President’s message

During the years 2014-2015, Tel Aviv University has recruited 116 new faculty members from all disciplines, who have been integrated into their relevant faculties.

In accordance with our emphasis on excellence in research, the University takes great pride in the achievements attained by its eminent researchers and the resultant global standing of the University that continues to attract high caliber researchers from prestigious universities throughout the world. Amongst its faculty members, the University has internationally renowned scientists who have made significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge in fields as diverse as particle physics, cell biology, cancer research, nanotechnology, biotechnology, genetics and cyber, as well as humanities, art and social sciences. The University has recently garnered 14 out of all 28 European Research Council grants awarded to Israeli universities; these highly competitive, substantial awards whose purpose is to endow excellence, bears witness to Tel Aviv University’s great success in research-based knowledge.

Our new recruits bring invaluable experience to a variety of departments and faculties; they facilitate a multi-faceted approach to core research and participate in networks of cutting-edge and innovative activities that are critical to success of the University and the State of Israel.

On behalf of Tel Aviv University, I am delighted to welcome our valued new faculty members and look forward to continuing to flourish and achieve new heights in the years ahead.

Professor Joseph Klafter
President
Mr. Ilya Konovalov
Teaching violin and chamber music
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Dr. Adi Louria Hayon, Ph.D.
Research theme: Modern and Contemporary Art Theory and History
Postdoctorate: University of Toronto
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Mr. Bambi Friedman
Stage and lighting designer in Theatre
Teaching stage design and production management
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Dr. Irit Degani-Raz, Ph.D.
Research theme: The Semiotics of Theater and Drama, the Dramatic Works of Samuel Beckett, Performance Philosophy
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Dr. Yair Lipshitz, Ph.D.
Research theme: Jewish theatre; theatre, performance and religion
Postdoctorate: Scholion, the Interdisciplinary Research Center in Jewish Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
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Dr. Eyal Dotan, Ph.D.
The Interdisciplinary Program in the Arts and Department of Literature, Faculty of Humanities
Research theme: Literary theory and criticism, Israeli culture, continental philosophy, gambling studies, phenomenology of chance encounters, psycho-Marxism and hyper-Marxism, poststructuralism
Email: dottan@post.tau.ac.il
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Dr. Ariel Ismach, Ph.D.
Research theme: 2D Materials-Synthesis, Characterization and Applications
Postdoctorate: UT Austin
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Web-site: http://www.eng.tau.ac.il/~aismach/

Dr. Brian Rosen, Ph.D.
Research theme: Energy Materials for natural gas conversion, fuel cells, and batteries
Postdoctorate: Tel Aviv University
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Dr. Oswaldo Dieguez, Ph.D.
Research theme: Atomistic simulation of materials, with emphasis on ferroelectric and multiferroic materials
Recruited from: Institut de Ciencia de Materials de Barcelona
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Tel: +972-3-640-9438
Dr. Itzhak (Zachi) Tamo, Ph.D.

Research theme: Storage systems and devices, Coding theory, Computer systems design, analysis, and fault tolerance
Postdoctorate: University of Maryland at College Park
Email: tamo@post.tau.ac.il

Dr. Ofer Shayevitz, Ph.D.

Research theme: Information theory
Postdoctorate: The Information Theory and Applications (ITA) Center, UCSD
Email: ofersha@gmail.com

Dr. Pavel Ginzburg, Ph.D.

Research theme: Dynamics of nano-structures
Postdoctorate: King’s College London
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Dr. Amir Paster, Ph.D.

Research theme: Environmental Hydrology; Flow and Transport in Porous Media
Postdoctorate: University of Notre Dame
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Dr. Herman D. Haustein, Ph.D.

