

# Big Ideas. New Connections.

**Tel Aviv University Summary Report 2021**



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## Cover photo: Skyscrapers and sustainability

Three B.Arch students of the David Azrieli School of Architecture, **Tamar Kerber**, **Amit Deutch** and **Roni Dominitz** (Arts), won second prize in the international EVOLO 2021 Skyscraper Competition, one of the world's most prestigious awards for high-rise architecture. Their mission was to address such issues as the role of the individual in a collective vertical community, and the equilibrium between man and nature. Their prize-winning design for Mexico City was a skyscraper that harvested rainwater and replenished groundwater, based on their newly developed sustainable design strategy.

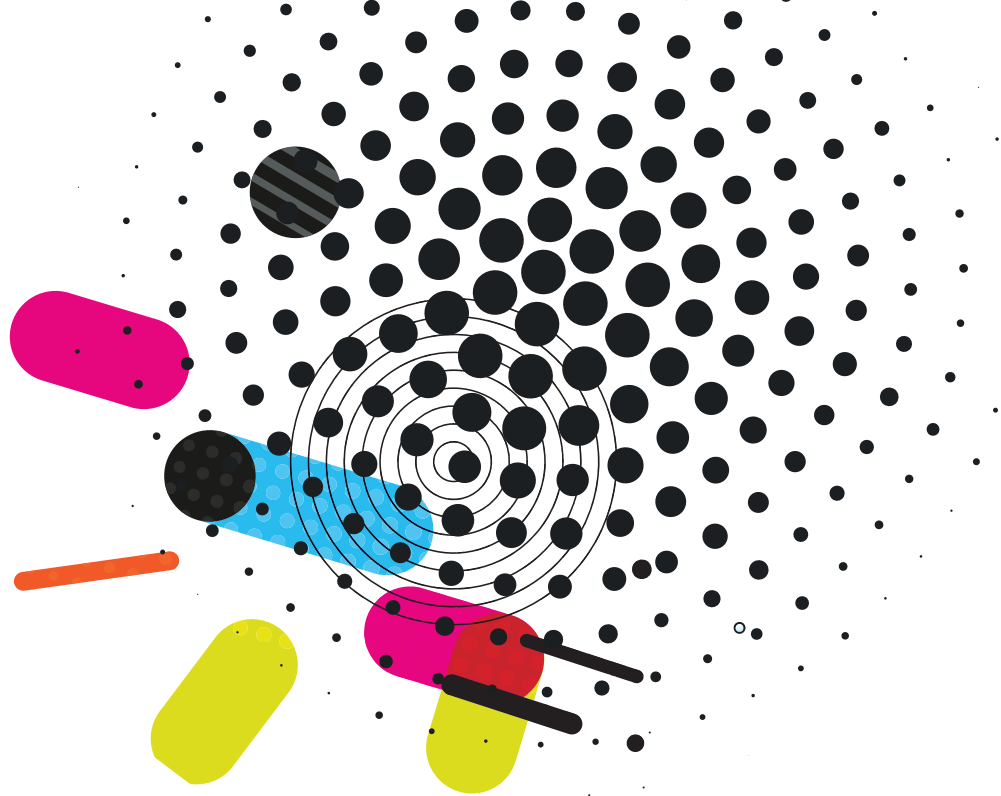
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*Breakthroughs occur at the crossroads*

*where diverse fields meet.*

*Where diverse nations meet.*

*Where diverse peoples meet.*

**Big Ideas.  
New Connections.**





Dear Friends,

Despite exercising caution as the pandemic continues, Tel Aviv University managed to hold studies in a pleasant, “business as usual” manner. We maintained research activity at the highest level. Now that we are no longer in crisis mode, the University can chart its course into the future – and make plans, recruit partners and raise funds accordingly.

TAU's goals are similar to those of other major universities: To promote research excellence and to equip tens of thousands of students annually with academic knowledge and critical thinking skills. The University also aims to influence society in Israel and globally in spheres including industry, health, culture and education. From these goals, the University has formulated six strategic priorities that it seeks to advance: breakthrough research, innovative learning, international collaboration, multidisciplinary research & teaching, industry ties, and equality & diversity.

## Breakthrough Research

Research is the life force of the University. Predicting where the next breakthroughs will come from is difficult, and thus it is the role of the University to provide researchers with the optimal conditions that enable them to follow their scientific curiosity. The University accomplishes this by providing state-of-the-art research facilities, encouraging collaboration between researchers in Israel and internationally, and minimizing administrative obstacles. In addition, TAU aims to recruit the most promising young researchers and offer them the resources and support they need for fruitful work.

Cultivating scientific and intellectual curiosity among its students is of great importance to TAU. This training begins in the undergraduate stage, when students are exposed to research activity across the campus, and intensifies at the master's and doctoral levels when students conduct independent research under the supervision of faculty members. Many of our doctoral alumni eventually become academics in their own right, and are recruited as faculty members at TAU and at other research institutions in Israel and worldwide.

