



RESTORING HOPE AND STRENGTH TO THE NORTH

2025 President's Report



אוניברסיטת חיפה
UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA
جامعة حيفا

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ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA

The University of Haifa, perched atop the scenic Mount Carmel, blends academic excellence with a deep commitment to social responsibility. Our mission is to expand access to higher education, strengthen Israel's underserved northern region, and transform innovative ideas into real-world solutions for a better future. Our collaborative, interdisciplinary culture drives breakthroughs in healthcare, environmental sustainability, and community well-being.

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2025 PRESIDENT'S REPORT
Produced by the University of Haifa
Division of External Relations

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LEADERSHIP 2024-2025



Mr. Bradley M. Bloom
*Outgoing Chairman of
the Board of Governors*



Adv. Dov Weissglas
*Chairman of the
Executive Committee*



Ms. Tzili Charney
*Vice-Chair of the
Board of Governors*

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION



Prof. Gur Alroey
President



Prof. Mouna Maroun
Rector



Mr. Sharon Zaid
VP and CEO



Prof. Oren Gazal-Ayal
*VP and Dean of Research
& Development*



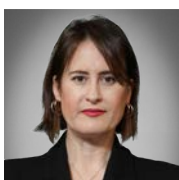
Ms. Anat Baron
Chief Financial Officer



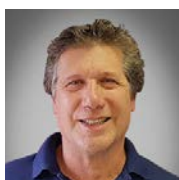
Prof. Tally Katz-Gerro
*VP for Global
Engagement*



Mr. Gideon Herscher
*VP for Transformational
Philanthropy & Global
Resource Development*



**Prof. Arin Salamah-
Qudsi**
*Academic Head, Equity
& Inclusion Commission*



Prof. Ofer Arazy
*Director of Innovation
& Sustainability*



**Ms. Roni Fantanesh
Malkai**
*Head, Communication &
Media Relations Division*



Dr. Vardit Gerber
*Vice Rector for Academic
Administration and
Academic Secretary*



Ms. Aviva Peer
*Director of the Division
of the Presidency*

FACULTY DEANS

Prof. Ofir Alon
Faculty of Natural Sciences

Prof. Israel (Issi) Doron
*Faculty of Social Welfare
and Health Sciences*

Prof. Daphna Canetti
*Herta and Paul Amir
Faculty of Social Sciences*

Prof. Tal Zarsky
Faculty of Law

Prof. Roza Leikin
Faculty of Education

Prof. Zohar Segev
Faculty of Humanities

DEANS

Prof. Batya Engel-Yeger
Dean of Students

Prof. Irit Akirav
*Dean of Graduate Studies
Authority*

Prof. Shay S. Tzafrir
Dean of Teaching and Learning

Prof. Dan Tchernov
*Dean, Charney School of
Marine Sciences*

Prof. Leah Peretz
Dean, The School of Design

MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Over the past year, we have continued to grapple with the profound impact of the war in Gaza, including the ongoing anguish over the hostages and the many challenges unfolding across the globe. This period also saw a grave escalation with a direct military confrontation with Iran, which touched our northern communities.

Amid this turbulent reality, I am pleased to report that this past year has been a year of continuity and progress for the University of Haifa.

On the continuity front, the passing of the baton to our new University President, Prof. Gur Alroey, has brought not only stability but a renewed energy for the future. He is supported by our new Rector, Prof. Mouna Maroun, a long-standing member of the University community. I have enjoyed working with both of them over the past six years, and I am confident that they will lead our University with vision and determination.

Turning to progress, I am pleased to report that the University received formal approval from the government to open the new Herta and Paul Amir School of Medicine this coming fall. This is quite an accomplishment, as the initial request was made less than two years ago. The School is ready to open with leadership, faculty and students— an incredible testament to the University's commitment and strong foundation in health sciences. The School of Medicine will not only add a significant STEM component to our academic structure, but will enhance healthcare access and equity in northern Israel.

One of Prof. Alroey's first strategic decisions was to strengthen the University's global outreach and development efforts. The appointment of Mr. Gideon Herscher as Vice President for Transformational Philanthropy and Global Resource Development is a significant step in that direction. Gideon joins us after a distinguished career at the Joint Distribution Committee, where he advanced global engagement and fundraising. While still early in his tenure, he is spearheading the **Home Again** campaign that will bring much needed assistance to residents and institutions of the North as they return home. I am encouraged to see such important initiatives take flight during my time at the helm of this truly inspiring University.

My six-year term as Chairman of the Board of Governors will conclude in June 2025, in keeping with the University's term limits. I am delighted to report that I will be succeeded by Dr. Michal Amir Salkin from Los Angeles. Dr. Salkin brings to the position a unique and timely perspective, as she has served both as a physician and a faculty member. This is especially fitting, given the opening of the Amir School of Medicine and the University's growing presence in science and technology.

I would like to thank all who have contributed to the University's growth and resilience during these challenging years. I have been incredibly impressed by the quality and energy of our faculty, administration, students and global supporters. I would especially like to acknowledge Prof. Ron Robin, Prof. Gur Alroey, Prof. Mouna Maroun and Adv. Dov Weissglas, Chair of our Executive Committee, for their exemplary leadership. I look forward to seeing the results of these collective efforts in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Mr. Bradley M. Bloom
Outgoing Chairman, Board of Governors



“The Amir School of Medicine will not only add a significant STEM component to our academic structure but will also provide an extraordinary resource to enhance healthcare access and equity in northern Israel.”





MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dear Friends,

Israel has faced a multi-front battle since October 7, confronting challenges that strike at the heart of its security and its future as a Jewish state.

Our resilience in this struggle rests on the extraordinary courage and commitment of tens of thousands of young men and women—in the air, on land, and at sea—who are performing remarkable acts each day.

Like David facing Goliath, it is the strength of the Israeli mind—our spirit of innovation and determination—that gives us our vital advantage.

This unique qualitative edge, which underpins Israel's survival and hope for the future, has been made possible through the strength of Israeli academia, including the University of Haifa.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the University of Haifa, we want to extend our deepest appreciation for your enduring friendship, partnership, and support of our beloved institution.

Your commitment helps us cultivate the human capital and excellence that is essential to building a future of peace, resilience, and continued prosperous life in Israel.

