

**Prof. Dan G. Blumberg** currently serves as Vice-President and Dean for Research and Development at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

### **Education**

Prof. Blumberg earned his Ph.D. from Arizona State University (1993) where he studied and worked in the Planetary Geology Group and focused on aeolian processes (wind-blown sand transport and deposition) and microwave radar remote sensing. The topic of His Ph.D. thesis was "Prediction of Aeolian Processes using Radar Remote Sensing and Numerical Models". In his thesis he used AIRSAR data in preparation for NASA's upcoming Spaceborne Radar Laboratory Mission (SRL-1 and 2). Blumberg's Ph.D. Advisors were Ronald Greeley and Anthony Brazel (committee members Marcus and Christensen).

### **Career**

Blumberg joined BGU in 1996 as a lecturer in the Department of Geography and Environmental Development. There he developed the field of remote sensing, and together with scientists from the Faculty of Engineering and The Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research, he has been instrumental in turning BGU into a world-renowned research institute in remote sensing.

In 2008 Blumberg was promoted to Full Professor. Between 2006 and 2010 he served as Chair of the Department of Geography and Environmental Development. From 2010 until 2014 he served as Deputy VP and Dean for R&D before being appointed to his current position as VP and Dean for R&D.

Blumberg was appointed in 2010 to head the ***Institute for Homeland Security*** at BGU. Under his leadership, the institute is developing security related science and technology while emphasizing disaster response by remote sensing, autonomous robotics, cyber security (protecting virtual networks), physical structure resilience, emergency medicine and social resilience. Blumberg led together with Prof Edan a proposal to establish the ABC Robotics initiative in 2012 which has evolved into a full fledged robotic initiative throughout BGU with support of the Helmsley Foundation.

In 2008 Prof. Blumberg established the ***Green Campus*** initiative at BGU, which has since garnered the attention and support of the entire university community, including the academic faculty, the branches of logistics and management, and the students. And last year "Green Metrics" listed BGU as being among the 50 leading green higher education institutes worldwide.

## **Research and students**

Blumberg has published numerous scientific research papers and has supervised more than 35 masters students and 11 Ph.D. students ([www.epif.bgu.ac.il](http://www.epif.bgu.ac.il)). He has also been very successful in raising millions of dollars in research grants from competitive research foundations through government agencies and industry. These include the ministry of science and technology, the Binational Science Foundation, MOD, the US Air Force, EU (FP7) and more.

Blumberg's main research interest is in the study of arid zone environments including planetary geology using remote sensing, but his work has had scientific impacts on other applications including homeland security ([www.bgu.ac.il/hsi](http://www.bgu.ac.il/hsi)), rapid response (<http://cmsprod.bgu.ac.il/Eng/Centers/emergency>), and situational awareness. Blumberg was a Co-Investigator on the Space Radar Laboratory (SIR-C mission) through Prof. Ronald Greeley of ASU and has served as a P.I. of numerous research projects for the Israel Space Agency, the German Space Agency and more. His research combines field studies with remote sensing data, reflecting his philosophy that to truly understand satellite images requires that scientists have solid backgrounds in field research. Indeed, his own research has entailed field work in the deserts of North America, Central Asia and the Middle East.

Blumberg also promotes student involvement in community outreach as a way to spread the scientific knowledge gathered at the University and to break down the barriers to university-community interaction.