## Innovative Learning

Tel Aviv University considers it both a calling and a privilege to train new generations of intellectuals, leaders and professionals who will serve society and the State of Israel, as well as become the internationally-renowned scientists of tomorrow. The University thus invests tremendous resources in updating and developing innovative teaching methods suited to the 21st century. TAU recently established the Office of the Dean of Innovation in Teaching & Learning. The Office brings together academics and professionals from the fields of pedagogy, media and information technology to develop, improve and modernize teaching methods, as well as to support teaching faculty as they integrate these methods into the courses taught on campus.

In light of modern information technology and its influence on society in general and higher education in particular, the University is making the necessary adaptations to enable more efficient learning among the younger generation – whose expectations and needs are very different from their predecessors. The University is upgrading its teaching methods using asynchronous learning (such as recorded lessons) and interactive digital tools. In this way, face-to-face meetings between students and lecturers will be utilized for other purposes: debating, asking questions, encouraging creativity and critical thinking, and deliberating the meaning of the subject matter. They also enable our lecturers, who are for the most part also researchers, to share with students the thinking processes that led to their current research, to present key open questions in their field, and to facilitate a discussion on how to approach them.

### International Collaboration

Tel Aviv University recognizes the tremendous significance of international collaboration in all areas of its work. It thus strives to develop research ties with the world's leading institutions, to attract outstanding students from across the globe, and to provide Israeli students with the tools they need to prosper in the globalized era in which we live.

The University already partners with a broad network of universities across the United States, Europe, Asia and Australia. It operates several joint study programs in cooperation with leading academic institutions worldwide, among them UC Berkeley, Northwestern, and Johns Hopkins in the United States; Peking University in China; and Thapar University in India. Recently, Tel Aviv University launched a dual undergraduate degree program with Columbia University – the first ever such partnership between an Ivy League institution and an Israeli university. Students spend two years at TAU followed by two years at the Columbia University campus in New York, with a curriculum that combines the humanities with aspects of social sciences, life sciences, and entrepreneurship.

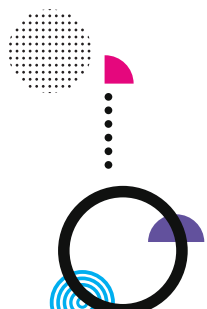
In the coming years, we will be launching more joint centers and study programs with overseas academic institutions with the goal of securing a long-term international partner for virtually every school on campus.

At any given time, TAU International has over 2,000 international students enrolled. They study in undergraduate and master's degree programs taught in English, some alongside their Israeli peers, while others attend semester or year-long Study Abroad or Gap Year programs. International master's, doctoral and post-doctoral students are integrated into the University's research endeavors, including its many cutting-edge labs. In the next few years, TAU intends to further broaden and diversify its international offerings and increase the number of overseas students at all degree levels.

### Multidisciplinary Research & Teaching

TAU's vast range of research and teaching fields creates unique and fascinating connections between disciplines that are not traditionally connected to one another – and provides infinite possibilities for academic creativity. Accordingly, we are setting up multidisciplinary research and teaching frameworks that bring together researchers from the exact and biomedical sciences, on the one hand, with colleagues from the humanities, arts and social sciences, on the other. A prime example is the successful Sagol School of Neuroscience established a decade ago.

Over the past two years, we established multidisciplinary centers and initiatives in the fields of artificial intelligence and data science, climate change, quantum science and technology, battling pandemics, and the study of aging. The University's multidisciplinary nature is reflected not only in its research but also its teaching programs. One such example is the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Humanities in STEM, which promotes the study of the humanities among science and engineering students.



## Industry Ties

TAU has robust ties with over 70 industry partners from Israel and worldwide, as well as with 17 affiliated hospitals and diverse government and municipal bodies. Industry collaborations are generally conducted via Ramot, TAU's technology transfer and commercialization arm. Another unit, TAU Ventures, joined Ramot a few years ago and serves as an incubator for nascent startups led by our alumni. We aim to intensify our ties with industry and maximize their impact – for the benefit of University research and teaching, along with society at large.

These ties are boosted by TAU's close proximity to Israel's hub for high-tech and biotech firms – many of which are good candidates for research collaborations. In this context, we plan to invite more such companies to rent offices adjacent to the campus to enable them to deepen their collaborative ties with TAU researchers. We are also establishing a Center for Innovation Laboratories, which will feature 10 multidisciplinary labs with particularly high potential for real-world applications. Among the center's members and partners will be industry representatives from Israel and worldwide who will help fund – as well as guide – the center's activities.

For three years now, TAU has been running an Entrepreneurship Center. Its initial focus was offering entrepreneurship courses to students across the campus. About a year ago, the Center's focus shifted to increasing entrepreneurial training and activity within each of its nine faculties.

Seventeen hospitals are affiliated with TAU, among them Israel's largest medical centers. The hospitals not only operate as teaching venues for our medical and health professions students, but also host several research centers in collaboration with TAU. A recent example is the joint center for gene therapy that we established at the Sourasky Tel Aviv Medical Center. In the coming years, we aim to intensify these hospital ties by setting up more joint labs and centers; by strengthening relations with outstanding physician-clinicians; and by bridging between lab discoveries and medical needs.