With deep gratitude,

Adv. Dov Weissglas
Chairman of the
Executive Committee





High school students
receive a warm welcome.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends, Colleagues, and Esteemed Members of the Board of Governors,

I am proud to present this report, highlighting key milestones from a transformative and challenging year for the University of Haifa. Our community has faced the reality of a multi-front war, with periods of rocket barrages threatening our city and at times reaching dangerously close to campus—a reality since October 7, 2023. Yet through it all, our faculty and students have shown remarkable resilience, maintaining stability, continuity, and progress. In this first year of my presidency, it has been my honor to serve and to share with you the key milestones and accomplishments of this past year.

The war in the North and its devastating aftermath necessitated a shift in focus for the university. We quickly mobilized our academic and scientific expertise to address the region's urgent needs. Despite the challenges, the university remained operational, with classes resuming on Zoom at the start of the semester. We are devoted to playing a central role in rehabilitating the beautiful North, our home. You will find more about our efforts in the pages ahead, including faculty initiatives and our **Home Again** campaign, launched to support and strengthen our community in these challenging times.

One of the most exciting milestones of the past year is the approval of the **Herta and Paul Amir School of Medicine** by the Israeli Council for Higher Education. This is a historic moment, and as a historian, I do not take such moments lightly. Finally, after years of tireless efforts, the University of Haifa is establishing its own medical school – a gamechanger not just for the university but for northern Israel, where the shortage of physicians is particularly acute. This is a monumental step forward for our institution and the region.



“Looking back,
I am filled with pride.
Looking ahead,
I am filled with hope.

Another major achievement is the successful integration of the Neri Bloomfield School of Design (WIZO) into the university. This was a complex logistical and administrative undertaking, but thanks to the dedication of our faculty and staff, the transition was seamless. As we’ve envisioned, the School has already become an integral part of our academic landscape, enhancing our students’ educational experience.

The 53rd Meeting of the Board of Governors marks a significant transition, as Brad Bloom concludes his tenure as Chairman. A steadfast leader, a generous benefactor, and a true friend of the university, Brad has been a mentor and friend to me, always available with wise counsel and unwavering support. Over the past six years, his leadership has seen us through a global pandemic and a terrible war, always standing by us. While he is stepping down as Chairman, we look forward to his continued involvement in our community. The University of Haifa is deeply grateful for his vision, strength and generosity. **Toda Brad!**

Finally, I wish to convey my profound gratitude to all those who stand alongside me on this remarkable journey. To my exceptional management team, whose leadership helps propel the university forward; to our global community of supporters and friends, from Israel and around the world, who share our mission and invest in our future; to our academic faculty and staff, the backbone of our institution, whose commitment to excellence makes our achievements possible; and finally, to our students who have entrusted us with their education and dreams for the future.

May all of our brothers and sisters held in captivity return home soon, in safety and in peace.

גור אלועי

Prof. Gur Alroey
President



President Alroey with the family of Alon Ohel, held hostage in Gaza for over 530 days—standing in solidarity and calling for action.



President Gur Alroey and Herta Amir, March 2025.



Students begin the fall semester.

WELCOMING NEW LEADERSHIP

The University of Haifa proudly welcomes Dr. Michal Amir Salkin as Chair and Orna Wolens as Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors. Daughters of Herta and the late Paul Amir z"l, whose extraordinary generosity has left an enduring impact on the University, both bring personal dedication and forward-looking leadership shaped by a remarkable family legacy.



ABOUT OUR NEW CHAIR

FIRST WOMAN APPOINTED CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Dr. Michal Amir Salkin is a physician and former faculty member at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California. A graduate of Columbia University's College of Physicians & Surgeons, she built and led a respected OB-GYN practice in Los Angeles, where she also trained students, advised patients, and contributed to clinical trials. She currently serves as an advisor to Walden Ventures on biotechnology investments. In her new role, Dr. Salkin is committed to strengthening the University's Herta and Paul Amir School of Medicine, named in honor of her parents, as a leader in medical education and community-building in Israel's North.



ABOUT OUR NEW VICE-CHAIR

Orna Wolens is Chair of the Board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles and previously served as its Campaign Chair. She also serves on the boards of the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) and American Friends of the Israel Museum. A graduate of Bryn Mawr College and Loyola Law School, she brings seasoned legal insight and distinguished philanthropic leadership to her new role on the Board of Governors.



RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

It is my honor to address you at this defining moment for the University of Haifa—a period of growth tempered by profound challenges that test our resilience. Campus life has been seriously affected by intermittent attacks, with teaching and learning often moving to Zoom. Most painful of all, during the recent Iranian strikes we lost Shada Khateeb, a gifted second-year law student, killed with her mother, sister, and aunt—a bright future tragically stolen by hatred.

As the first Arab rector in Israel, I am deeply aware of the responsibility and opportunity this role holds. I believe that universities must not only pursue academic excellence but also embody the values of diversity, mutual respect, and shared society. In the wake of October 7th and the painful months that followed, I witnessed those core values come to life. Across our campuses, Jewish and Arab students, faculty, and staff returned to classrooms and labs – learning, teaching, and working side by side. These moments of resilience and unity were powerful reminders that the University is not just a place of knowledge, but a model for the society we strive to build.

Before becoming Rector, I served as Vice-President for Research and Development, and research remains at the heart of my vision. Together with our dedicated faculty and the Research Authority, we continue to expand the University's research capabilities, secure prestigious national and international competitive grants, and establish new centers of excellence. I began my term while leading my own research group – having secured two major grants – a reflection of my belief in staying connected to the daily realities and aspirations of our academic community.

Moving forward, we aim to increase student enrollment and attract outstanding researchers by cultivating academic programs and a collaborative environment attuned to evolving national and global challenges and opportunities, laying the groundwork for long-term relevance and leadership.

This year, we have made remarkable strides in expanding the University's academic landscape. Highlights include the launch of our new School of Medicine, which will train future physicians and researchers to serve diverse communities, and the integration of the School of Design, bringing new energy and collaborations in technology, design, and social impact.