Research theme: Microscale phase and heat transfer with application to microchip cooling
Postdoctorate: RWTH-Aachen University (Aachen, Germany)
Email: hermanh@post.tau.co.il
Tel: +972-3-640-6515
Dr. Yaron Toledo, Ph.D.
Research theme: Nonlinear ocean wave mechanics; Interactions of sea waves with winds and currents; Wave modelling; Wave and current in-situ and radar measurements
Postdoctorate: Technical University Darmstadt and in Wuppertal University, Germany on an Alexander von Humboldt and a Minerva - Max-Plank fellowships
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Dr. Yoav Linzon, Ph.D.
Research theme: Nano- and micro-opto-electromechanical systems (NOEMS/MOEMS). model, manufacture and apply new NOEMS- and MOEMS-based devices and test them in applications as surface-defined material sensors, fast switching devices and miniature imaging systems. We also aim at new bio-compatible materials with NOEMS/MOEMS functions
Postdoctorate: Cornell University
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Website: www.eng.tau.ac.il/~optmech

Dr. Erez Shmueli, Ph.D.
Research theme: Big Data: Building computational models of human behavior from data using Machine Learning and Social Network Analysis techniques; Large amount of personal data being ubiquitously collected raises privacy and security issues that require new solutions
Postdoctorate: MIT Media Lab
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Dr. Amit Sever, Ph.D.
Research theme: Quantum Fields and String Theory
Postdoctorate: Institute for Advanced Study, Department of Natural Sciences, Princeton
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Dr. Haim Suchowski, Ph.D.
Research theme: Nanophotonics, Ultrafast dynamics at the nanoscale, Quantum coherent control, Nonlinear optics
Postdoctorate: UC Berkeley
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Dr. Moshe Goldstein, Ph.D.
Research theme: Theory of low dimensional / nanoscale electronic and photonic systems
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Blavatnik School of Computer Science

Prof. Amir Shpilka, Ph.D.
Research theme: theoretical computer science
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Dr. Daniel Deutch, Ph.D.
Research theme: Databases, Big Data, Web data management
Postdoctorate: University of Pennsylvania and in INRIA, France
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Prof. Michal Feldman, Ph.D.
Research theme: Algorithms, Game Theory, Mechanism Design
Recruited from: Hebrew University of Jerusalem
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School of Chemistry

Dr. Roman Dobrovetsky, Ph.D.
Research theme: Development of new main group based catalysts for the activation of small molecules
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Website: http://namorij.wix.com/roman-dobrovetsky

Dr. Shiri Chechik, Ph.D.
Research theme: Algorithms and data structures in static and dynamic settings
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Dr. Sharly Fleischer, Ph.D.
Research theme: Ultrafast terahertz molecular dynamics
Postdoctorate: Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
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From Dr. Shari Fleischer’s lab
School of Mathematical Science

Prof. Asaf Nachmias, Ph.D.
Research theme: Probability
Postdoctorate: MIT and Microsoft Research
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Dr. Eran Shmaya, Ph.D.
Research theme: Game Theory
Postdoctorate: Northwestern University
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Prof. Malka Gorfine, Ph.D.
Research theme: Biostatistics
Recruited from: Technion- Israel Institute of Technology
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Prof. Sasha Sodin, Ph.D.
Research theme: mathematical physics
Recruited from: Princeton University
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Dr. Wojciech Samotij, Ph.D.
Research theme: Extremal and probabilistic combinatorics
Postdoctorate: University of Cambridge and Tel Aviv University
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Dr. Shaul Katzir, Ph.D.
Research theme: History of modern physics and related technologies
Postdoctorate: Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (Berlin)
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Dr. Avner Wishnitzer, Ph.D.
Research themes: Social-cultural history of the late Ottoman Empire
Postdoctorate: as a Fulbright fellow at the University of Washington in Seattle, and then two additional post-docs as a Lady Davis fellow at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and a Krietman fellow at Ben Gurion University of the Negev
Email: avnerwish@gmail.com, avnerwish@post.tau.ac.il

