in here for our e-marketing emails [www.bfhu.org/opt-in/](http://www.bfhu.org/opt-in/)  
The form is quick to complete and you can change your preferences at any time.

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





# Better Civil Society – The Clinical Legal Education Center



A tour of East Jerusalem with the Clinic for Multiculturalism and Diversity

The Clinical Legal Education Center (CLEC) at the Hebrew University is an integral part of Israel's leading Faculty of Law and one of the country's foremost clinical centers. Through the generous support received by the different Friends of the Hebrew University, including BFHU, the CLEC ensures that law students gain hands-on practical training and social awareness, that Jerusalem's underserved populations receive much-needed legal assistance and guidance, and that socially just legal policy and policymaking in Israel are advanced.

CLEC activities are based on a two-fold approach, which offers legal aid of the highest quality to a wide range of disadvantaged individuals and groups in Israel, while engaging law students in top-notch, hands-on clinical experience. Law students engage at the CLEC in practical legal work and attend forums and workshops that provide them with the

legal tools essential for effectively performing their pro bono activities. In addition, Faculty members help participating students reflect on their experience and gain important insights on the social, cultural, and ethical dimensions of their future profession. The students also benefit from interaction with professionals working in other disciplines, including social work, business administration and disability studies.

Clinics cover areas such as marginalised populations, criminal justice, wrongful convictions, economic development of women, multiculturalism and diversity, disabilities, youth at risk.

Thank you to all our Legal Friends for ongoing support for this important Law Faculty project. To read the full report please visit [www.bfhu.org/news](http://www.bfhu.org/news)



# EVENTS – Meeting, Learning, Celebrating Online

One of the unexpected consequences of the pandemic has been the opportunity to get closer to one another thanks to video platforms, serving the Hebrew University and British Friends.

## LEGAL GROUP



Supporting the Hebrew University's pro bono legal clinics serving the cross-section of Jerusalem's population as well as support for students attending the Centre for Transnational Legal Studies in London.

- An interview by Joshua Rosenberg with The Rt Hon Lord Dyson PC, former Master of the Rolls of England and Wales, hosted by Legal Group Chair, Lord Pannick QC.
- A discussion with Prof. Philippe Sands QC led by Joshua Rosenberg QC (hon), hosted by Legal Group Chair, Lord Pannick QC. In partnership with law firm **ALLEN & OVERY**

## HONOURS CLUB

An exclusive group of donors who have committed to a legacy in support of the Hebrew University.

- An afternoon of Italian Jewish cookery with Silvia Nacamulli, London-based cook and well-recognised name on the international food & cooking circuit. She grew up in Rome, surrounded by her home country's passion for food. Silvia is an alumnus of the Hebrew University.
- A virtual Chanukah party, meeting the Hebrew University postgraduate students and hearing about their achievements and their studies in the UK, their dreams and aspirations to make Israel and the global community better for all of us.



## CEREMONIES

- The prestigious Birk Prizes Ceremony in Agriculture and Law dates back to the early '90s thanks to a fund established by Ellis and Alma Birk, generous multi-generation British supporters of the Hebrew University for over 70 years. six prizes were awarded: two in agriculture and four in law (of which two are new prizes in Clinical Legal Education).



- The 25th Anniversary of the Sir Sigmund and Lady Hazel Sternberg Prizes Ceremony for Interfaith Understanding – hosted by Prof. Ronit Ricci, guest speaker Ruth Tamir.



# EVENTS – Meeting, Learning, Celebrating Online

Zoom came to the rescue on hundreds of occasions: events, lectures, discussion panels, meeting students and researchers, holding ceremonies – breaking down geographic and time barriers.



## PARTNERSHIP

- Saving Lives in Israel – New Innovations and Approaches – a partnership event of BFHU and Magen David Adom UK



## MEDICAL GROUP

Supporting scholarships for Hebrew University medical students.

- The Challenges and Opportunity of Studying Medicine in Times of Pandemic – A unique insight into the realities of Hebrew University Faculty of Medicine medical students in a time of global pandemic.



