



The Azrieli Faculty of Medicine Bar-Ilan University

Newsletter

The Azrieli Faculty of Medicine

Dec 2024 | #86
Kislev 5785

Dear students and faculty,

I extend to you my heartfelt wishes for a joyous holiday season, filled with light, warmth, and happiness for Hanukkah, Christmas, and the secular New Year. Please accept this as a personal prayer—a deeply sincere one. We have no tears left; may we see brighter days.

As you know, Hanukkah in the Jewish tradition symbolizes miracles and wonders. Ben-Gurion once said that in Israel, anyone who doesn't believe in miracles is not realistic. Indeed! We are scientists and physicians—reality guides our path. Every morning, we rise to engage with miracles and delve into wonders: asking questions, seeking answers, learning, and teaching. We are curious. We explore. We debate, debate more, then continue to debate. We disagree. We persist in our investigations... and most importantly, we continue to uncover new truths about the resilience of the body and spirit. Ah, the strength of the human spirit—there is nothing mightier. A great miracle, indeed.

It is this strength that has shone like a beacon for over 450 days, and it will continue to guide us even as the war—which seems endless—moves elsewhere. This is the spirit needed for our collective public front. It is essential for healing the wounds of our warriors, supporting bereaved families, and bringing all our captives back home.

And let us not forget—a hand on the shoulder, a loving smile, and shared laughter can work wonders and bring comfort. It's been proven.

Keep shining your light.

Yours sincerely,
Prof. Orly Avni
Dean of the Azrieli Faculty of Medicine



What's New at the Faculty



Annual IADR Israel Division Conference: "Galilee Meeting"

The annual conference of the Israeli Division of the International Association for Dental Research was held under the theme "Galilee Meeting," focusing on research innovation, tissue engineering, and artificial intelligence to advance dental medicine.

[Read more →](#)



SPHERE Drives Transformative Changes in Galilee Health Landscape

In honor of Diabetes Awareness Month we are excited to share with you some details on major steps currently taking place in the Galilee to combat diabetes, thanks to The Russell Berrie Galilee Diabetes SPHERE.

[Read more →](#)



Prof. Omry Koren Selected to Clarivate "Most Frequently Cited Researchers" - seventh year in a row!

Prof. Omry Koren, head of the Microbiome Research Laboratory, is one of the most cited researchers in the world, an extraordinary achievement that places him at the forefront of global science - for the seventh year in a row.

[Read more →](#)



IDF: Thank You, Dr. Alon Barash!

Dr. Alon Barash, a reserve Captain, Head of Anatomy Studies, and Director of the Biological Anthropology Laboratory at the Faculty of Medicine, has been awarded a special distinction by the IDF for his significant contributions to the Missing Persons and Casualty Identification Unit.

[Read more →](#)

Conferences and Visits

Moti Sonnenfeld Visits Faculty, Grants Scholarships

On December 8, 2024, Moti Sonnenfeld (pictured to left) visited the Azrieli Faculty of Medicine in Safed. Moti Sonnenfeld is the founder of the Danielle Sonnenfeld Foundation, named after his daughter Danieli, who was tragically killed in a car accident some 10 years ago. Danieli Sonnenfeld had devoted two years to National Service, the first of which took place at the oncology department of the Schneider Children's Hospital in Petah Tikva. After an uplifting meeting with the Dean of the Faculty, Prof. Orly Avni, a ceremony was held to award 10 scholarships to medical students. The ceremony was led by the Administrative Head of the Faculty, Noam David Reshelbach. During the ceremony, the donor became acquainted with the students, and they learned about him and his important work, which spans dozens of philanthropic projects. Each student received a certificate and a generous scholarship.



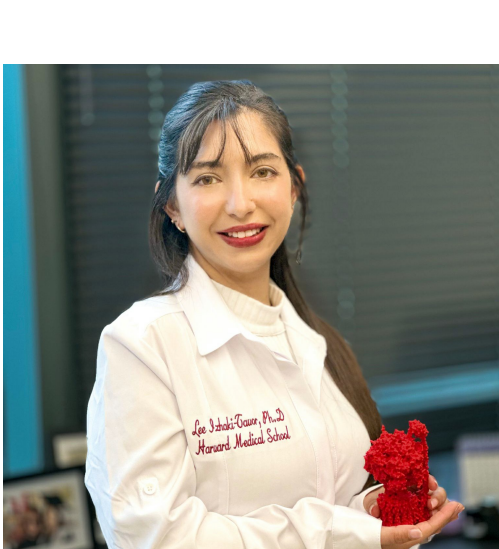
Meet Our Graduates

Lee Izhaki-Tavor, PhD

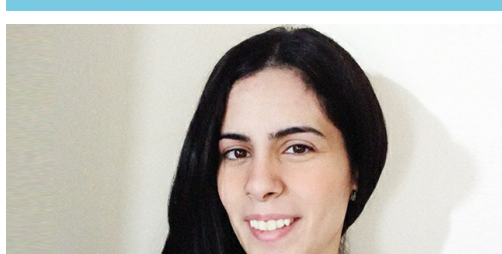
I completed both my master's and doctoral degrees in Prof. Moshe Dessau's lab. I began at the faculty in 2015, right after earning my bachelor's degree in Biotechnology Engineering. I completed my PhD in 2022. Currently, I am pursuing a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School in Dr. Melissa Leger-Abraham's lab. The lab focuses on studying the structure-function relationships of proteins from a wide range of disease-causing parasites, such as Plasmodium (the causative agent of malaria).