Dr. Irit Back, Ph.D.
Research theme: Contemporary African Islam; Conflicts resolution in Africa; Gender in the Middle East and Africa
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Dr. Mira Tzoreff, Ph.D.
Research themes: Socio-cultural History of modern Egypt; Youth in the Middle East and North Africa; Political Islam especially the Muslim Brotherhood; Gender and society in Muslim and Arab societies 
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Dr. Eran Dorfman, Ph.D.
Research theme: 20th Century French Literature and Theory, Continental Philosophy, Critical Theory and Psychoanalysis
Postdoctorate: Free University of Berlin 
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Dr. Ran HaCohen, Ph.D.
Research theme: Translation Studies and Ethiopian Studies 
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Dr. Assaf Sharon, Ph.D.
Research theme: Philosophy 
Postdoctorate: Stanford University 
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Dr. Barbara U. Meyer, Ph.D.
Research theme: Evil and ethics in Christian and Jewish Thought
Postdoctorate: Hebrew University of Jerusalem 
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Department of Literature
Department of Philosophy
Dr. Ofra Rechter, Ph.D.
Research theme: Kant and foundations of arithmetic; mathematical intuition. Logic, philosophy of logic, philosophy of mathematics and history of 20th Century analytic philosophy.
Postdoctorate: Hebrew University of Jerusalem
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Dr. Maoz Kahana, Ph.D.
Research theme: Jewish History in the Early Modern Era in Europe
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Prof. Motti Golani, Ph.D.
Research theme: British History in Palestine 1918-1948 (emphasis on the biography of Dr. Chaim Weizmann, 1922-1952).
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Dr. Michal Shapira, Ph.D.
Research themes: Modern European and British History; History of Science and Psychology; War and Society (the Second World War and the Postwar era); History of Childhood; Intellectual History, and Women and Gender Studies
Recruited: Columbia University and Barnard College (Visiting Assistant Professor at the History Department)
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Dr. Oded Rabinovitch, Ph.D.
Research themes: Early Modern History
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Dr. Liora Sarfati, Ph.D.

Research themes: Religion and culture in Korea and Japan
Postdoctorate: The Hebrew University in Jerusalem
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Dr. Tal Kogman, Ph.D.

Research themes: Children’s Culture and Education; German-Jewish Enlightenment; Popular Science and Textbooks
Postdoctorate: Bar Ilan University
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Dr. Nir Evron, Ph.D.

Research themes: The Anglo-American novel, philosophy and literature
Postdoctorate: Stanford University
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Dr. Alexandra Chudnovsky, Ph.D.
Research theme: Ecological effects of pollutants in air, water and soil, examined via fusion of remote sensing with Geographical Information Systems [GIS], environmental engineering and advanced statistics
Postdoctorate: Harvard School of Public Health
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Dr. Daniel Mishori, Ph.D.
Research themes: Environmental ethics and eco-philosophy; environmental justice and the commons; sustainable lifestyle; bioethics; business ethics and workers’ rights; argumentation and epistemology
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Dr. Guy D. Stiebel. Ph.D.
Research themes: Classical Archaeology; Military Archaeology and History; Material Culture; the realia of the Dead Sea Scrolls and rabbinical sources; Head of Archaeological Expedition to Masada
Postdoctorate: Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Associated Literature, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
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Dr. Uri Yiftach, Ph.D.
Research themes: Ancient Legal and Social History, Papyrology
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Dr. Anat Cohen, Ph.D.
Learning and technology, Internet Implementation in Higher Education, Learning Analytics
Postdoctorate: California State University, Fullerton
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Dr. Arnon Hershkovitz, Ph.D.
Research theme: Technology and learning, in particular: Potable computing in the classroom, aspects of learning in the social media, educational data mining and learning analytics, genealogy as a unique learning experience
Postdoctorate: Teachers College - Columbia University (New York, NY) and at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (Worcester, MA)
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Dr. Ella Daniel, Ph.D.
Research theme: Values morality, and prosocial development of children and adolescents. Social, cultural and parental influences on social development
Postdoctorate: University of Toronto, Canada
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Dr. Eran Tamir, Ph.D.
Research theme: social context of educational policy, teacher education policy and the politics of education at the federal, state, and school levels. As well as Alternate routes to teaching in the United States, school leadership and professional culture, teacher careers and labor market, teacher preparation policy, and financial education policy and citizenship
Postdoctorate: Brandeis University
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Dr. Ilana Arbel, Ph.D.
Research theme: political philosophy. The central issues focused on are political freedom, the relations between knowledge and power, and the concept of critical thinking. Also studied: the philosophical principles underlying liberal, Marxist, and neo-Marxist economic thought as well as the neoliberal view, while discussing the theories of Karl Marx, Karl Popper, Michel Foucault, Friedrich Hayek, Paul Veyne, Herbert Marcuse, Emmanuel Kant, Thomas Hobbes, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, among others.
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Dr. Tal Soffer, Ph.D.
Research themes: Technology Innovation in Education
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Prof. Ehud Kamar, Ph.D.
Research theme: Corporate Law
Recruited from: University of Southern California, Gould School of Law
Director, Fischer Center for Corporate Governance and Capital Market Regulation
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Dr. Doreen Lustig, Ph.D.
Research theme: International Law
Postdoctorate: New York University
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Dr. Lena Salaymeh, Ph.D.
Research theme: Islamic law, Jewish law, legal history
Postdoctorate: UC Berkeley School of Law
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Prof. Ronen Avraham

