The Jacques Loeb Centre for the History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences was inaugurated in March 2008. It supports advanced research covering topics related to the life sciences. The Centre pursues a broad range of investigations into the history and philosophy of modern research. The proceedings of its annual international workshops have been published as special editions of leading scientific and historical journals. Seminars provide an interdisciplinary forum for historians and philosophers of science, as well as scientists, to present and discuss new research, with a special focus on the life sciences.

The Centre offers post-doctoral and graduate fellowships or positions for exchange students and other qualified individuals in the history and philosophy of modern life sciences.

Particular attention is given to historical and philosophical research in the following areas:
- Developmental genetics, genomics, molecular cell biology, and neurobiology
- Physico-chemical research into the structure and function of proteins
- Phylogeny and evolutionary biology
- Phylogeny in the life sciences between Israel and Germany
- Molecular understanding of disease processes such as cancer
- Ethical and legal implications of recent research on genes and genomes

For further information and updates, please visit: http://in.bgu.ac.il/en/loeb/ or contact: jloebcentre@bgu.ac.il
Monday, November 24

9:15-10:00 a.m. Workshop Registration and Refreshments
10:00-10:15 a.m. Greetings and Opening Remarks
Prof. Rivka Carmi, President, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Prof. Jerry Eichler, Chairman, Department of Life Sciences, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Prof. Ute Deichmann, Director, Jacques Loeb Centre for the History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
10:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m. I. The Genome and Gene Regulation
Chair: Anthony S. Travis, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
10:15 a.m. Ramon Birnbaum, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Genomic view of gene regulatory elements and their role in human disease
11:00 a.m. Eric Davidson, California Institute of Technology
Formalizing the genomic logic of spatial gene regulation in development
11:45 a.m.-12:00 noon Coffee Break
12:00 noon Hanah Margalit, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Integration of post-transcriptional regulation by non-coding RNAs in the cellular networks
12:45 p.m. Dan Mishmar, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Are mitochondria part of the cellular, genome-wide transcription regulatory system?
1:30-2:30 p.m. Lunch Break
2:30-4:00 p.m. II. History, Structure, and Function
Chair: Myles Jackson, New York University
2:30-3:15 p.m. Ute Deichmann, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Chromatin: Its history, the seminal researchers, and their philosophy
3:15-4:00 p.m. Michel Morange, École Normale Supérieure, Paris
Gene complexes: The search for a link between genome structure and genome function
4:00-4:30 p.m. Coffee Break
4:30-6:00 p.m. III. The Genome and Immunology
Chair: Tomer Hertz, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Ellen Rothenberg, California Institute of Technology
Genomic compositions of cellular identity in the immune system
Nir Friedman, Weizmann Institute of Science
Acquired immunity for all: Somatic processes allow individuals to learn from their own immune experience
6:00 p.m. For invited speakers and guests
Reception, Musical Interlude, and Dinner
Tuesday, November 25

9:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. IV. Evolutionary Perspectives
Chair: Ramon Birnbaum, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
9:15 a.m. Patrick Lemaire, Centre de Recherche de Biochimie Macromoléculaire, Montpellier
Developmental systems divergence: When regulatory mechanisms evolve faster than the traits they control
10:00 a.m. Yitzhak Pilpel, Weizmann Institute of Science
Can we evolve genes and genomes in a Lamarckian fashion in the lab?
10:45-11:15 a.m. Coffee Break
11:15 a.m. Eric Davidson, California Institute of Technology
Evolutionary perspectives on developmental gene regulatory network structure/function: The causal bases of phylogeny, of body plan stasis, and of innovation in deep time
12:00 noon Hugues Roest Crollius, École Normale Supérieure, Paris
Ancestral genomes as a means to integrating evolution into modern biology
12:45-1:45 p.m. Lunch Break
1:45-3:15 p.m. V. Philosophy and Ethics
Chair: Yakir Levine, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
2:30 p.m. Floriano Maderspacher, Current Biology - Cell Press/Elsevier
Victory over the genes: The rise and rise of epigenetics in scientific and public discourse
3:15-3:45 p.m. Coffee Break
3:45-5:15 p.m. VI. Genome and Phenotype
Chair: Eyal Gur, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
3:45 p.m. Lucile Laplane, Institut de Cancérologie Gustave Roussy, Villejuif
History and philosophy of stem cell biology: State or entity?
4:30 p.m. Diethard Tautz, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology, Plön
From Genes to Shape: Approaching the genetic basis of complex traits involved in cranial morphology
5:15-5:45 p.m. Roundtable Discussion
7:15 p.m. Dinner for invited speakers and guests
Dinner Lecture: Ellen Rothenberg
It takes blind men to assemble an elephant: How the immune system has been revealed