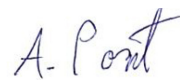
## Equality & Diversity

in July 2021, TAU established the Equality and Diversity Commission. Reporting directly to the TAU President, the Commission aims to advance policy, programming and activities for enhancing equality and diversity among its academic faculty, administrative employees and students. It works to enhance a sense of belonging among all groups on campus, including Israeli Arabs, women, first-generation university students, people with disabilities, Sephardic students, the LGBTQ community, Ethiopian Israelis, the ultra-Orthodox, and others.

The establishment of the Commission reflects the understanding that, for the University to fulfill its mission – tackling complex social problems, achieving scientific breakthroughs and maximizing artistic expression – it must integrate a broad variety of ideas, approaches, perspectives and investigations.

A diversified campus also produces opportunities for students and faculty from different backgrounds to get acquainted, increases tolerance for contrasting viewpoints, and prepares students for better citizenship and leadership in a democratic society.

For the TAU management, distilling six priority areas is just the beginning. We are translating them into concrete, viable programs and raising the substantial funding needed to reach successful results. I am confident that the University's dedicated friends, advocates and supporters will join us in this exciting new era of development and growth.



**Prof. Ariel Porat**

President, Tel Aviv University

# TAU OFFICERS

## Lay Leaders

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Chairwoman of the Board of Governors



**Mr. Eli Gelman**

Chairman of the Executive Council



**Dr. h.c. Dame Shirley Porter**

Deputy Chairperson of the Board of Governors



**Dr. h.c. Jeremy Collier**

Deputy Chairperson of the Board of Governors



**Dr. Anita Friedman**

Chair of the TAU Global Campaign, Vice Chairperson of the Board of Governors



**Dr. h.c. Josef Buchmann**

Vice Chairmen of the Board of Governors



**Dr. h.c. Sylvan Adams**



**Dr. h.c. Marcus Besen**



**Dr. h.c. Boaz Dotan**



**Dr. h.c. Sami Sagol**

**Prof. Jacob A. Frenkel, Mr. Robert Goldberg, Mr. Michael H. Steinhardt**

Chairmen Emeriti of the Board of Governors

## Campus Leaders

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**Prof. Ariel Porat**  
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**Prof. Mark Shtauf**  
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Director-General

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Vice President, International

**Prof. Dan Peer**  
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**Prof. Yaron Oz**  
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**Prof. Moshe Zviran**  
Dean of the Coller School of Management

**Prof. Rachel Gali Cinamon**  
Dean of the Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities

**Prof. Sharon Hannes**  
Dean of the Buchmann Faculty of Law

**Prof. Yossi Rosenwaks**  
Dean of the Iby and Aladar Fleischman Faculty of Engineering

**Prof. Abdussalam Azem**  
Dean of the George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences

**Prof. Itai Sened**  
Dean of the Gershon H. Gordon Faculty of Social Sciences

**Prof. Ehud Grossman**  
Dean of the Sackler Faculty of Medicine

**Prof. Eran Neuman**  
Dean of the Yolanda and David Katz Faculty of the Arts

**Prof. Tova Milo**  
Dean of the Raymond and Beverly Sackler Faculty of Exact Sciences

**Prof. Drorit Neumann**  
Dean of Students

**Prof. Liat Kishon-Rabin**  
Dean of Innovation in Teaching and Learning





• Eurasian culture – Where East and West meet

# Connections: International Reach

Offered by the Shirley and Leslie Porter School of Cultural Studies, an innovative graduate research program in comparative literature and culture unites Eastern and Western traditions into one, all-encompassing new perspective of Eurasian culture. Headed by **Prof. Galili Shahar** (Humanities), the flagship program includes literature in 10 different languages, including Arabic, Turkish and Russian. Collaboration on research seminars, conferences and workshops will be held with colleagues from Free University Berlin, the Universities of Paris and Bern, and Stanford and Yale in the US.





## If a butterfly flaps its wings in America...

The Center for the Study of the United States in Partnership with the Fulbright Program, under the direction of **Dr. Yoav Fromer** (Social Sciences), held an international conference, "The Americanization of the Israeli Right," featuring scholars from Israel, the US and the UK, which garnered extensive media coverage in Israel and around the world. A separate panel on the outcome of the US 2020 elections featured prominent speakers including Israel's former Ambassador to the United States (and former President of TAU) Prof. Itamar Rabinovich. Focusing on politics, cyber and strategy, the conference was watched online by over 35,000 viewers.

## Film festival – Online and international

Due to coronavirus travel restrictions, the 22nd TAU International Student Film Festival of the Steve Tisch School of Film and Television took place online. This meant that, for the first time, it was available to a wide international audience – enabling some 25,000 to view it from around the world. In a gender-balanced lineup of the best in student film-making, the festival featured its three traditional film competitions – International, Israeli, and short independent films – as well the Interactive International Digital Media Exhibition.

## Not all scientists think alike

**Prof. Tom Schonberg** (Life Sciences), Sagol School of Neuroscience, led a group of over 180 researchers from 70 teams worldwide to test how scientists' decisions influence conclusions. All researchers were tasked with analyzing the same dataset of brain images produced with functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI). The study, published in *Nature*, revealed that use of different analytical methods led to variations in reported results. To avoid such variability in the scientific process, the study highlights the need for sharing not just conclusions, but the entire analytical process.