As we continue to grow – expanding our research, welcoming more students, and extending our reach – we know that our strength lies in our unity and our shared commitment to building a better future for all. None of this could be possible without your ongoing support and belief in our mission. Together, we are shaping a stronger, more inclusive future – at the University, in Israel, and beyond.

With deep appreciation and warm regards,



Prof. Mouna Maroun
Rector





WHY HOME AGAIN MATTERS NOW

By Gideon Herscher

In my decades of partnering with philanthropists to bolster Israeli society, especially during times of crisis, the question of rebuilding and rehabilitation inevitably surfaces. For many, the crux of giving takes place during the crisis, while for others, the notion of co-authoring the next chapter in Israel's future invites a compelling prospect. Yes, the war in northern Israel is seemingly over, and yet 68,000 displaced residents face an agonizing choice: return to damaged communities without the support systems they desperately need, or abandon the places they've called home for generations. At University of Haifa, we believe there's a third option—ensuring Israelis return to a home that is equipped with key human services, economic opportunities, and the social systems needed for long-term resilience and prosperity.

Following 20 months of relentless attacks, northern Israel needs more than reconstruction—it needs comprehensive recovery that addresses both immediate trauma and long-term resilience. The future of the North depends on what we build now, even amid ongoing uncertainty. We build with science, and innovation while mobilizing data-driven research, rooted in community priorities, and focused on real-world outcomes. That's why we've launched Home Again, a bold \$60 million initiative to restore and revitalize the North through measurable programs that address the region's most pressing needs. The Home Again campaign offers a coordinated, data-informed strategy across three core pillars that directly address the region's greatest challenges: ***emotional and physical rehabilitation, economic stability, and investing in community futures.***

Data Driven Community Rooted.

As the leading academic institution in the region, and one deeply embedded in its cities, towns, and social fabric, University of Haifa is uniquely positioned for this work. Unlike external organizations, we are not visitors to these communities. Our 18,000 students come from across the North. Our faculty conduct research in partnership with local hospitals, schools, and municipalities. Our graduates become the teachers, social workers, and healthcare professionals who serve the region. This deep integration means our recovery efforts are designed by and for the people who call this place home.

“Home Again” is a call to action. The realization of this campaign starts with you—our *mishpacha*. You are the pillar of support and generosity that make up the very spirit and foundation of this University.

What will it take to make the North Home Again? We look forward to partnering with you to answer that question.



Mr. Gideon Herscher
Vice President for Transformational
Philanthropy and Global Resource
Development



“

At University of Haifa, we believe there's a third option—ensuring Israelis return to a home equipped with key human services, economic opportunities, and the social systems needed for long-term resilience and prosperity.”

Gideon Herscher
Vice President for Transformational
Philanthropy and Global Resource
Development



University
of Haifa



What will it take to
make this **Home Again?**

ESTABLISHED IN 1972

UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA

IN NUMBERS



21 INTERNATIONAL
MA PROGRAMS
+500 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



3
CAMPUSES

Mt. Carmel Campus
Lorry I. Lokey City Campus
German Colony Campus
• SCHOOL OF DESIGN
• SCHOOL OF MARINE SCIENCES



29 DEPARTMENTS
& UNITS



6
FACULTIES

- Faculty of Social Sciences
- Faculty of Social Welfare & Health Sciences
- Faculty of Natural Sciences
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Humanities
- Faculty of Education



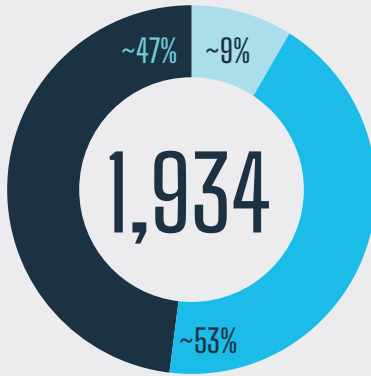
53 INTERDISCIPLINARY
RESEARCH CENTERS

4 MARINE
SATELLITES

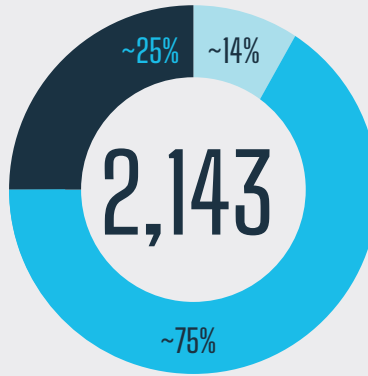


- MORRIS KAHN MARINE RESEARCH STATION (SDOT YAM)
- HATTER DEPARTMENT OF MARINE TECHNOLOGIES (HAIFA)
- ASHDOD FIELD STATION
- INTER-UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE FOR MARINE SCIENCES (EILAT)

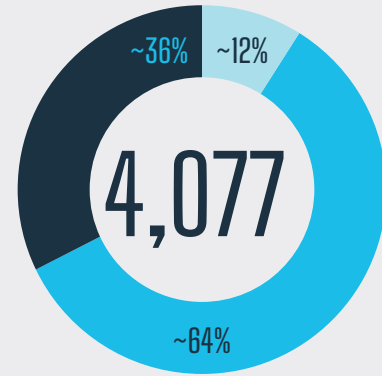
MEET OUR FACULTY & STAFF



FACULTY MEMBERS
Senior: 712 Junior: 1,222



**ADMINISTRATIVE
& SUPPORT STAFF**



FACULTY & STAFF

■ MEN ■ WOMEN ■ MINORITY

*Minority groups include individuals from Arab society, Ethiopian descent, the Orthodox community, and those with disabilities.

