

2017/18



British Friends of ^{since}
The Hebrew University
Our Future is Here

Our **PAST** is Here



Laying The Hebrew University Cornerstones, July 1918

Our **FUTURE**
is Here...

“A pluralistic institution, where science and knowledge are developed for the benefit of human-kind, in an atmosphere free of discrimination and prejudice.”



Professor Albert Einstein wrote these words in 1925 in a short paper 'The Mission of our University' in which he shared a vision about the purpose of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. If you have ever had the opportunity to be on campus, you will instantly witness the reality of a pluralist, tolerant and open-minded student and faculty community. Talk to them and they'll happily share their ambitions for a better society. Curious researchers will eagerly talk about international collaboration, sharing knowledge and know-how across the globe.

Four beautiful campuses accommodate 7 faculties from law to dentistry, social science to medicine, humanities to science not forgetting agricultural sciences, environment, nutrition and veterinary studies.

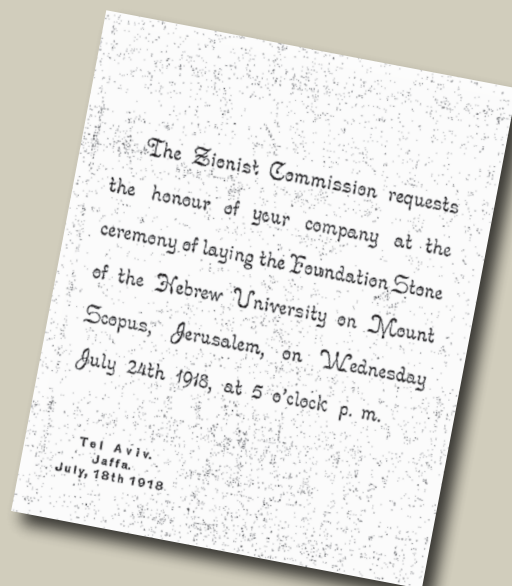
British Friends has been involved in every facet of the Hebrew University's development, from even before the opening in 1925. The British community helped in the hard work that led to the laying of the cornerstones in 1918 in the first year of the British mandate after the Balfour Declaration.

This edition of Future gives but a glimpse of the enormous range of research and study undertaken by the Hebrew University and the many activities and events of the British Friends to help ensure that excellence remains the watchword.

Your support is always deeply appreciated. To get closer to the Hebrew University a warm welcome awaits you if you're able to visit.

Please also see page 26 for details of the special celebrations taking place at the annual Hebrew University Board of Governors gathering 8-13 June 2018.

If your family was involved in those early days 100 years ago and perhaps received the original invitation shown below, we'd love to hear from you...



With sincerest thanks

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nigel".

**Nigel Salomon
Chief Executive**

British Friends of the
Hebrew University

Hebrew University in Numbers

Technology Transfer

53	Years of transferring technologies
9,826	Patents
2,675	Inventions
880	Licences
120	Spin-off companies

International

320	Academic agreements with institutions in 44 countries
111	Competitive research grants from the European Research Council
220	Postdoctoral researchers from 26 countries
115	University and faculty level student exchanges

Students

23,000	Total student body
11,500	Undergraduates
6,000	Masters students
2,200	Doctoral candidates
3,300	Overseas and pre-academic students, postdoctoral fellows etc

Rankings

#1 in Israel

Times Higher Education magazine (THE) 2017
QS World University Ranking 2017

Top 1/2% Universities Worldwide

ARWU 2017 Index

Teaching

4	Main campuses
7	Faculties
317	Departments
973	Faculty members
5,000	Courses

Awards of Excellence

294	Israel prizes
100	Rothschild prizes
46	EMET prizes
14	Wolf prizes
8	Nobel prizes
1	Fields medal in mathematics
1	Canada Gairdner international award
1	Turing award in computer science

Research

>100	Research centres
3,440	Research projects
5	Affiliated hospitals
> 1/3	PhD students in Israel
43%	Israel's biotechnology research
30%	Israeli academic scientific research



האוניברסיטה
העברית
בירושלים
THE HEBREW
UNIVERSITY
OF JERUSALEM

Professor Asher Cohen President, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

In June 2017 I was honoured to accept the position of President of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. I have called the University my home since the early 1990s, when I joined the Psychology Department. For the past five years, I have served as Rector and focused on recruiting top researchers from Israel and abroad, while opening new and innovative academic programs.