## Back to the past: Dan David Prize relaunches as world's largest history prize

The Dan David Prize, headquartered at TAU, relaunched in September as the largest history prize in the world. Starting in 2022, the Prize will grant up to nine awards of \$300,000 each to early- and mid-career scholars who study the human past. For 20 years the Prize has recognized major contributions to humanity in a wide range of fields, selected each year under the rubric of past, present and future. In its reinvigorated form, the Prize will honor up-and-coming researchers and practitioners in history, archaeology, anthropology, art history and other related disciplines.

## Earn a Tel Aviv MBA...anywhere in the world

TAU launched Israel's first completely online MBA program to be taught in English and operated by the Coller School of Management, which ranks 13th in the world for producing successful, VC-backed startup founders. The two-year degree track, geared toward international students, will start in the spring semester of the 2021-22 academic year and will offer two competitive specializations: technology & information management or marketing management.

## TAU & Johns Hopkins – Powering global education

Amid efforts to bolster academic excellence in the globalized era, TAU partnered with Johns Hopkins University to launch an international, dual master's degree program. The two-year program offers an MA in International Affairs at Johns Hopkins' School of Advanced International Studies at its European campus in Bologna, Italy, and an MA at TAU International in one of the following diploma tracks: Conflict Resolution and Mediation, Cyber Politics and Government, Developing Countries, or Security and Diplomacy. Students spend one year studying at each campus.





# Clout: Real-World Impact

## Sneaking up on cancer

Light in the near-infrared range penetrates deep into our bodies and simply passes through to no effect, but tiny gold nano-structures can intensely absorb this type of light, causing the tiny structures to heat up. **Prof. Alexander Kotlyar** (Life Sciences) of the Roman Abramovich Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology has developed a technique for making these nano-structures gravitate toward cancer cells. Once there, introducing infrared light will agitate the nano-structure, heat it up and destroy the pathological cell – representing a promising new avenue of cancer treatment.

## A first in the civilian space race

TAU-SAT1, launched in January 2021, is Israel's first nano-satellite to be independently designed, built and tested in academia. Supervised by **Dr. Meir Ariel** and **Prof. Ofer Amrani** (both of Engineering) and in cooperation with **Prof. Erez Etzion** and **Colin Price** (both of Exact Sciences) and Israel's Soreq Nuclear Center, the project analyzes the space environment's potentially damaging high-energy particles. Data beamed down from the nano-satellite will help in developing protective measures for spacecraft and astronauts. The construction of more shoebox-sized satellites is now underway at TAU for experiments related to space and climate change.

## Real-time close-up on insulin

MSc student **Roni Ehrlich**, working under the supervision of **Dr. Gili Bisker** (Engineering), a 2019 Zuckerman STEM Leadership Faculty Scholar, has developed a novel tool for measuring insulin in the body using fluorescent carbon nanotubes as optical sensors. This first-of-its-kind, successfully demonstrated analytical tool allows rapid assessment of insulin production. It promises to significantly advance diabetes research and deepen our understanding of the disease's onset, progression and response to treatment.

## Entrepreneurship, innovation and law

The TAU Entrepreneurship Center and the Clinical Law Program of the Buchmann Faculty of Law have announced the establishment of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the Legal World, headed by **Prof. Omri Yadlin** (Law) and advocate **Noa Meyer**. The Center will offer an intensive year-long course to selected students who will form interdisciplinary teams to develop ventures for promoting the efficiency, accessibility and accuracy of legal systems. In addition, the Center will run conferences and hackathons to facilitate cooperation between academia and industry, exposing scholars to new research avenues and students to new career opportunities.

## Step into our labs

Ramot, Tel Aviv University's technology transfer company, is helping industry partners excel by providing them special access to cutting-edge laboratories and technologies at TAU. As part of the push to extend the power of academia beyond campus walls, the initiative opens the door for industry collaborations with over 70 TAU facilities, among them the Musculoskeletal Biomechanics Laboratory headed by **Prof. Amit Gefen** (Engineering) and the Sylvan Adams Sports Institute led by **Prof. Chaim Pick** (Medicine).

## TAU & the World Bank take on cybersecurity

With their ever-growing reliance on digitally-managed power grids, transportation systems and citizen services, nations need iron-clad protection for the networks upon which society depends. To this end, experts from TAU's Blavatnik Interdisciplinary Cyber Research Center have developed a framework that the World Bank is using to assess cybersecurity gaps in developing countries. **Dr. Lior Tabansky** (Social Sciences) and a team of researchers are rolling out this new methodology called PROGRESS (Promoting Global Cyber Resilience for Sectors and Society). The assessment tool evaluates the state of an entire economic sector's cyber defenses, ultimately recommending ways to strengthen and advance them.

## 3D bio-printing new tools for cancer care

**Prof. Ronit Satchi-Fainaro** (Medicine), Director of the Cancer Biology Research Center and Head of the Morris Kahn 3D Cancer Printing Initiative at TAU, and her team 3D-printed the world's first fully functioning model of deadly glioblastoma brain tumors. Based upon individual patient samples, the breakthrough offers a valuable tool to accelerate new personalized therapies, expedite treatment decisions, and improve patient outcomes – alongside creating a new platform for target discovery and drug development. The technology is now advancing toward clinical trials at the TAU-affiliated Sheba Medical Center.