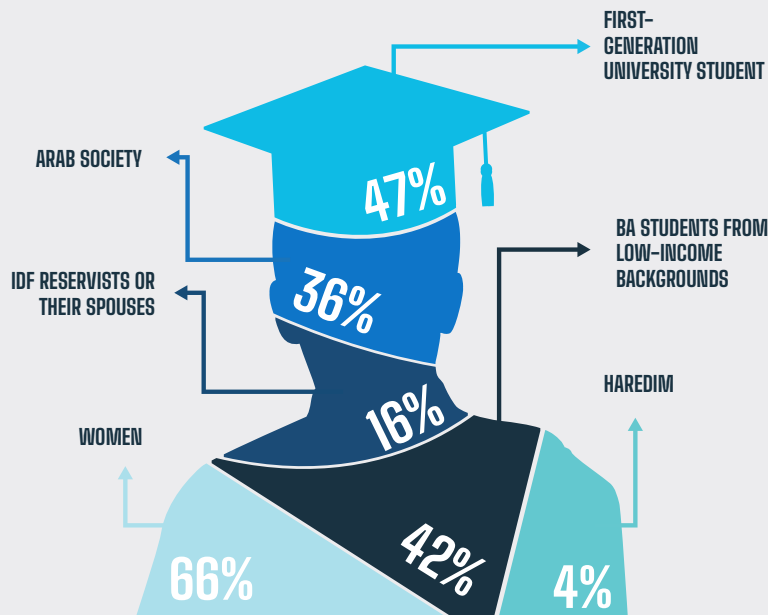
Source: Division of Human Resources, 2024–25 Academic Year

ENROLLMENT

18,541
STUDENTS



MEET OUR STUDENT COMMUNITY



Source: Office of the Rector, 2024–25 Academic Year

10,219

UNDERGRADUATE

6,789

MASTERS

1,450

PHD

83

TEACHING CERTIFICATE

*Post-doctoral fellows
not included

NEW FOUNDATIONS FOR TOMORROW'S HEALTHCARE

At the Herta and Paul Amir School of Medicine, medical education begins where the need is greatest – and extends far beyond the classroom.



© Rendering by Safdie Architects

“

We're training physicians not only to meet today's demands, but to anticipate what comes next.

*Prof. Haim Bitterman
Founding Dean*



The blueprint is ready, and a long-anticipated step is taking shape in northern Israel: a new medical school with a national mission. The University of Haifa has been entrusted by the Israel Council for Higher Education to take a leading role in bringing academic strength to one of Israel's most urgent healthcare challenges.

While Israel offers world-class medical care, over half of its physicians are now over age 55, with hundreds expected to retire annually in the coming years. The shortage and strain, deepened by prolonged war and ongoing conflict, are already being felt, especially in northern Israel. Set to open in October 2025, the Herta and Paul Amir School of Medicine will launch with 64 students and a curriculum built for the realities of modern medicine.

One of those realities is the shift toward what is often referred to as a 'continuity of care' model. "Rather than limiting medical education to hospital settings, students will train across the entire care journey – working in clinics, outpatient facilities, and community-based services," Prof. Bitterman explains. "This kind of exposure will build professional self-confidence, enhance learning in the most relevant care environments, and strengthen clinical experience – ultimately leading to better training of future physicians across the full spectrum of care for improved long-term outcomes."



Diversity as a Driving Force

The Herta and Paul Amir School of Medicine is forming a student body that reflects Israel's rich social fabric, opening doors for underrepresented communities and strengthening care across all sectors of society.

Help Build the Future of Care

We are deeply grateful to our generous supporters who are helping bring this transformative vision to life. Among them is a meaningful gift from Neri Oxman and Bill Ackman for the Rivka Oxman Student Plaza, which will serve as the University's new gateway and arrival point.

To fully realize the potential of the new facility, additional funding is needed for scholarships, state-of-the-art teaching equipment and simulation technologies, an Advanced Structural and Imaging Core Laboratory, and a new Medical Sciences Library and Information Hub.

The School's strong partnerships with Clalit Health Services (Israel's largest HMO) and Carmel Medical Center will provide immediate, hands-on experience. Students will work closely with diverse populations and gain practical training in all medical areas including mental health, which has become increasingly vital amid the lasting effects of war and conflict.

A generous \$50 million gift from Herta Amir is enabling the creation of a cutting-edge academic hub, which will include hybrid classrooms, advanced teaching labs, and a cutting-edge simulation center incorporating AI and virtual reality. "But," she says, "the building is just that. What we truly need are the motivated and well-informed professionals who will become part of Israel's medical society and help shape its future."

Interest in the program has far exceeded expectations, with more than 1,000 applicants vying for limited spaces. "We're seeing a notable wave of motivated applicants who want to stay in the region and be part of something new," says Rector Mouna Maroun, who is overseeing the School's operations.

The first class will bring together individuals chosen for their curiosity, compassion, and commitment to care. They represent not only the future of medicine – but a new chapter for healthcare in the North.



CARMEL MEDICAL CENTER

In memory of Lady Davis



Heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Herta Amir and the late Paul Amir, whose gift is funding the building of the school, and for their steadfast commitment to Israel and to the advancement of medical education in the North.



BREAKTHROUGHS BEGIN IN THE LAB

The new Laboratory Complex for our Faculty of Natural Sciences is designed to ignite global solutions in healthcare, neuroscience and environmental resilience.

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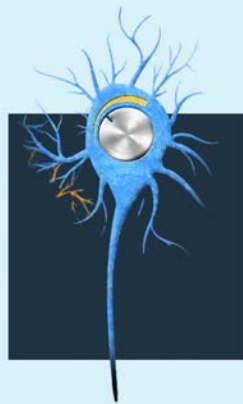
Cutting-edge facilities will ultimately lay the groundwork for a brighter future for humanity based on scientific discoveries.

*Prof. Ofir Alon,
Dean of the Faculty of
Natural Sciences*



To stay at the forefront of research, the University of Haifa is building a five-story research complex housing more than 20 specialized labs.

At its core, the complex will be a Shared Resource Center, equipped with state-of-the-art technology to support advanced research across overlapping and interdisciplinary fields. The complex will also support the new Herta and Paul Amir School of Medicine, which will welcome its first cohort in the 2025/26 academic year.