This year we anticipate with great excitement the celebration of the centennial of the cornerstone-laying ceremony, held on July 28, 1918. The Hebrew University was the very first Zionist project and has remained true to its mission ever since. **The British Friends has been a loyal partner from the earliest days continually involved in almost every aspect of the development of the Hebrew University which has helped us achieve academic and research excellence.** Graduates of our University have played a critical role in building the modern State of Israel. Their contributions are tangible in every facet of our country.

I am well aware of the challenges that lie ahead. The Hebrew University ranks amongst the top universities around the world, and in today's quickly evolving reality, we are committed to continue to



excel in our pioneering research aimed at meeting these challenges and enhancing the wellbeing of humanity worldwide.

Together we will embark on the second century of our University. I look forward to visiting the UK as well as to welcoming you to our Board of Governors in June 2018 as we celebrate this momentous occasion.



Professor Menahem Ben-Sasson

A long-serving Hebrew University faculty member, former Rector and more recently serving 8 years as President, Prof. Ben-Sasson has been appointed Chancellor of the Hebrew University. His remit will include special focus on continuing the strategic development of the university's international academic partnerships as well as relationships with leading supporters across many Friends' organisations.

Prof. Ben-Sasson has been a frequent visitor to the UK and will continue to work closely with the British Friends, helping us in our efforts to extend our support for the Hebrew University.

What's new at HU...

ELSC – The future of Brain Research

Mayor of Jerusalem Nir Barkat, British architect Lord Norman Foster, and more than 400 friends and supporters joined Mrs. Lily Safra as she dedicated Israel's largest neuroscience center, the Hebrew University's Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences.

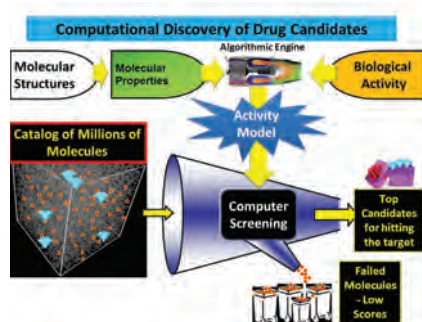


"I am thrilled to join in celebrating this defining moment for ELSC when such an extraordinary new building becomes home to a remarkable community of researchers and students," said Mrs. Lily Safra. "Their multi-disciplinary study of the brain's secrets will surely make a profound impact on how we treat disease and care for patients. I know that my husband Edmond would share my deep sense of pride that our names are associated with such pioneering work, and with such dedicated and inspiring people."

"The Hebrew University is grateful to Mrs. Lily Safra and the Edmond J. Safra Foundation for their leadership in this historic initiative to unlock the mysteries of the brain," said Prof. Menahem Ben-Sasson, Chancellor of the Hebrew University.

Dramatic improvement in drug discovery methods

Antibiotics for treating particularly resistant diseases, molecules that block immune system overreactions, molecules that inhibit the growth of cancer cells by removing excess iron, molecules that may increase the digestion of fats: all these and more have been discovered in recent years using a unique computerized approach to solving particularly complex problems.

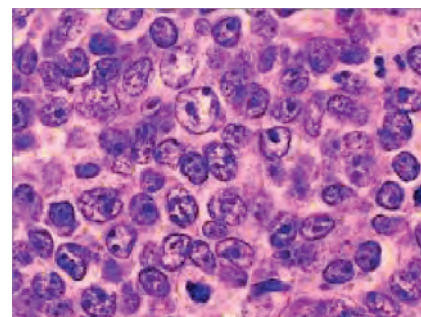


Prof. Amiram Goldblum's algorithm produces a model for the activity of small molecules on one or more proteins known to cause the disease. A model of this type is usually built in a few hours and is capable of screening millions of molecules in less than a day. Therefore, within a few days it is possible to make initial predictions to combat a disease. For the development of the algorithm, Prof. Goldblum was awarded a 2017 Kaye Innovation Award.