# Convergence: New Paths to Discovery

Cell biology & machine learning vs. osteoporosis

Prof. Yankel Gabet, Prof. Drorit Neumann and PhD student Zamzam Awida (all of Medicine) teamed up with Prof. Amir Globerson and PhD student Edo Cohen-Karlik (both of Exact Sciences), Blavatnik School of Computer Science, to create a screening tool for improving osteoporosis treatment. They looked at cultures of osteoclasts – the bone cell responsible for reabsorption of bone tissue – with the aim of identifying potential compounds for new drugs. Instead of using subjective, time-consuming methods to analyze the effect of trial compounds on the cultures, they developed a machine learning-based object detection method that identifies, classifies and quantifies osteoclasts in cultures. This represents an important advance in bone biology research. The research was supported by TAU's Yandex Machine Learning Initiative and the Varda and Boaz Dotan Center for Hemato-Oncology Research.



## Do you eat blue foods?

With two upcoming papers in the prestigious journal *Nature*, **Dr. Alon Shepon** (Exact Sciences), newly arrived from Harvard to the Porter School of the Environment and Earth Sciences, is a food system expert. He is involved in Blue Food Assessment, an international collaboration aimed at understanding the role of so-called blue foods – those derived from aquatic animals, plants and algae – in sustainable food systems. The first paper, "Environment Performance of Blue Foods," computes the environmental pressures of blue foods, while the second, "Aquatic Foods to Nourish Nations," examines blue foods' contribution to nutrition and food security.

## The world's tiniest technology

What do you get when teams from diverse fields of Exact Sciences get together? A scientific breakthrough called slidetronics! Chemists **Prof. Michael Urbakh** and 2017 Kadar Family Award recipient **Prof. Oded Hod** worked with physicists **Prof. Eran Sela** and **Dr. Moshe Ben Shalom** to produce the smallest unit known to science. Just two atoms thick, its electrical polarization can be switched via adjacent atomic layers sliding across each other. Switching polarization over small areas is key for modern technologies such as hard disk drives that store and retrieve large volumes of information. The findings were published in *Science*.

## Surprises in the Dead Sea Scrolls

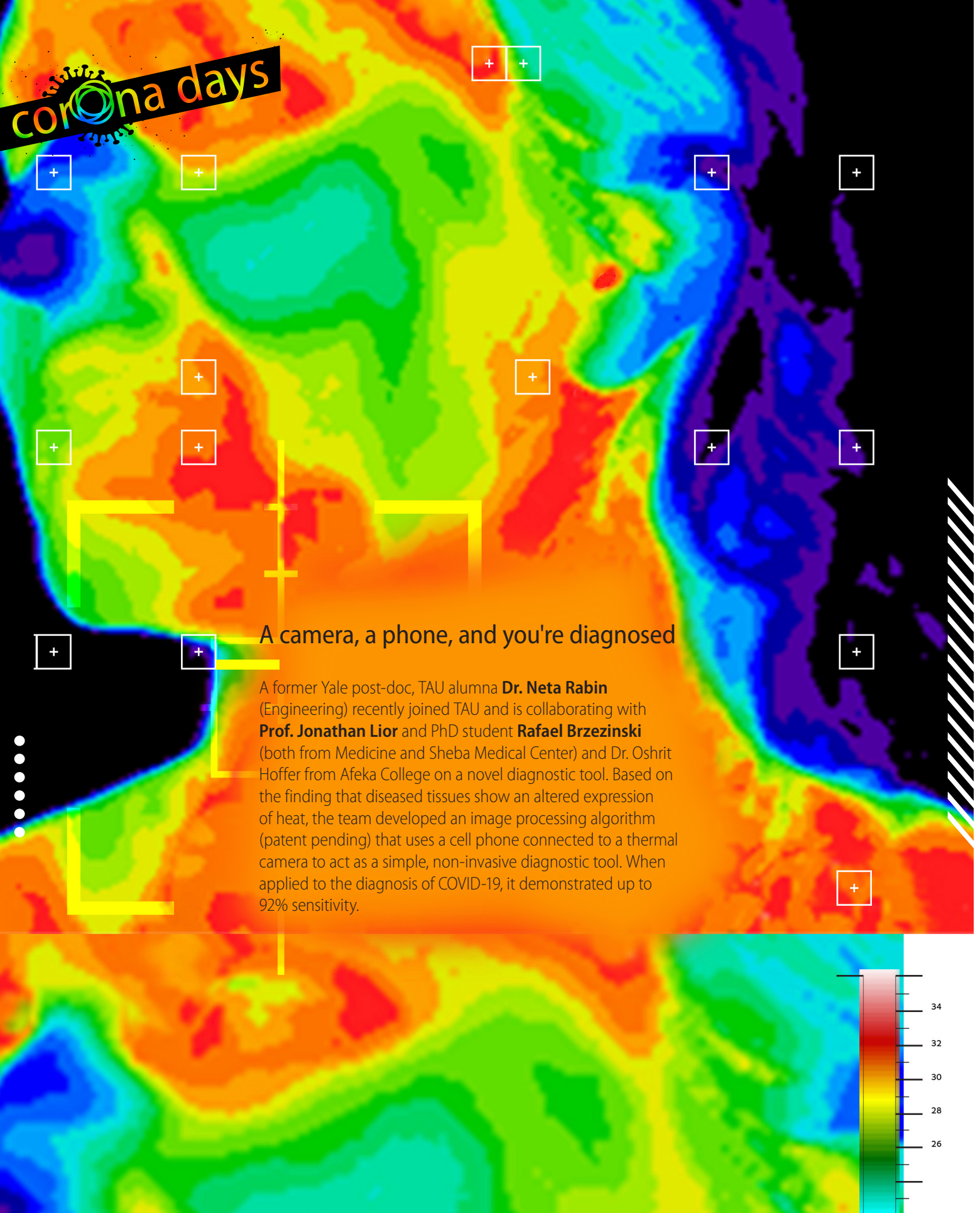
TAU alumna **Dr. Eshbal Ratson** (Humanities) combines her background in physics with Jewish Studies to decipher Judaism's earliest attempts at addressing scientific questions in the Dead Sea Scrolls. After post-doctoral studies as a Fulbright Fellow at Princeton, Eshbal is now back at TAU and ready to begin her newest project, "Cosmology, Astronomy and Theology in the Dead Sea Scrolls," funded by an Azrieli Early Career Faculty Fellowship grant. In this groundbreaking analysis, she will apply mathematical and digital tools along with classical methods to reconstruct ancient astronomical scrolls, thereby furthering our knowledge of the community in Qumran and Second Temple Judaism.