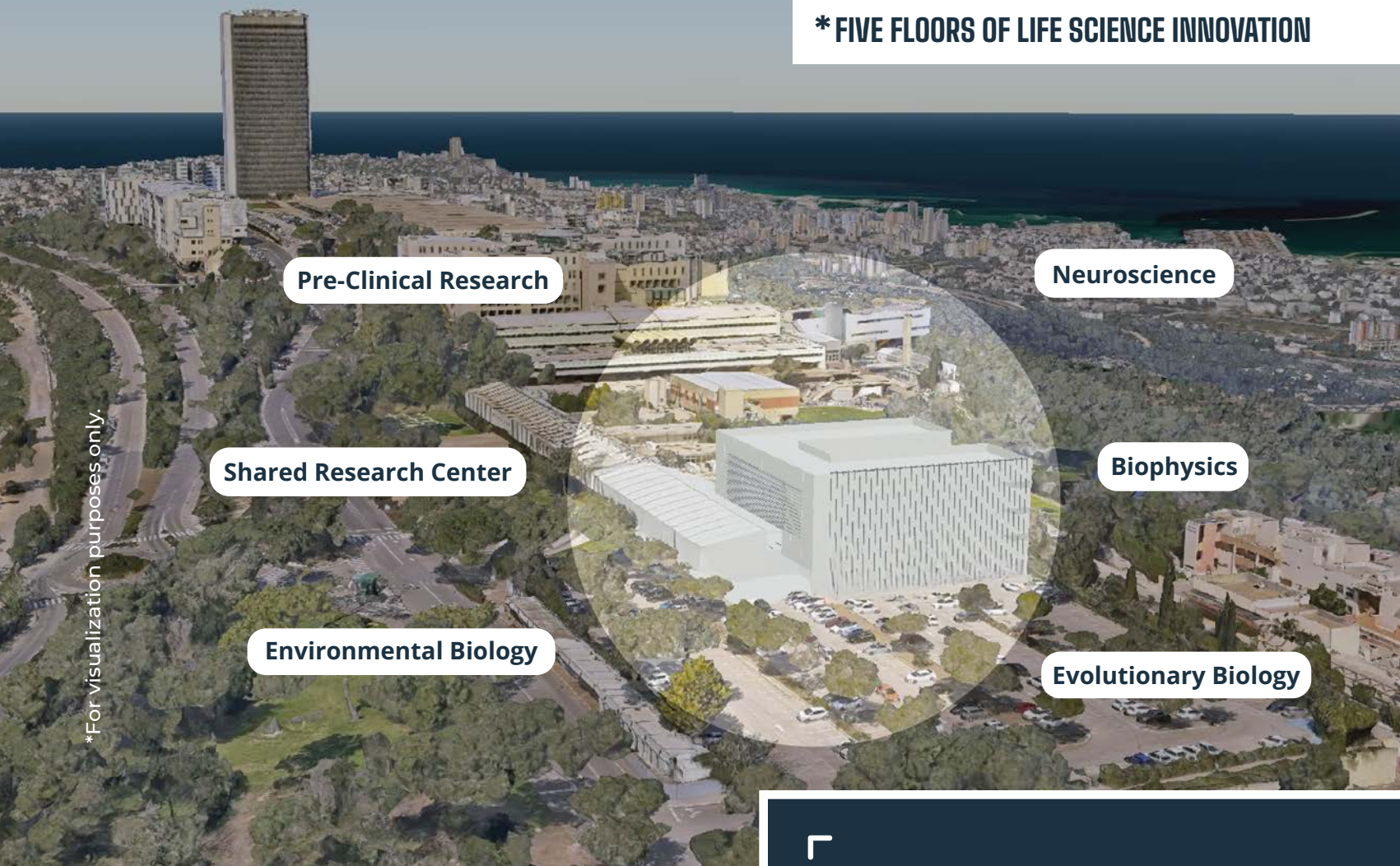
Neurology and Memory

The Prof. Eran Stark Lab is working on a device designed to unlock and restore memories.

The Faculty of Natural Sciences is already globally recognized—and its research is transforming lives. The addition of new labs will expand that impact even further. Here are just a few examples of life-changing research underway at the Faculty:

- **Turning Off Cancer**
We're finding ways to shut down cancer cells, reduce breast cancer metastasis and target diseased cells without harming healthy cells.
- **Unlocking the Brain**
Our neuroscience labs offer new insight into autism, schizophrenia, bipolar episodes and Parkinson's.
- **Strengthening Life on Earth**
Researchers are designing resilient crops, treating genetic diseases and promoting sustainable farming to adapt to climate change.

* FIVE FLOORS OF LIFE SCIENCE INNOVATION



*For visualization purposes only.

A Hub for Talent and Discovery

We tackle complex life science challenges by taking an integrated multi-disciplinary approach that crosses scientific boundaries. Interdisciplinary programs like Biology-Medicine, Biology-Philosophy, and BioPhysics are training the next generation of innovators.

Our academic model and new labs are drawing top students. Enrollment numbers are expected to grow by 50% over the next three years, from 900 to around 1,350.

We invite you to take part in one of the University of Haifa's most significant scientific infrastructure initiatives - a cornerstone of our growing research ecosystem and a vital companion to the new Herta and Paul Amir School of Medicine. This state-of-the-art facility will accelerate interdisciplinary scientific discoveries and empower our researchers to create global impact while positioning Northern Israel at the forefront of life sciences.

“You may be able to discover the unknown if you have the right equipment at the right time.”

Paraphrase of Arthur L. Schawlow, 1981 Nobel Prize Laureate



Built to fuel innovation, the new complex brings together specialized labs and shared research spaces that encourage scientists to work across fields—from understanding the brain and our genes to exploring nature and developing new medical approaches.

Renad Jabarin, a PhD candidate in the Lab for Neurobiology of Social Behavior, lives in the Arabic village of Zalafa. With several published papers under her belt, she exemplifies both the emerging talent from Israel's northern underserved communities and the University's commitment to advancing social mobility through academic excellence.



CARE REIMAGINED

A bold new Center is shaping the future of nursing education and leadership in northern Israel

An ambitious new initiative at the University of Haifa's Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences is redefining the future of nursing education—and the role of nurses—in Israel. Made possible through a generous gift from the Azrieli Foundation, the Azrieli Advanced Nursing Center (ADVANCE) is the first of its kind in the country. The Center is setting a new standard by reimagining how nurses are trained, empowered, and integrated into a fast-changing healthcare system.

“ADVANCE will transform how nurses are trained and integrated into practice, in ways that maximize their potential and bring the utmost value to patients and communities” says Prof. Efrat Shadmi, a visionary nurse and health policy researcher, the incoming head of our Cheryl Spencer Nursing Department and founder and head of ADVANCE.