Throughout the year Zoom events took place across a wide range of topics. In many cases, you can catch up by viewing a recording, see 'Past Events & Webinars' [www.bfhu.org/events](http://www.bfhu.org/events)

## Health

- Improving nutrition in the developing world
- Medical cannabis
- Diverse impacts of psychiatric medication
- Health pre and post-COVID
- Vaccines of the future
- Ageing: rejuvenation therapy
- Our brain, mental health, pandemic
- The ageing brain
- Autism
- International Masters of Public Health graduation ceremony



## Society, Politics & Peace

- Politics and elections in Israel
- An interview with Prof. Yuval Harari (Hebrew University Executive Meetings)
- Migration memories
- Peace-making in the Middle East
- Inclusiveness in education
- The Truman Centre for the Advancement of Peace: crossing borders: women and journalists
- Ultra-orthodox women in Israeli society
- Delinquency and violence in Israeli-Arab society
- Challenges for the Ethiopian community in Israel



## Culture, Humanities

- The history of Maoz Tzur
- The treasures of the Centre for Jewish Art
- Art and the brain
- The 'sound' of music
- Building memories through architecture
- Einstein – never-ending curiosity

## Entrepreneurism, Technology

- NEXUS: American Friends dealmakers summit
- Women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)
- Start-ups from the Hebrew University
- Impact revolution, impact investments, social entrepreneurship
- Quantum science, quantum computing

## Environment, Nutrition

- The future of food
- Life in the balance: honey bees
- More to mosquitoes than meets the Nose
- International Masters of Agricultural Sciences graduation ceremony

## Veterinary Science

- Compassion for animals: the work of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital



# Scholarships Funded by Generous Donations



Dear donors of the British Friends Medical Group,

This is the last year I am writing to thank you for your generosity. I almost cannot believe I have got this far. I would like to take this chance to express how much you have helped me during these years. Your assistance has been invaluable in my journey to achieve my dreams.

This is the sixth year of my education as a medical student here at the Hebrew University. During my time at the University, I had many different experiences and I had to face a lot of challenges. I had the opportunity to see different departments, and learn from different doctors and researchers. I have met many patients and followed their treatment from the first time they arrived, to their release. This exposure was crucial to my education and helped me understand a lot about this profession and about myself. I know that without your assistance I would not be able to focus all my energy to become the best doctor I can be.

I have experienced hospital life from both sides. Being able to understand how patients feel, how their family feels, has helped me understand what kind of a doctor I want to be. I think this profession gives me the opportunity to help people when they need it the most. I am close to the moment when I will have the privilege to use everything I know from my studies and my life, to help others. It feels both like the ending and the start of something new. I feel very grateful for your part in getting me to this point. I cannot express in words how much I appreciate your generosity. It may be a small action, but it had a great affect on my life. Your help was a burden lifted from my shoulders, a kindness I will never forget.

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



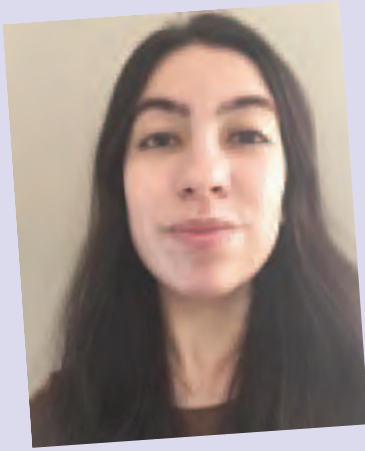
Dear donors of the British Friends Medical Group,

This is my final year in medical school, and I am writing to say thank you, as I would not have been able to do it without your help. Because of the financial assistance you provided, I was able to reach academic achievements that would have been unimaginable.

It has been a wonderful experience to study and live in Jerusalem for the last six years. Over the course of my schooling, I was exposed to numerous medical and surgical fields in various locations around the city. This year is a bit different from the others as we were given the opportunity to elect the fields in which we have rotations. This past month, I participated in elective rotations in orthopedics and family medicine, and am currently in emergency medicine. In addition, I intend to do rounds in cardiology, gastro-enterology, plastic surgery and ENT. Although I have been enjoying all of these clinical fields, as time goes on, I am more and more convinced that my future is in orthopedics. Towards the end of the year, I am to present my M.D.

thesis focusing on the treatment of small bowel obstruction found in those without prior abdominal surgery. It has been intensive work and I have benefited from the personal guidance of two surgeons at Shaare Zedek Hospital. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

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



My name is Devora Amar and I am honoured to be one of this year's recipients of the BFHU Medical Group Scholarship. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity in funding this financial aid program. Thanks to your donation, I am able to continue my education in the Hebrew University, especially during these challenging COVID times.

I am currently in my first year of Medical School, with a bachelor's degree in Bioinformatics. Becoming a doctor has always been my plan and my dream and I am determined to work hard and to do my best in order to become the best doctor I can be. Growing up in an ultra-Orthodox community in Israel, my educational pursuit was not always met with a great enthusiasm by the people closest to me and I had to find my own path to achieve my goals. I feel so lucky and proud to call myself a medical student at a prestigious institution such as the Hebrew University.