Israeli and Palestinian Researchers Cooperate on Risk Factors for Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma

Non-Hodgkin lymphomas (NHL), tumours account for approximately 3% of the worldwide cancer burden. Since Israelis and Palestinians represent genetically and culturally

diverse populations living in geographic proximity, research analyzing their risk factors can enrich our understanding of genes and environment in the causation of lymphoma. The populations differ in terms of lifestyle, health behaviours and medical systems. Yet both report high incidences of NHL.



Israeli and Palestinian researchers, led by Prof. Ora Paltiel, Director of the Hebrew University-Hadassah Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine, and a Senior Physician in Hadassah's Hematology Department, have conducted a large scale epidemiological study examining risk factors for B-NHL and its subtypes in these two populations.

The researchers looked at medical history, environmental and lifestyle factors among 823 people with B-cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma (B-NHL) and 808 healthy controls. Using data from questionnaires, pathology review, serology and genotyping, they uncovered some risk factors common to both populations, such as recreational sun exposure, black hair-dye use, a history of hospitalization for infection, and having a first-degree relative with a blood cancer and other factors unique to each.

Scientific effort by Israeli and Palestinian investigators demonstrates the importance of cooperative research even in politically uncertain climates.

...What's new at HU

Earlier diagnosis and better treatment of Parkinson's disease

Parkinson's disease is the second most common neurodegenerative disorder in humans, after Alzheimer's disease.

Making an accurate diagnosis of Parkinson's, particularly in early stages and mild cases, is difficult, and there are currently no standard diagnostic tests other than clinical information provided by the patient and the findings of a neurological examination.



Now, Suaad Abd-Elhadi, a PhD student at the Institute for Medical Research Israel-Canada (IMRIC) in the Hebrew University's Faculty of Medicine, has developed the lipid ELISA. This novel diagnostic tool could lead to earlier detection of Parkinson's, along with better tracking of the disease's progression and a patient's response to therapy.

In recognition of her work, Suaad Abd-Elhadi was awarded the Kaye Innovation Award for 2017.

Haploid human stem cells could change the face of medical research

Stem cell research holds huge potential for medicine and human health. In particular, human embryonic stem cells (ESCs), with their ability to turn into any cell in the human body, are essential to the future prevention and treatment of disease.

Most of the cells in our body are diploid, which means they carry two sets of chromosomes – one from each parent. Until now, scientists have only succeeded in creating haploid embryonic stem cells – which contain a single set of chromosomes – in non-human mammals. Scientists have long sought to isolate and replicate these haploid ESCs in humans.



This milestone was finally reached when Ido Sagi, working as a PhD student at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Azrieli Center for Stem Cells and Genetic Research, led research that yielded the first successful isolation and maintenance of haploid embryonic stem cells in humans. These haploid stem cells were able to differentiate into many other cell types, such as brain, heart

and pancreas, while retaining a single set of chromosomes.

With Prof. Nissim Benvenisty, Director of the Azrieli Center, Sagi showed that this new human stem cell type will play an important role in human genetic and medical research. It will aid our understanding of human development – for example, make genetic screening easier and more precise and it is already enabling the study of resistance to chemotherapy drugs, with implications for cancer therapy.

In recognition of his work, Ido Sagi was awarded the Kaye Innovation Award for 2017.

High BMI in adolescence may affect cognitive function in midlife

Obesity in adolescents has greatly increased in recent decades. While the dangers posed by high adult BMI on cognitive function in later life have been documented, the association of adolescent BMI has not yet been reported.

Scientists led by Prof. Jeremy Kark of the Hebrew University-Hadassah Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine, set out to determine the association between high-ranked body mass index (BMI), and cognitive function in midlife. The researchers used weight and height data from 507 individuals tracked from over 33 years starting at age 17. "Our study is unique in showing that an adverse association of higher BMI with cognitive function appears to begin in adolescence and that it appears to be restricted to adults with lower childhood socioeconomic position," said Prof. Kark.