The most significant skills I developed during my graduate studies are research-oriented thinking and understanding the importance of collaboration. Problem-solving abilities—honed through logic and creativity, both individually and in teams—are akin to a muscle that requires daily training. Over time, this process becomes more organic and evolves into a way of life. I believe problem-solving skills are invaluable both inside and outside the lab.

[Read more →](#)



Awards

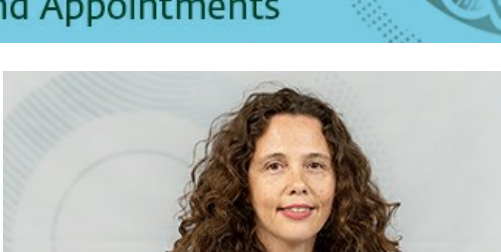


Congratulations to **Dr. Liron Rosenkrantz's** lab on receipt of Council of Higher Education Planning and Budgeting Committee grant for excellence.

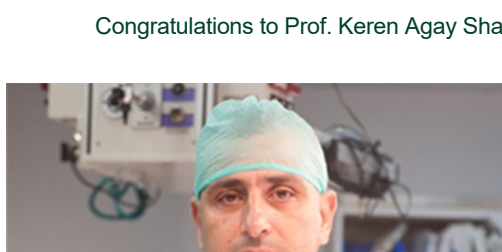


Congratulations to **Dr. Moran Yadid** upon winning an EP PerMed grant for personalized medicine, using a heart-on-a-chip platform to develop treatments for patients with cardiac hypertrophy caused by a specific mutation.

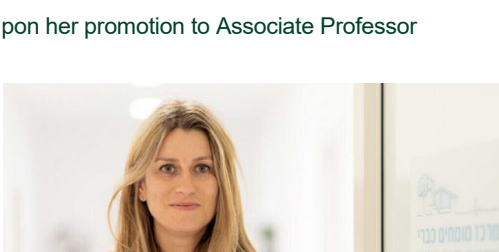
Promotions and Appointments



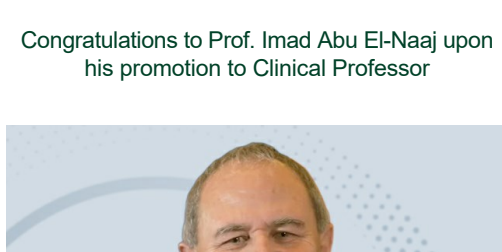
Congratulations to Prof. Keren Agay Shay upon her promotion to Associate Professor



Congratulations to Prof. Imad Abu El-Naaj upon his promotion to Clinical Professor



Congratulations to Prof. Maya Wolf upon her promotion to Clinical Associate Professor



Congratulations to Prof. Radi Shahien upon his promotion to Clinical Associate Professor.



Congratulations to Dr. Fadel Bahouth upon his appointment as Clinical Lecturer.

Press Exposure

[themarket.com](#): "אין עבודות בצפון, אז סטודנטים חיים או ממלגות או מעזרה מההורים" ←

[finance.walla.co.il](#): מלגות בשווי 70 אלף שקל הענקו לסטודנטים לרפואה של אוניברסיטת בר-אילן. בצפת ←

[doctorsonly.co.il](#): ד"ר ענב יפת קודמה לדרגת פרופסור באוניברסיטת בר אילן. ←

[haaretz.co.il](#): מיום קהילתי בגליל הוביל לירידה של 40% במעבר מטרום-סוכרת לרפואה ←

Upcoming Events

6.1.2025 - **Faculty Seminar**
Integrative Approaches for Detection and Targeting Triple-Negative Breast Cancer
Prof. Sima Lev, Weizmann Institute

13.1.2025 - **Faculty Seminar**
Picking into the Neanderthal Brain Using Ancient DNA Methylation
Prof. Liran Carmel, Hebrew U

20.1.2025 - **Faculty Seminar**
Prof. Yuval Shaked, Technion

22.1.2025 - **Faculty Seminar-Health Sciences**
Prof. Pavel Goldstein, School of Public Health, Haifa U

23.1.2025 - Inauguration of **Center for Cardiovascular Research and Metabolic Diseases**

27.1.2025 - **Faculty Seminar**
Small RNAs Orchestrate Bacterial-Phage Dynamics
Dr. Sahar Melamed, Hebrew U

[To the full Events list →](#)



Academic Publications

Get a glimpse of the recent Azrieli faculty and researcher academic publications, updated weekly, [here](#).



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