Together with the Nursing Division at the Ministry of Health, ADVANCE aims to claim new frontiers in Advanced Practice Nursing nationally, and worldwide.

“We’re not here to make incremental changes,” says Prof. Israel Issi Doron, Dean of the Faculty. “We’re here to redefine the possibilities of care.”

This vision builds upon the Faculty's nationwide recognition for excellence in nursing education and research, and for its groundbreaking programs in public health, health sciences and social welfare.

Under Prof. Doron's leadership, the Faculty has expanded its multidisciplinary training and research – especially in response to recent national emergencies, when experts in trauma, mental health, and rehabilitation sciences mobilized to support northern communities.



✱ A LIFETIME OF IMPACT

Prof. Israel Issi Doron was recently awarded Israel's prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award in Gerontology, recognizing his exceptional work on law and ageing, human rights and ageism. As Dean of the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences, he continues to drive change at both academic, national and international levels.

ADVANCE in Action

The ADVANCE simulation center includes:

- *A “Living Lab” simulation unit with hospital, clinic, and home care settings*
- *VR and computerized training environments*
- *A tech unit developing nurse-driven health-tech solutions*
- *A research hub for advancement of guidelines, nursing roles, and care models*

L



ADVANCE marks a complete shift in approach to nursing education. The comprehensive new center includes a state-of-the-art simulation facility, a dedicated research unit, and an innovation hub. Trainees will use immersive VR and simulations across diverse clinical environments – from acute care and trauma rooms to home care settings. The goal: to prepare the next generation of advanced practice nurses (APNs) with technical excellence and human-centered competencies, to maximize their ability to close care gaps and contribute measurable value to the healthcare system.

The center is part of a broader campaign to strengthen Israel's health care infrastructure – particularly in its under-resourced northern region. With only 3.5 nurses per 1,000 people in the north (compared to the OECD average of over 9 and Israel's average of about 5), the shortage is both urgent and systemic.

ADVANCE aims to tackle this head-on, offering specialized training tracks – including one for nurse practitioners focused on early detection of mental health conditions. These programs will not only meet growing population needs, but also help close equity gaps across the region.

Looking ahead, plans include collaboration with the University's new Herta and Paul Amir School of Medicine and the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences' schools of public health, social work, medical imaging, creative arts therapies, physiotherapy, speech-therapy, gerontology and occupational therapy – setting new standards for training and practice across Israel. Joint simulation sessions between nursing, medical and allied health students are expected to cultivate effective communication and teamwork – and ultimately – better patient outcomes.

From healing to prevention, and from simulation to real world care, ADVANCE is creating a paradigm shift in nursing and patient care in Israel.

“

ADVANCE equips future nurse practitioners to lead care teams and shape tomorrow's healthcare decisions.

*Prof. Efrat Shadmi,
head of the ADVANCE Research Unit.*

Help Build the Future of Nursing

To fully realize the ADVANCE vision, additional support is vital. Donor partnership will be key to bringing the Center to full operational capacity – across its state-of-the-art training facilities, cutting-edge research and innovation efforts.

THREADS OF CHANGE



THE UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA'S NEW SCHOOL OF DESIGN IS ALREADY TURNING HEADS, WINNING AWARDS, AND SHAPING A BOLD VISION OF COEXISTENCE.

Some stories take time to unfold. This one began with a bold merger and an award-winning design project celebrating diversity.

Earlier this year, the University of Haifa completed a historic merger with the renowned Neri Bloomfield School of Design (WIZO Haifa), creating the first university-based design school in Israel. The new School of Design now brings together departments in fashion, visual communication, architecture, photography, and environmental design – fusing academic depth with artistic innovation and expanding hands-on learning opportunities across disciplines.

Before the ink could begin to dry, in May 2025 a group of fashion design students took first place at the prestigious Ambassadors of Coexistence competition in Abu Dhabi. The centerpiece of their submission was a quietly powerful short film titled “Religious Tolerance Through Fashion”, telling the story of Yasmina Awidat, a Syrian Druze student from the Golan Heights, who weaves her identity into a self-designed garment that becomes a message of compassion, inclusion, and tolerance. The project was part of a course led by lecturer Ihab Jiryis, who encourages students to explore fashion as a means of self-expression and a medium for cross-cultural understanding.

“

**WE DIDN'T SET OUT TO
WIN - WE SET OUT TO
DESIGN A CONVERSATION.**

Yasmina Awidat, Fashion Design student

Their entry was selected over finalists from India, Nigeria, and Azerbaijan, taking home a monetary prize and the title of “International Ambassador” from the Manara Center for Coexistence and Dialogue.

“There’s a creative spark that happens when design meets other disciplines,” says Professor Leah Peretz, Head of the new School of Design and a celebrated figure in Israeli fashion. **“Our curriculum includes a variety of courses such as philosophy, anthropology, gender studies and marine sciences, alongside studio collaborations with departments like Computer Science, Literature, and Archaeology. These connections open up entirely new ways of thinking and creating, contributing to wider cultural and intellectual exchange, and offering our design students a unique academic experience rooted in a broad, interdisciplinary vision.”**

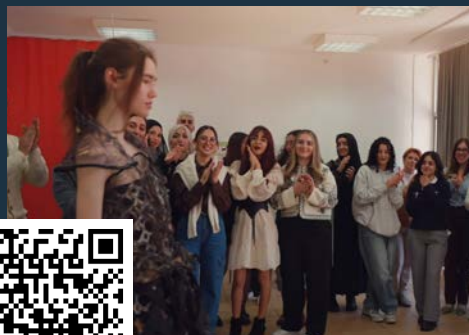
That vision is already unfolding. Just weeks before the Abu Dhabi achievement, students returned from a transformative study tour in India, where they blended sustainability and ancient craft traditions with cutting-edge textile technology – an experience that strongly reflects the University’s commitment to immersive learning and wide-ranging academic exploration. Back home in Haifa, the School opened “Album Darom,” a powerful and contemplative photography exhibit curated by Prof. Dana Arieli exploring history, life and remembrance in Israel’s southern region in the aftermath of the October 7, 2023 attacks.

At a moment when new narratives are needed to overcome rising divisions, the School of Design is shaping them. One bold project and one vision at a time.

