



In the most recent funding round of the Israel Science Foundation (ISF), researchers from the Faculty of Health Sciences (FOHS) were awarded the highest number of research grants in the University, with the Shraga Segal Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Genetics leading as this year's ISF frontrunner. (For a list of grant winners see below or click).

This significant accomplishment was made possible by the support of the Goldman Fund and extensive investments of the FOHS in the advancement of its research excellence initiative, multidisciplinary research hubs, in first-rate young researchers and in attracting excellent graduate students.

The establishment of the research hubs has been a substantial step towards promoting and leveraging research at the FOHS and provides opportunities for multidisciplinary collaborations between clinicians and other faculty members at the various research departments and schools.

Data collected thus far indicates that the establishment of the research hubs has brought about a change in perception and led to an increase in the number of submissions to prestigious grants and subsequent awards, to a 20% increase in professional publications and a subsequent bonus from the Planning and Budgeting Committee at the CHE, to the expansion of collaborations with other faculties, and to a

30% increase in the number of master's students enrolled at the Faculty.

This process was reinforced by BGU's Vice President and Dean for Research and Development, Prof. Raz Jelinek, who provides financial support for research conducted in various frameworks. This support is an expression of confidence in the quality and excellence of FOHS faculty members, and underscores its position as one of the University's leading research faculties.

In light of the success of the research activities at the hubs, a call has recently gone out for the establishment of additional research hubs. Furthermore, a process aimed at promoting those research hubs that have shown significant research activity and excellence, will shortly be initiated.

The promotion of research at the Faculty is a multi-system process that will ensure the positioning of the FOHS as a leader in transformative ground-breaking basic research. The Faculty will continue to foster and advance excellence and innovation, and to support both basic and clinical research through the recruitment of new researchers, the establishment of cutting edge laboratories, recruitment of excellent graduate students, adding research assistant positions, the procurement of advanced equipment, and the encouragement of unique research hubs that will place it at the forefront of current research.



Research activities reached their peak at several projects and research events

→ February 18, 2019

Project Day exhibiting joint FOHS and Faculty of Engineering Sciences projects, an initiative organized by Prof. Mahmoud Huleihel, Deputy Dean for Research at the FOHS, and Prof. Bracha Shapira, Deputy Dean for Research at the Faculty of Engineering Sciences, in the presence of Prof. Raz Jelinek, Vice President for R&D and the deans of both faculties. This joint venture yielded sixteen research projects, nine of which were selected for funding by the faculties and the VP for R&D in the sum of NIS 72,100. The collaboration was born out of the need to strengthen ties among researchers and promote studies and initiatives aimed at achieving breakthroughs in health systems research.

→ June 12, 2019

Day Showcasing Research at the Faculty of Health Sciences, led by Prof. Mahmoud Huleihel, Deputy Dean for Research. The event, held at the Marcus Family Campus in the presence of University President Prof. Daniel Chamowitz, Vice President and Dean for R&D Prof. Raz Jelinek, Rector Prof. Chaim Hames, and Dean Prof. Amos Katz, introduced students and researchers to the extensive research activities taking place at the FOHS.

The goals of the event was to provide an opportunity and platform for FOHS researchers to present their studies, interact with researchers from a variety of fields, encourage collaborations, and interest students from various departments across the University in graduate level studies at the FOHS.

A wide range of research fields at the forefront of global medical research activity, such as virology, cancer, physiology, reproduction, brain sciences, microbiology, stem cells and more were presented at the event. This included posters of current projects.

Prof. Eli Lewis, Chair of the Dept. of Clinical Biochemistry and Pharmacology, introduced a unique research game he created, called 'Table for Four.' The challenging and entertaining game brought together researchers, administrators, students and community members to brainstorm ways to improve work interfaces between the different staff.

→ June 13, 2019

Projects Exhibit for Graduates of the Department of Health Systems Management where final papers about the internship experience were presented. Third-year students intern at healthcare institutions around the country as part of their professionalization, and during this internship, they work, study and get to know the healthcare system, with all its characteristics, problems and complexity. The students are each guided through this experience by individual volunteer mentors who help advance their projects.

→ June 30, 2019

Projects Day for Master's Students in Nursing. This day is the culmination of the students' work in a projects seminar led by Dr. Lika Nusbaum, Dr. Odeya Cohen, and Ms. Madeleine Brutine. Scholarships in memory of Prof. Dan Benor, Z"l, founder of the Recanati School for Community Health Professions, were awarded by the Benor family to excelling students writing a thesis. The winning poster dealt with the "Views of the nursing staff in Pediatric Intensive care towards work with people suffering from Down's Syndrome." It's authors, students Carmit Eisner and Neta Hochberg, advised by Dr. Odeya Cohen, won the Dr. Pnina Romem Fund Prize, donated by the Romem family.