## Are governments meeting today's welfare challenge?

With degrees from Harvard and post-doctoral fellowships from Fulbright and TAU's Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, **Dr. Rachel Friedman** (Law) investigates the field of social insurance. She examines connections between mathematical probability, the basis for risk calculation, and the design of welfare policies to propose how governments can use social insurance systems to address economic insecurities, including the effects of today's COVID crisis. Friedman suggests that by identifying widely shared vulnerabilities, such as an aging population and unemployment resulting from technological change, citizens will be able to appreciate the benefits of pooling risks and governments will be more capable of responding effectively to needs.

## Decoding the tree of life

What are the evolutionary relationships among all organisms on Earth? This is one of biology's oldest questions that experts seek to answer through the painstaking process known as phylogenetic tree reconstruction. Researchers from TAU's Center for Artificial Intelligence & Data Science combine genomic and machine learning techniques to help solve this challenge. The research project is led by **Prof. Tal Pupko**, head of the Shmunis School of Biomedicine and Cancer Research, and **Prof. Itay Mayrose** (both of Life Sciences), as well as **Prof. Yishay Mansour** (Exact Sciences) of the Blavatnik School of Computer Science. The team is collaborating with partners in Germany to integrate the algorithm into cutting-edge software for phylogenetic reconstruction.



## A camera, a phone, and you're diagnosed

A former Yale post-doc, TAU alumna **Dr. Neta Rabin** (Engineering) recently joined TAU and is collaborating with **Prof. Jonathan Lior** and PhD student **Rafael Brzezinski** (both from Medicine and Sheba Medical Center) and Dr. Oshrit Hoffer from Afeka College on a novel diagnostic tool. Based on the finding that diseased tissues show an altered expression of heat, the team developed an image processing algorithm (patent pending) that uses a cell phone connected to a thermal camera to act as a simple, non-invasive diagnostic tool. When applied to the diagnosis of COVID-19, it demonstrated up to 92% sensitivity.



## How to combat drug-resistant coronavirus mutations?

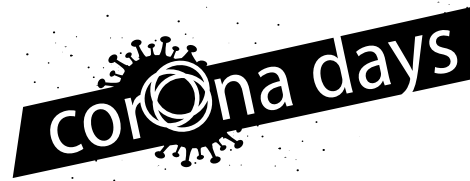
In research supported by TAU's Center for Combating Pandemics, a team led by **Prof. Ehud Gazit** (Life Sciences), Director of the BLAVATNIK CENTER for Drug Discovery, and **Prof. Haim Wolfson** (Exact Sciences), of the Blavatnik School of Computer Science and Edmond J. Safra Center for Bioinformatics, proposes approaches that may preemptively block coronavirus from entering cells altogether. The researchers are examining multiple ways to inhibit a human protein responsible for coronavirus activation and its penetration into host cells, thereby preventing infection. Their work combines computer-aided drug design tools, medicinal chemistry and rapid robotic testing of high volumes of chemical compounds to identify viable candidates for new medicines.

## Forewarned is forearmed

TAU engineers have developed a method for predicting where outbreaks of COVID-19 are likely to occur. Using anonymized mobility data from cellphones, along with health and socio-demographic data, they have produced a tool to help government decision-makers contain outbreaks with focused interventions and thereby avoid the damage of wider restrictions. The research team included **Prof. Irad Ben-Gal**, **Dr. Dan Yamin**, PhD student **Matan Yechezkel**, and MSc students **Yotam Dery** and **Yuval Foox** (all from Engineering), alongside Prof. Margaret L. Brandeau and her PhD student Grace Guan at Stanford. The research received funding from the Koret Program for Smart Cities and Digital Living.