Photo: Yossi Carasso
Collection by Margaret Shnitser



RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE THROUGH FASHION



Scan to Watch the award-winning short film that brought a message of inclusion from Haifa to Abu Dhabi.

SOUTHERN ISRAEL THROUGH ARTISTS' LENS



Album Darom, is a powerful exhibit of resilience and remembrance after October 7.

**FASHION SPEAKS
WHERE WORDS FAIL.**

Yasmina Awidat, Fashion Design student

HONORING VISIONARY LEADERS

2024/25 Recipients of the Degree of
Doctor of Philosophy *Honoris Causa*

The University of Haifa proudly
awarded its highest honor to individuals
whose work reflects our core values of
inclusion, innovation, and impact.

Linda and Michael Frieze

Conferred March 6, 2025

Over two decades ago, Michael and Linda Frieze first arrived at the University of Haifa through the Boston-Haifa Connection and have since become steadfast champions of educational opportunity and social mobility in Israel. Their philanthropy has empowered hundreds of minority students through initiatives such as the Summer Preparatory Program for Arab Youth and Hebrew language enrichment. In recognition of their enduring partnership, the University awarded them honorary doctorates in 2025. **Michael Frieze** is Chairman Emeritus at Gordon Brothers and has held leadership roles across numerous civic and educational institutions. **Linda Frieze**, a social worker by training, has contributed to organizations including CAMERA, NATAL, and the Shalom Hartman Institute. Together, they exemplify value-driven leadership and lifelong dedication to Israel and Jewish community life.





Justice Esther Hayut

Conferred December 23, 2024

The University of Haifa recognized Justice Esther Hayut, President of the Israeli Supreme Court (Ret.) for her lifelong dedication to upholding democracy, judicial independence, and the rule of law. Throughout her distinguished career, she has championed civil rights, equality, and transparency—values at the core of our mission and embodied in the work of our Clinics for Law and Social Change.

Born in Herzliya to Holocaust survivor parents, Justice Hayut rose through Israel's judicial system to lead the Supreme Court from 2017–2023. Her landmark rulings and unwavering commitment to judicial independence cemented her legacy as one of Israel's most influential legal figures. She remains a model of courage and integrity for future generations of legal professionals.

Jules and Eddie Trump

Conferred September 18, 2024

The University of Haifa conferred honorary doctorates upon Jules and Eddie Trump in recognition of their visionary leadership in education and their long-standing commitment to Israel's future. Through the Trump Foundation, they have made transformative contributions to mathematics and science education in Israel—fields they champion as keys to social mobility and innovation. Their support has played a vital role in strengthening educational excellence at the University of Haifa.

Originally from South Africa and now based in the USA, the Trumps also support initiatives like the “I Have a Dream” Foundation, reflecting their deep belief in equal access to opportunity and the power of education to change lives.



Stephanie and Jules Trump
Credit: Veronika Savitskaya



Eddie Trump and President Gur Alroey
Credit: Veronika Savitskaya



MAJOR RESEARCH GRANTS

OVER 1 MILLION NIS

*Listed in alphabetical order

BINATIONAL SCIENCE
FOUNDATION USA-ISRAEL
(BSF-NSF)

Prof. Anna Zamansky

*Department of Information
Systems*

Prof. Tamar Lotan

*Charney School of Marine
Sciences*

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Prof. Eran Tauber

*Department of Evolutionary
and Environmental Biology*

GERMAN RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

(Deutsche

Forschungsgemeinschaft)

Dr. Tzilla Eshel

*School of Archaeology and
Maritime Cultures*

HUMAN FRONTIER SCIENCE
PROGRAM

Prof. Mickey Kosloff

*Department of Human
Biology*

JOHN TEMPLETON
FOUNDATION

Prof. Adi Livnat

*Department of Evolutionary and
Environmental Biology*

ALFRED LANDECKER
FOUNDATION

Dr. Daniel Mahla

*Department of Jewish
History*

SCHMIDT FOUNDATION

Dr. Derya Akkaynak

*Charney School of Marine
Sciences*

US-ISRAEL BINATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

Dr. Yoram Gershman

*Department of Biology and
Environment (Oranim Campus)*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE (DOD)

Prof. Raphael Lamprecht

Sagol Department of Neurobiology

ZUCKERMAN FOUNDATION

Dr. Lidor Shaar-Moshe

*Department of Evolutionary and
Environmental Biology*

ISRAEL INNOVATION
AUTHORITY

Prof. Itzik Klein

Charney School of Marine Sciences

Prof. Mickey Kosloff &

Prof. Uri Hershberg

Department of Human Biology

COUNCIL FOR HIGHER
EDUCATION *

Sustainability & Climate
Flagship Program

Prof. Tamar Keasar

*Department of Biology and
Environment (Oranim Campus)*

Prof. Dan Malkinson

School of Environmental Sciences

Marine Applied Science

Prof. Anna Brook

School of Environmental Sciences

Prof. Dan Feldman

Department of Computer Science

Dr. Danny Morick

*Charney School of Marine
Sciences*

Prof. Dan Tchernov

*Head, Charney School of Marine
Sciences*

Interdisciplinary Center for
Material Micro-Characterization

Dr. Yotam Asscher

*School of Archaeology &
Maritime Cultures*

Prof. Tali Mass

*Charney School of Marine
Sciences*

Prof. Nicholas Waldmann

Charney School of Marine Sciences

ISRAEL'S MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION GRANT

Prof. Yair Ziv

*Department of Human
Counseling and Human
Development*

*ISRAEL SCIENCE
FOUNDATION (ISF)*

Dr. Yotam Asscher

*School of Archaeology and
Maritime Cultures*

Dr. Sarit Avrani

*Department of Evolutionary and
Environmental Biology*

Prof. Karen Banai

Department of Communication
Sciences and Disorders

Prof. Edi Barkai

Sagol Department of
Neurobiology

Prof. Rachel Ben Shlomo

Department of Biology and
Environment (Oranim Campus)

Dr. Moshe Blidstein

Department of General History

Dr. Elad Chiel

Department of Biology and
Environment (Oranim Campus)