My very intensive school program does not leave me a lot of time for work, but I try to combine as much work as I can, without compromising my school achievements, in order to be able to afford my tuition. I recently started working at an OBGYN clinic where I'm lucky to be able to get my first glimpse of clinical medicine, while working to support myself. Your generous support lightens my financial burden and secures this year's tuition, which allows me to focus more on my studies.

I thank you for your confidence and willingness to help me achieve my goals and I look forward to being able to give back to the community once I begin my career as a doctor.

**Sincerely, Devora Amar**

## Greetings

Help promote the Hebrew University with a range of A5 greetings cards sharing historic moments, research and art across our campuses.

Suggested donation £25 for 10, £50 for 25.  
Envelopes, P&P included.

Mix 'n' match or single design orders.

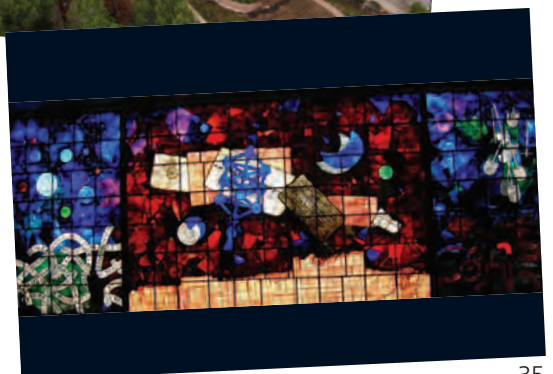
Please call the British Friends office – 020 8349 5757  
or email [friends@bfhu.org](mailto:friends@bfhu.org) to place your order

Message on the inside, from the top:

"We shall open wide the gates and windows of this institution"  
Chaim Nachman Bialik

The Suzanne and Charles Goodman Brain Sciences Building,  
home of the Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences  
at the heart of the Edmond J. Safra Campus at Givat Ram

Mordechai Ardon – Isaiah's Prophecy of World's Peace 1983.  
Givat Ram Edmond J. Safra Campus. Main Hall in  
The National Library



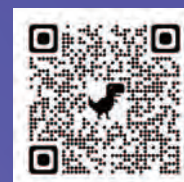


# A Weekly Dose of Brain Stimulus



The Hebrew University is producing short, appetite-satisfying videos, each around 5-6 minutes, on an array of topics from handling uncertainty, managing COVID together, veterinary science, earth sciences and more. There's something for everyone and the library is growing weekly.

Go to <https://www.bfhu.org/2021/07/13/a-weekly-dose-of-brain-stimulus/>



**Dr. Roni Porat:**  
Political Science and  
International relations



**Gillian Dank VDM:**  
Koret School of Veterinary  
Medicine



**Dr. Howard Deitcher:**  
Being Open About  
Uncertainty



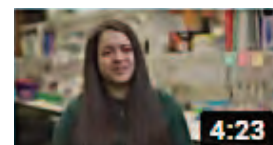
**Prof. Eran Halperin:**  
Department of  
Psychology



**Dr. Moran Yassour:**  
Combatting Covid  
Together



**Karina Simantov MD/PhD:**  
Kuvim Center for Study of  
Infectious Diseases



And Many More...

## The British Friends 2021 Legacy Campaign

Making a Better World by supporting the next 100 years of the Hebrew University

Real impact is made through legacy bequests, from both those who have passed away and those who have made a commitment in their current will. Such generosity also serves as a powerful signal to the next generation encouraging them to follow in the footsteps of their family in becoming future supporters of the Hebrew University.

For further information including help with a new will or codicil, details of the potential tax benefits arising from a philanthropic bequest or to arrange to meet, contact Gill Benson: [gill.benson@bfhu.org](mailto:gill.benson@bfhu.org) or call on: 020 8349 5757.

**Our website – [www.bfhu.org](http://www.bfhu.org) – carries additional information and some moving case studies.**



# The Rimon Impact Fund

The Rimon Impact Fund is a philanthropy-based venture creation engine dedicated to the advancement of meaningful improvements in health, social & environmental well-being.

The Rimon Impact Fund targets local entrepreneurship at the nexus of Israel's innovation economy – the Hebrew University of Jerusalem – delivering broader impact using rigorous processes of capital deployment and expert management.



## Establishment

- Eligible for gift aid.
- \$25K minimum donation.
- Fund launch at \$500k minimum pool.
- Donors focused on innovation & entrepreneurship.
- Evergreen fund: Continuous fundraising possible (no cap).