## Parenting during a pandemic

In a cross-cultural study extending from Eastern Europe and the Middle East (including Arab and Jewish Israelis) to Western Europe and the US, **Prof. Dorit Aram** (Education) and her PhD student **Galia Meoded Karabanov** led an international research team in a comparative study of parenting of young children (2-8) during the pandemic. Expression of love was the most frequent behavior across cultures, while collaboration between parents was the least common. Focusing on strengths and weaknesses of each culture, the team now plans to look at changes in parenting behavior one year after the first lockdown.



## Politics and pandemics

As a part of the Pandemics and Politics Project, **Prof. Udi Sommer** (Social Sciences) together with PhD student **Or Rappel-Kroyzer** (Humanities) of the Yavetz School of Historical Studies, quantify the relations between COVID-19 and political processes in the USA and beyond. They examine how the virus influenced the 2020 presidential elections, how politics in the form of ideology, gender, race and partisanship influenced the pandemic, and how the nature of emergency politics changed in the coronavirus era. Using statistical methods and natural language processing algorithms on data gathered from various websites such as the CDC and *New York Times*, they also study the link between media coverage of COVID-19 and the way various democracies cope with the outbreak.

## Effects on hearth and home

The effects of COVID-19 on real estate were examined at an international conference held by the Alrov Institute for Real Estate Research, directed by **Prof. Danny Ben-Shahar** (Management). Held online with over 100 participants, the conference highlighted increasing social inequality as the pandemic widened the divide between those who can work from home and those who can't. In addition, research presented by Ben-Shahar and colleagues on changes in real estate transactions showed that post-COVID trends favor larger houses or apartments in low density areas and further from urban centers.

# Community: Stronger Society

## Does justice depend on the language you speak?

The course "Language, Law and Theater," headed by **Prof. Leora Bilsky** (Law) and **Dr. Chen Alon** (Arts), brought together Hebrew and Arabic speakers from law and theater to explore the connection between language and justice in legal proceedings. Following coaching in the preparation of legal texts, theoretical aspects of trials, and political theater, the course culminated in the presentation of five docu-plays that reenacted legal trials. Impressed by the significance of the meeting between law and theater, students also expressed their new understanding of the importance of being tried in one's own language for the implementation of justice.

## Research to policymaking in education

Established and headed by **Prof. Audrey Addi-Raccah** (Education), the TAU Research Alliance in Education, generously supported by a US foundation, brings together researchers, policymakers and practitioners to analyze why some schools fail while others succeed – with the aim of narrowing social inequality and ensuring educational opportunities for all sectors. Through diverse partnerships, such as with the Tel Aviv Municipality and the Chief Scientist at the Ministry of Education, and using big data technologies, the project aims to address educational challenges and to impact upon policy and practice in the Israeli education system.

## Museum exhibit that shows you how

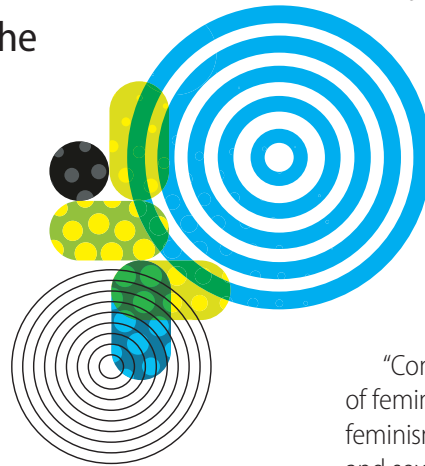
TAU's Steinhardt Museum of Natural History is presenting a unique exhibition: "Global Warning." Led by Museum Director **Alon Sapan**, with PhD student **Judi Lax** (Exact Sciences) as scientific curator and **Hadas Zemer** as exhibition curator, museum staff worked with scientists and climate experts to present the latest findings on climate change. Interactive stations present various issues ranging from the rise in sea levels to greenhouse gas emissions and calculating one's own carbon footprint. In addition to imparting knowledge and awareness, the exhibition explains how each individual can help mitigate the crisis, offering tips on simple behavior changes to benefit the environment and encouraging visitors to become agents of change.

## The feminine impact

Coinciding with the 20th anniversary of TAU's NCJW Women and Gender Studies Program, the program's "Connecting for Impact" project is bringing together CEOs of feminist NGOs in an 18-month program aimed at enhancing feminism in Israeli society, with a focus on issues of domestic and sexual violence against women. Headed by **Prof. Daphna Hacker** (Law and Humanities), recently appointed to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women for 2023-26, the project will create a cadre of leaders who bridge academia, feminism and social activism.

## Saving the Biblical heritage of Ethiopian Jews

TAU's Department of Biblical Studies has launched a new MA program available nowhere else in the world. Headed by 2021 Kadar Award recipient **Prof. Dalit Rom-Shiloni** (Humanities), the Orit Guardians master's program for the study and research of Ethiopian Jewry's biblical texts is truly a rescue operation of age-old oral traditions that are in danger of disappearing. In addition to preserving these cultural treasures, the MA will serve to enhance the Jewish identity of Israelis of Ethiopian descent, increase awareness of their culture, and establish Ethiopian Jewish heritage as a rich field of academic study. The program is generously supported by the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Foundation, Canada.