Research theme: Economic analysis of law, empirical estimations of law reforms
Recruited from: University of Texas School of law
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Dr. Tom Schonberg, Ph.D.
Research theme: Studying the neural basis of behavioral change in humans
Postdoctorate: University of Texas, Austin
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Dr. Vered Padler-Karavani, Ph.D.
Research theme: Glycoimmunology which deals with the mechanisms that govern glycan immune recognition and responses in animal models and in humans, both in vitro and in vivo
Postdoctorate: University of California San Diego (UCSD)
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Dr. Gal Ribak, Ph.D.
Research theme: Ecophysiology and biomechanics of animal locomotion
Postdoctorate: Technion - Israel Institute of Technology
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Dr. Roi Dor, Ph.D.
Research theme: Evolutionary Biology and Behavioral Ecology of Birds
Postdoctorate: Cornell University
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Dr. Eilon Shani, Ph.D.
Research theme: Plant molecular biology, Developmental genetics, Plant hormones
Postdoctorate: University of California San Diego
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Dr. Roy Weinstain, Ph.D.
Research theme: Plants development and adaptive growth, Chemical-biology
Postdoctorate: University of California San Diego
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Department of Molecular Microbiology & Biotechnology

Dr. Adi Stern, Ph.D.
Research theme: Virus evolution and genomics
Postdoctorate: UCSF/UC Berkeley
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Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Dr. Dinorah Friedmann-Morvinski. Ph.D.
Research theme: Reprogramming in brain cancer and the contributions of the tumor microenvironment
Postdoctorate: Salk Institute, La Jolla, USA
Email: dino@post.tau.ac.il
Dr. Danny Ben-Shahar, Ph.D.
Research theme: Real estate economics
Recruited from: Technion - Israel Institute of Technology
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Dr. Ohad Barzilay, Ph.D.
Research theme: Social and crowd networks, Cyber security
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Dr. Shachar Reichman, Ph.D.
Research theme: Utilizing unique and interesting structures found in data from online environments to improve consumers’ experiences and business performances.
Research topics - Economics of IS/IT, E-commerce, Big Data, Networks in E-commerce; User-generated Content, Recommendation Systems
Postdoctorate: MIT Sloan School of Management
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Dr. Tomer Geva, Ph.D.
Research theme: Business Data Analytics / Data Science in Business
Recruited from: Google and NYU
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Dr. Ayala Arad, Ph.D.
Research theme: Behavioral and Experimental Economics
Postdoctorate: UC Berkeley
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Dr. Roy Zuckerman, Ph.D.
Research theme: behavioral finance, hedge fund, mutual funds and individual investors
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Dr. Sivan Frenkel, Ph.D.
Research theme: Information in Financial Markets
Postdoctorate: Hebrew University of Jerusalem
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Dr. Tsahi Versano, Ph.D.
Research theme: Voluntary and regulated financial disclosure, Contracting and compensation
Postdoctorate: Yale University
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Dr. Tamar Sagiv, Ph.D.
Research theme: Organizational Theory, Strategy, Socially Constructed Authenticity, Organizational and Industrial Evolution
Postdoctorate: Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley
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Dr. Tomer Ziv-Baran, PhD
Research theme: Knowledge Discovery in medical databases, Disease and economic burden
Health System Administration Track
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Dr. Alon Kalron, Ph.D.
Department of Physical Therapy
Research theme: Physical activity, gait and posture in people with neurological diseases
Recruited from: Sheba Medical Center, Tel-Hashomer
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Dr. Michal Avrech Bar, Ph.D.
Department of Occupational Therapy
Research theme: Maternal health and wellbeing from an occupational perspective
Postdoctorate: University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada
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Dr. Miriam Theilla, R.N, Ph.D.
Department of Nursing
Research theme: The effect of fish-oil-enriched diet on the process of wound healing in Intensive Care Unit patients
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Dr. Oren Asman, LLD.
Department of Nursing
Research theme: Bioethics, Health Law and Mental Disability Law
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Dr. Sigalit Warshawski, R.N., Ph.D.
Department of Nursing
Research theme: Interprofessional care, Pediatric Nursing: aspects in child and family management, Nursing Education
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Dr. Tamara Prushansky, PhD
Department of Physical Therapy
Research theme: Measurements of posture and physical performance
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Dr. Tami Bar-Shalita, PhD
Department of Occupational Therapy
Research theme: The Sensory Integration lab studies multi-sensory integration (MSI) and the underlying mechanisms influencing Sensory modulation disorder (SMD). Further my research explores SMD as a risk factor in other health conditions (e.g. ASD, substance abuse, chronic pain and mental health). Studies goal are to identify bio-markers that distinguish this disorder and guide novel therapeutic options
Recruited from: Hebrew University of Jerusalem / Haddasah
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Dr. Chen Luxenburg, Ph.D.