## Management

- Yissum provides fund management & infrastructure (legal, IP, etc.).
- Fund sources pre-seed or seed opportunities.
- <\$100K investments (average bite size \$25K).
- Sourcing from HUJI faculty, alumni, students (including HUJI innovate studios as key source for young startups).



## Impact

**Investments across all verticals:** Health, Agriculture, Food, Computer Science & Engineering, Social Sciences, Material Science.

**The "Impact Multiple"** – fund returns fully re-invested to fuel more disruptive innovation at HUJI.



## Partners

**Hebrew University:** World leading, inter-disciplinary applied research institution. One of the most progressive academic centers in the world in terms of academic entrepreneurship.

**Yissum:** One of the world's most prominent experts in translational innovation. Manager of 3 seed funds with dozens of successful startups and an established record of value creation.

**HUJI – Innovate:** The University's Center of Innovation & Entrepreneurship is an abundant source of disruptive innovations coming from students, faculty & alumni. A combination of traditional entrepreneurial impact with an academic basis.



## Donor Engagement

**A sense of impact:** Gift translates to concrete venture creation activities resulting in impactful HUJI startups.

**An exclusive circle:** Quarterly non-confidential updates to donors on deal-flow, investments and progress of portfolio companies.

**A network of innovation:** An annual meetup showcasing the portfolio.

**A front-row seat:** A unique opportunity to see promising startups as they form, offering the potential to future investment opportunities as they become available to the public.

For further information and for details of our upcoming Zoom 'Rimon Fund' event, contact [friends@bfhu.org](mailto:friends@bfhu.org)



THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM



HUJI INNOVATE



# DIARY DATES... don't miss out

## SEPTEMBER 2021

Graduation Ceremony of the 46th Class of the International Master of Public Health – Jerusalem

Graduation Ceremony Class of 2021 in International MSc in Plant Sciences – Jerusalem

Eco-Synagogue, sustainability event with the Hebrew University

## OCTOBER 2021

17/18 – 84th Hebrew University Board of Governors gathering, 'Better World'

BFHU Honours Club (legators) – Desert Island Discs 'From Stepney to Jerusalem'

American Friends of the Hebrew University – an interview with Prof. Philippe Sands QC

Annual BFHU Lionel Cohen Law Lecture, Lord Burrows – Jerusalem

## NOVEMBER 2021

Einstein Nobel Prize Centenary Lecture

Rimon Innovation Fund – presentation from Yisum

BFHU Honours Club – The David Pearlman Palestine Postcard Collection

## DECEMBER 2021

Pears Scholars UK virtual roadshow

Limmud UK – featuring several Hebrew University guest speakers

Honours Club Chanukah Tea – London

Womens Group Chanukah Tea – London

## FEBRUARY 2022

Alumni event – London

## MARCH 2022

BFHU Medical Group event – hosting 'Tzameret' medical students – London

Sternberg Prizes Ceremony in Interfaith Understanding – Jerusalem

Legal Group event

UCL Institute of Jewish Studies – joint event – London

## APRIL 2022

Ellis & Alma Birk Annual Prizes Ceremony in Agriculture and Law – Jerusalem

Joint event, JW3 – London

Annual Thea Zucker Memorial Lecture – London

## MAY 2022

BFHU annual Legacy Mission - Israel

Annual BFHU Lionel Cohen Law Lecture, Lord Burnett – Jerusalem

BFHU Legal Group – annual dinner

## JUNE 2022

10-15 – 85th Hebrew University Board of Governors Gathering – Jerusalem

BFHU Gala dinner – London

All events held on-line unless otherwise stated by city location.  
Events subject to change.  
Information finalised on line at [www.bfhu.org/events](http://www.bfhu.org/events)

Please make sure you opt in to receive our digital communications  
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## Can't Travel?

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



# Join us for a stunning free trip to Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and the Hebrew University

Celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut in Tel Aviv and at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

**FULLY PAID FOR BY OUR SPONSOR**

**4-11 May 2022**

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 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 Tel Aviv, 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)

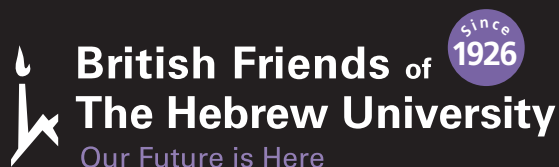
*Legacy Mission excludes travel insurance.  
Programme and dates subject to change.  
Terms and conditions apply.*

*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



Get online to follow exciting developments at the Hebrew University  
<https://campaign.huji.ac.il>



and at the British Friends  
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Reg address as above.

*giftaid it*

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.