# DISTINCTIONS

**Prof. Halina Abramowicz**, Exact Sciences, Fellow of the Israel Physics Society

**Prof. Domenico Agostini**, Humanities, 2021 Kadar Family Award for Outstanding Research

**Prof. Gadi Algazi**, Humanities, Rita Levi Montalcini Prize for Scientific Cooperation between Italy and Israel

**Prof. (Emer.) Noga Alon**, Exact Sciences, Paris Kanellakis Theory and Practice Award of the Association for Computing Machinery; 2021 Steele Prize for Mathematical Exposition, American Mathematical Society

**Prof. Mira Ariel**, Humanities, Member of the Academy of Europe, Academia Europaea

**Prof. Yossi Azar**, Exact Sciences, 2020 ACM Paris Kanellakis Theory and Practice Award

**Dr. Liron Barak**, Exact Sciences, 2021 Krill Prize, Wolf Foundation

**Prof. Isaac Ben-Israel**, Social Sciences, IEEE TCHS Outstanding Leadership Award

**Prof. Michael Birnhack**, Law, 2020 Zeltner Prize for Senior Researcher

**Dr. Rafi Bistrizer**, Exact Sciences, 2020 Wolf Prize in Physics

**Prof. Tal Carmon**, Engineering, Fellow of the Optical Society of America

**Dr. Yair Carmon**, Exact Sciences, Eric and Sheila Samson Prime Minister's Prize

**Dr. Nadav Cohen**, Exact Sciences, Google Research Scholar Award

**Prof. Tamar Dayan**, Life Sciences, 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award, Israel Ecological and Environmental Sciences Association

**Prof. (Emer.) Ilan Eshel**, Exact Sciences, Lifetime Achievement Award, Israeli Society for Evolutionary Biology

**Prof. Michal Feldman**, Exact Sciences, Best EC Paper Flash Video Award, ACM Conference on Economics and Computation

**Prof. Emilia Fridman**, Engineering, 2021 Kadar Family Award for Outstanding Research

**Dr. Michael Geller**, Exact Sciences, Israel Physical Society Yaakov Bekenstein Prize

**Dr. Yftach Gepner**, Medicine, 2020 Neufeld Memorial Research Grant

**Prof. Ron Harris**, Law, Cheshin Prize for Academic Excellence in the Field of Law, Lindert-Williamson Prize for Best Book in Global Economic History, Economic History Association

**Prof. Tamar Herzig**, Humanities, Rosenberg Prize, American Historical Association; Michael Bruno Memorial Award for Groundbreaking Research, Israel Institute for Advanced Studies

**Dr. Ido Katri**, Social Work, Governor General's Gold Medal, Canada

**Prof. Liat Kishon-Rabin**, Health Professions, President, European Federations of Audiology Societies (EFAS) 2021-2023

**Prof. Silvia Koton**, Medicine, Vascular Cognitive Impairment Award, American Stroke Association International Stroke Conference; 2021 Paul Dudley White International Scholar, American Heart Association

**Prof. Noga Kronfeld-Schor**, Life Sciences, Honorary Fellow, Ruppin Academic Center

**Prof. Nira Liberman**, Social Sciences, Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities

**Prof. (Emer.) Oded Maimon**, Engineering, Lifetime Achievement Award for Academic Work in Industrial Engineering, 22nd Industrial Engineering National Conference

**Prof. Boris Malomed**, Engineering, Lifetime Achievement Award, Indian Spectrophysics Association (ISPA)

**Prof. Yossi Matias**, Exact Sciences, Paris Kanellakis Theory and Practice Award of the ACM

**Dr. Adam Morrison**, Exact Sciences, Inaugural Intel Hardware Security Academic Award

**Prof. Fernando Patolsky**, Exact Sciences, 2020 Tenne Family Prize for Nanoscale Sciences

**Prof. Dan Peer**, Life Sciences, 2021 MolecularCloud Distinguished Research Award

**Prof. Oded Rechavi**, Life Sciences, Member of the Israel Young Academy; Member of the European Molecular Biology Organization

**Prof. Dalit Rom-Shiloni**, Humanities, 2021 Kadar Family Award for Outstanding Research

**Prof. (Emer.) Eytan Ruppin**, Exact Sciences, Fellow of the International Society for Computational Biology

**Prof. Ronit Satchi-Fainaro**, Medicine, First Place in the National Foundation for Cancer Research 2021 Salisbury Award Competition for Entrepreneurial Translational Research; Bruno Memorial Award

**Prof. Doron Shabat**, Exact Sciences, 2020 ICS Prize of Excellence

**Prof. Tomer Volansky**, Exact Sciences, 2021 Breakthrough New Horizons in Physics Prize

**Prof. Yossi Yovel**, Life Sciences, Blavatnik Award for Young Scientists – Israel; 2021 Kadar Family Award for Outstanding Researchers

**Prof. Neta Ziv**, Law, 2020 Gorny Award in Public Law

**Dr. Ines Zucker**, Engineering, Green Talent Award, German Federal Ministry of Education and Research

**Prof. Uri Zwick**, Exact Sciences, 20-Year STOC Test of Time Award



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Argentinean Friends of Tel Aviv University

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