Department of Cell and Developmental Biology
Research theme: stem cells give rise to a functional tissue during development, maintain it throughout life and regenerate it upon wounding. Our lab studies the roles of cytoskeleton-derived mechanical signals in these fundamental biological processes
Postdoctorate: Rockefeller University, New York
Tel: +972-3-640-9272

Dr. Hila May, Ph.D.

Department of Anatomy and Anthropology
Research theme: Biohistory and Evolutionary medicine
Postdoctorate: Institute of Evolutionary Medicine, University of Zurich, Switzerland
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Dr. Khitam Muhsen, Ph.D.

Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine
Research theme: epidemiology of infectious disease, H. pylori infection and extragastric outcomes
Postdoctorate: Center for Vaccine Development, University of Maryland School of Medicine
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Dr. Moshe Parnas, Ph.D.

Department of Physiology and Pharmacology
Research theme: Using a multidisciplinary approach with the Drosophila olfaction system as our model system, we are exploring the various mechanisms by which neural circuits encode information and support behaviour, learning and memory. In addition, we are studying how the connectivity and activity of such circuits and neural networks are affected by molecular mechanisms underlying brain disorders
Postdoctorate: The Centre for Neural Circuits and Behaviour (CNCB), University of Oxford, UK
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Dr. Motti Gerlic, Ph.D.

Department of Clinical Microbiology and Immunology
Research theme: Cell Death and Immune Response: the Role of Necroptosis and Pyroptosis in Inflammation
Recruited from: Walter+ Eliza Hall Institute of Medical research, Parkville, Australia
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Dr. Osnat Segal, Ph.D.

Department of Communication Disorder
Research theme: Early language acquisition, language acquisition in infancy, language disabilities in special populations
Postdoctorate: York University
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Dr. Yoni Haitin, Ph.D.

Department of Physiology and Pharmacology & Sagol School of Neuroscience
Research theme: Molecular mechanisms of ion channels activity
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Dr. Rachel Sarig, Ph.D.

Department of Orthodontic, The Dan David Center for Human Evolution and Biohistory, the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History and National Research Center
Research theme: Facial and dental anthropology
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Dr. Shira Dvir-Gvirsman, Ph.D.
Research theme: Psychological media effects; Social Networks; Public opinion
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Dr. Itay Saporta Eksten, Ph.D.
Research theme: Macroeconomics, Household Consumption and Labor economics
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Dr. Moshe Hazan, Ph.D.
Research theme: interaction between demographic change, gender differences and long-run economic growth as well as on current demographic trends in developed countries and their interaction with income inequality and economic growth
Recruited from: Hebrew University of Jerusalem
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Dr. Sarit Weisburd, Ph.D.
Research theme: Applied Microeconomics
Postdoctorate: University of Washington
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Mrs. Elana Spector-Cohen
Research theme: Telecollaboration in foreign language learning, teacher preparation programs, promoting intercultural competence, and the use of technology in foreign language learning and teaching
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Dr. Michal L. Allon, Ph.D.
Research themes: Linguistics, Language teaching, Gender, State and Religion
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Dr. Lia Levin, Ph.D.
Research themes: Social policy, Social services, Social work, Social exclusion and poverty, Social theory
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