Dr. Michael Dory

Department of Computer Science

Dr. Michael Eisenberg

School of Archaeology &
Maritime Cultures

Prof. Tzion Fahima

Department of Evolutionary and
Environmental Biology

Dr. David (Dudi) Deutsch

Sagol Department of
Neurobiology

Dr. Oren Gal

Charney School of Marine
Sciences

*Two-time ISF grant recipient

Prof. Ayelet Gilboa

School of Archaeology and
Maritime Cultures

Prof. Ronen Gradwohl

Department of Economics

Prof. Meir Hemmo

Department of Philosophy

Dr. Gadi Herzlinger

Department of Cultural Heritage

Dr. Oded Klavir

School of Psychological Sciences

Prof. Mickey Kosloff

Department of Human Biology

Dr. Tal Luzzatto Knaan

Charney School of Marine
Sciences

Prof. Raphael Lamprecht

Sagol Department of
Neurobiology

Dr. Shani Levy

University of Haifa Faculty of
Natural Sciences at Oranim

Prof. Tamar Lotan

Charney School of Marine
Sciences

Prof. Gil Luria

(Department of Human Services)

& Dr. Hani Nouman

(School of Social Work)

**Prof. Bat-Sheva Hadad
Mantzur**

Department of Special Education

Prof. Yael Maschler

Department of Hebrew Language

Prof. Mouna Maroun

Rector; Sagol Department of
Neurobiology

Dr. Smadar Ovadia-Caro

School of Psychological Sciences

Prof. Danny Rosenberg

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Prof. Kobi Rosenblum

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Environmental Biology

**Prof. Simone Shamay-
Tsoory**

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Prof. Eran Stark

Sagol Department of
Neurobiology

Prof. Hila Toledano

Department of Human Biology

Dr. Amit Yashar

Faculty of Education

ISF BERESHEET GRANT
FOR OUTSTANDING YOUNG
RESEARCHERS

Dr. Ziv Ben-Zion

School of Public Health

Dr. Luna Jammal Salameh

Sagol Department for
Neurobiology

RESEARCH COOPERATION
LOWER SAXONY ISRAEL
FOR LIFE SCIENCES AND MEDICINE
Dr. Hanin Karawani Khoury

Department of Communication
Sciences and Disorders

PRIZES & HONORS
2024-2025 Academic Year

ISRAEL PRIZE FOR DESIGN
& INTERDISCIPLINARY ART
Prof. Belu-Simion Fainaru
*Department of Architecture
School of Design*

A. JEAN AYRES AWARD
Prof. Batya Engel-Yeger
*Dean of Students
Faculty of Social Welfare &
Health Sciences*

2025 RAPPAPORT PRIZE FOR
PROMISING ISRAELI ARTIST
Lali Fruheling
*Department of Fashion Design
Department of Fashion Design
School of Design*

APPOINTED TO THE NATIONAL
EXPERT FORUM ON ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE PREPAREDNESS
**Prof. Tal Zarsky and
Prof. Amnon Reichman**
Faculty of Law

2024 GORNI PRIZE FOR PUBLIC
LAW EXCELLENCE
Prof. Oren Gazal-Ayal
*Vice President and Dean of Research
Faculty of Law*

2024 GORNI PRIZE FOR
YOUNG RESEARCHERS
Dr. Yahli Shershevsky
Faculty of Law

YAFFE LONDON-YARI AWARD
FOR WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP
EXCELLENCE DURING WAR
**Dr. Yael Mayer and
Dr. Yael Enav**
*Department of Counseling and
Human Development
Faculty of Education*

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD - THE ISRAELI
SOCIETY FOR SEXUAL
TRAUMA TREATMENT
& PREVENTION

Prof. Eli Somer
*Department of Social Work
Faculty of Social Welfare
& Health Sciences*

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD - THE ISRAELI
SOCIETY FOR SEXUAL
TRAUMA TREATMENT
& PREVENTION

Prof. Eli Somer
*Department of Social Work
Faculty of Social Welfare
& Health Sciences*

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD IN GERONTOLOGY
THE ISRAEL -
GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Prof. Israel (Issy) Doron
*Dean, Faculty of Social Welfare
& Health Sciences*

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD (2023-2024)
THE ISRAELI ASSOCIATION
FOR INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES

Prof. Benny Miller
*Director, The National
Security Center
School of Political Sciences*

ALON FELLOWSHIP BY
THE COUNCIL FOR HIGHER
EDUCATION

Dr. Ziv Ben-Zion
*Faculty of Social Welfare and
Health Sciences*
Dr. Zohar Elyoseph
Faculty of Education
Dr. Yakov Meir
Faculty of Humanities
Dr. Hila Dayfani
Faculty of Humanities
Dr. Maha Nator
Faculty of Humanities
Dr. Luna Jammal Salameh
Faculty of Natural Sciences

STUDENT AWARDS

THE ADAMS FELLOWSHIPS AWARD
*The Israel Academy of Sciences and
Humanities*

Aya Marck
*Department of Evolutionary and
Environmental Biology*

PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL'S
SCHOLARSHIP
for Excellence and Scientific Innovation
Ofir Netzer
School of Psychological Sciences

**PROF. BELU-SIMION FAINARU
WINS ISRAEL PRIZE FOR DESIGN
& INTERDISCIPLINARY ART**

Prof. Fainaru, of the University of Haifa's Department of Architecture, has made a lasting impact on Israeli and international art. The Israel Prize committee recognized him as "one of Israel's most prominent artists exploring Jewish spiritual heritage and the power of symbols and letters in Jewish mystical culture."

Born in Romania, Fainaru immigrated to Israel in 1973. He studied at the University of Haifa, the University of Chicago, Domus Academy in Milan, and the Royal Academies of Belgium. He co-founded the Pyramid organization in Haifa (1993), launched The Mediterranean Biennale (2010), co-established the Free International Art Academy (2014), and represented Romania at the 2019 Venice Biennale.



*Bereshit (1997), marble installation,
Prof. Belu-Simion Fainaru*



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جامعة حيفا

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This fall in Boston marks a historic first: the University of Haifa's Board of Governors will convene beyond the borders of Haifa and Israel.

It brings together our global community of leaders, visionaries, and champions to celebrate bold leadership, trailblazing research, shared values, and a transformative academic mission.





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