→ July 9, 2019

Projects Day for Master's Students in Emergency Medicine, during which students presented their second-year research projects, guided by Prof. Limor Aharonson-Daniel, Dr. Stav Shapira, and Dr. Dagan Schwartz. Ten projects were presented in three sessions dealing with: aspects of preparedness and resilience among different populations; preparedness and therapist-patient relationships among emergency medical teams; and technical and clinical aspects of emergency medicine, including a concurrent poster session.

First prize was awarded to a project by students Anatoli Dragowitski, Michael Kurtzer and Leonid Goder on "multiple alarms in medical equipment," which examined the responses of intensive care medical teams to such alarms through observation and questionnaires.

In second place were students Aviva Simchon, Gitit Hadashi and Ayelet Vassel, whose project deals with the link between the personal and professional characteristics of nursing staff at Jerusalem hospitals and different aspects of the therapeutic interaction with victims of terrorism.

→ July 9, 2019

The Basic Sciences Seminar Day marked the conclusion of the academic year and the research activities of graduate students. During the Seminar Day, students presented their research to colleagues and FOHS faculty members. As in the earlier event Showcasing Research, faculty and students sat down together to play Prof. Lewis' game 'Table for Four.'

During the event, the Prof. Yaacov Tal Prize was awarded to doctoral students Eyal Simonovski of Prof. Esti Yeger-Lotem's lab and Yotam Lior of Prof. Eli Lewis' lab. Additionally, the Bio-challenge prize for publications in the past year was awarded to Hilla Zalika, advised by Prof. Iris Shai; to Melissa Markovitz, advised by Prof. Arik Dahan; to Ureib Sharaa, advised by Prof. Mahmoud Huleihel; Alon Kaplan, advised by Prof. Iris Shai; and Ohad Stoler, advised by Prof. Ilya Fleidervish.

Winners of Israel Science Foundation Grants 2019-20

Prof. Roni Apte and Prof. Elena Voronov, Shraga Segal Dept. of Microbiology, Immunology and Genetics
5 Years / NIS 320,000

Dr. Daniel Gitler, Dept. of Physiology and Cell Biology
3 years / NIS 250,000

Prof. Ayelet David, Dept. of Clinical Biochemistry and Pharmacology
5 Years / NIS 320,000

Prof. Mahmoud Huleihel, Shraga Segal Dept. of Microbiology, Immunology and Genetics, **Prof. Eitan Lunenfeld** Obstetrics & Gynecology Division and **Prof. Joseph Kapelushnik**, Pediatrics Division
4 years / NIS 290,000

Prof. Esti Yeger-Lotem, Dept. of Clinical Biochemistry and Pharmacology
3 years / NIS 250,000

Prof. Adrian Israelson, Dept. of Physiology and Cell Biology
5 years / NIS 290,000

Dr. Shira Knafo, Dept. of Physiology and Cell Biology
5 years / NIS 270,000 + NIS 936,000 (equipment grant)

Prof. Etta Livneh, Shraga Segal Dept. of Microbiology, Immunology and Genetics
4 years / NIS 260,000

Dr. Neta Sal-man, Shraga Segal Dept. of Microbiology, Immunology and Genetics
5 Years / NIS 300,000

Prof. Yoram Etzion, Dept. of Physiology and Cell Biology
4 years / NIS 250,000

Prof. Angel Porgador and Dr. Eitan Rubin, Shraga Segal Dept. of Microbiology, Immunology and Genetics and **Dr. Amir Onn**, Sheba Medical Center
4 years / NIS 250,000

Prof. Ilya Fleidervish, Dept. of Physiology and Cell Biology
5 years / NIS 320,000

Prof. Assaf Rudich, Dept. of Physiology and Cell Biology and **Dr. Rachel Golan**, Dept. of Public Health
5 years / NIS 290,000

Israel Science Foundation – Precision Medicine Partnership

Prof. Michael Danilenko and Dr. Eitan Rubin, Dept. of Physiology and Cell Biology, **Dr. Michael Milyavsky**, Tel-Aviv University and **Prof. Mordechai Deutsch**, Bar-Ilan University
4 years / NIS 1,050,000

Dr. Dan Yamin and Dr. Erez Shmueli, Tel Aviv University, **Prof. Nadav Davidovitch** and **Dr. Mark Katz**, School of Public Health
4 years / NIS 1,250,000