...What's new at HU

Hebrew University Archaeologists Find 12th Dead Sea Scrolls Cave

Excavations in a cave on the cliffs west of Qumran, near the north-western shore of the Dead Sea, prove that Dead Sea Scrolls from the Second Temple period were hidden in the cave, and looted by Bedouins in the middle of the last century.

The surprising discovery, a milestone in Dead Sea Scroll research, was made by Dr. Oren Gutfeld and Ahiaad Ovadia from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Institute of Archaeology, with the help of Dr. Randall Price and students from Liberty University in Virginia USA.



The cave revealed that at one time it contained Dead Sea Scrolls. Storage jars and lids from the Second Temple period were found hidden in niches along the walls of the cave and deep inside a long tunnel at its rear. "This exciting excavation is the closest we've come to discovering new Dead Sea Scrolls in 60 years. said Dr. Gutfeld, "Although at the end of the day no scroll was found, there were jars in which the scrolls and their covering were hidden, a leather strap for binding the scroll, a cloth that wrapped the scrolls, tendons and pieces of skin connecting fragments, and more."

Hebrew University Ranked #11 Worldwide for Maths



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem is the 11th best university in the world for Mathematics, according to the "Global Ranking of Academic Subjects" for 2017, released by the Shanghai Ranking Consultancy, which rates universities worldwide.

As well as its high achievement in Mathematics, the Hebrew University was named in the top 50 in three additional subjects: Communication, Political Sciences, and Economics.

The University was among the top 100 in six other subjects: Veterinary Sciences, Public Administration, Law, Agricultural Sciences, Biotechnology and Psychology.

The Global Ranking of Academic Subjects ranks universities in 52 subjects across five fields: Natural Sciences, Engineering, Life Sciences, Medical Sciences, and Social Sciences. In total, more than 4000 universities were ranked.

A call for peacebuilding through the culture of encounter

Youth from five continents joined Palestinian and Israeli students,

religious and academic leaders, in answer to Pope Francis' call for peacebuilding through the culture of encounter

75 Christian, Jewish and Muslim youth from around the world gathered at the Hebrew University for a unique summit, in answer to Pope Francis' call to create a culture of encounter for peace. Students age 15 and 16 from Argentina, Brazil, Burundi, Congo, Kenya, Mexico, Spain, and other countries joined their Palestinian and Israeli counterparts for 4 days of learning through arts, sports, technology, and living together.



Young people expressed their hopes for peace through a variety of artistic presentations. Students from Burundi and Congo performed a song in Swahili; Palestinian students from Beit Hanina performed "Imagine" by John Lennon; and Israeli students from the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance sang of peace, in Hebrew.

Three senior religions leaders, representing the three Abrahamic faiths, gave opening benedictions as part of an interreligious prayer for peace. The summit is co-organized by the Pontifical Scholas Occurrentes ("Scholas") and the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace, at the Hebrew University.

...What's new at HU

Hebrew University to build national quantum communications system

The Quantum Information Science Center at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem has won a NIS 7.5 million tender from the Government of Israel to lead the construction of a national demonstrator for quantum communications technologies. The goal of this project is to develop homegrown Israeli expertise and technology for a national quantum communications system that will prevent eavesdropping, protect data privacy and secure national infrastructure.

Prof. Nadav Katz, director of the Quantum Information Science Center, and a researcher at the Hebrew University's Racah Institute of Physics, said: "This project to build a national quantum communications system will position Israel in the leading edge of research toward ultimately secured communication systems."

Cannabis to reverse aging processes in the brain?

Researchers restore the memory performance of Methuselah mice to a juvenile stage. Next step, clinical trials in humans to see whether Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) reverses aging processes and increases cognitive ability.

Memory performance decreases with increasing age. Cannabis can reverse these aging processes in the brain. This was shown in mice by scientists at the University of Bonn with their colleagues at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Old animals were able to regress to the state of two-month

old mice with a prolonged low-dose treatment with a cannabis active ingredient. This opens up new options, for instance, when it comes to treating dementia.



This treatment success is the result of years of meticulous research. The scientists discovered that the brain ages much faster when mice do not possess any functional receptors for THC. To discover precisely what effect the THC treatment has in old mice, researchers at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, led by Dr. Mona Dvir-Ginzberg and the late Prof. Itai Bab, examined the epigenetic changes in brains of aged mice treated with THC.

