

**Ben-Gurion University of the Negev**  
**Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research**  
The Swiss Institute for Dryland Environmental and Energy Research  
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## **Ice-binding-proteins and their interaction with ice crystals**

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### Abstract:

Controlling ice growth is essential in frozen or supercooled systems. We investigate interactions of ice-binding proteins, IBPs, with ice surfaces. We examined the dynamic nature of the protein interaction with ice using a variety of methods, including fluorescence microscopy techniques combined with temperature-controlled microfluidic devices as well as atomic force microscopy. The results show that the binding of IBP to ice is irreversible. The free energy of ice nucleation is sensitive to the time allowed for the proteins to accumulate on ice surfaces. This time sensitivity changes dramatically between different types of IBPs. Our results relate the dynamics and level of activity of various types of IBPs to their ability to bind to specific ice orientations, particularly to the ice's basal plane.

Further, we show that IBP slightly promotes ice nucleation in agreement to their water structuring on one hand that makes them potential nucleators, and the small size on the other hand. Further still, we show that IBPs operate in low temperatures, much lower than those evolved to function. And last, we developed a unique AFM stage to investigate ice surfaces. IBPs at high resolution, which will be used for further studies on the mechanism of IBP-ice interaction. These results contribute to understanding the mechanisms by which IBPs act. These results will be critical for the successful use of IBP in frozen and supercooled food and cryobiology applications.

### References:

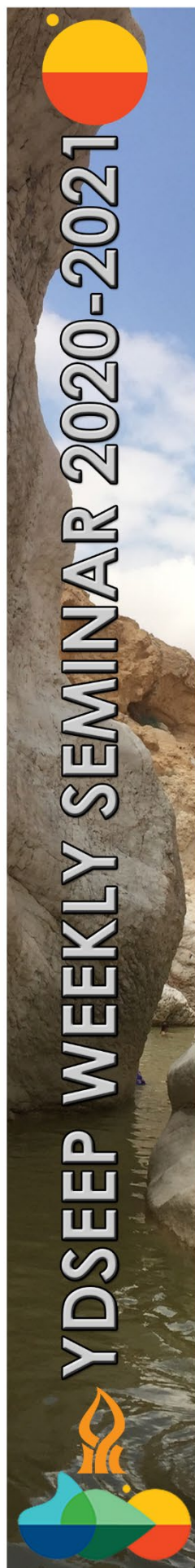
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**Date & Location:**

**Tuesday, December 8, 2020**

Zoom meeting



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