"The THC treatment induced molecular and epigenetic changes, which no longer corresponded to that of untreated old animals, but rather were similar to what we see in young animals," said Dr. Dvir-Ginzberg. Moreover, the number of links between the nerve cells in the brain also increased again, which is an important prerequisite for learning ability. It looked as though the THC treatment turned back the molecular clock.

The researchers now want to conduct a clinical trial to investigate whether THC also reverses aging processes and can increase cognitive ability in the brain in humans .

Prof. Menahem Ben-Sasson awarded Germany's Order of Merit

"The Order of Merit recognizes Prof. Ben-Sasson's outstanding, extensive, and personal commitment to German-Israeli relations in the field of science, and thus to the cooperation between our two nations," said Dr. von Goetze, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Israel.



The Order of Merit is the highest tribute the Federal Republic of Germany can award to individuals and is the only honour that may be awarded in all fields of endeavour.

A picture used to be worth a thousand words!

Iconic Einstein 'tongue' photo brings \$125,000 at auction

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — A famous photo of Albert Einstein sticking out his tongue at a photographer and signed by the renowned scientist has been sold for \$125,000.

The Nate D. Sanders auction house is announcing the sale on Thursday evening did not reveal the buyer's identity.

The Hebrew University stands to benefit from the latest sale, since Einstein bequeathed his estate, including the use of his image, to the Jerusalem Institution.

United Press International photographer Arthur Sasse took the picture on March 14, 1953, while covering Einstein's 72nd birthday party given by his colleagues at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. Einstein had tired of smiling for photographers at the party, and when Sasse renewed the request, the scientist instead stuck out his tongue.

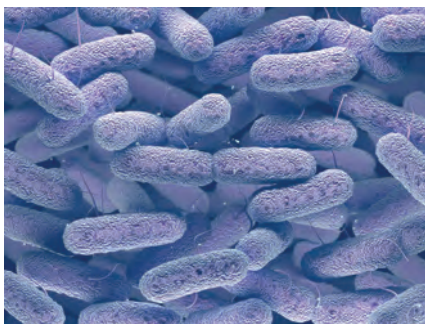


...What's new at HU

'Smart' bacteria remodel their genes to infect our intestines

Infectious diarrhea, a common disease in children, is responsible for over 2 million infant deaths annually in developing countries alone. A primary cause of this and other devastating conditions is enteropathogenic bacteria, which attack the intestinal tract when contaminated food is consumed.

The processes by which the pathogens establish themselves in our gut are poorly understood.



Now, a new study by researchers at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Faculty of Medicine, describes how pathogens sense their host, and tailor their gene expression to exploit their host to cause disease. The research was led by Prof. Ilan Rosenshine, the Etta Rosensohn Professor of Bacteriology at the University.

Working with a pathogenic strain of *E. coli*, the researchers found that the bacteria can sense attachment to the human intestinal cells and activate gene expression in response. The researchers also deciphered how upon sensing that it has attached to intestinal cells, to exploit the host cell. These findings may lead to the development of new strategies to combat bacterial infection.

How long bacteria can wait out antibiotics

The efficient classification of bacterial strains as tolerant, resistant, or persistent could help to guide treatment decisions, and ultimately reduce the ever-growing risk of resistance.

A growing number of pathogens are developing resistance to one or more antibiotics, threatening our ability to treat infectious diseases. A simple new method for measuring the time it takes to kill a bacterial population could improve the ability of clinicians to effectively treat antimicrobial-tolerant strains that are on the path to becoming resistant.

"These findings allow measurement of tolerance, which has previously been largely overlooked in the clinical setting," says senior study author Prof. Nathalie Balaban. Like other forms of tolerance, time-dependent persistence can lead to recurrent infections because the few surviving bacteria can quickly grow to replenish the entire population once antibiotic treatment stops.



It is important to complete a course of antibiotic treatment as prescribed, even after the disappearance of the symptoms," Balaban says. "Partial treatment gives tolerance and persistence mutations a selective advantage, and these in turn, hasten the development of resistance."

The world's largest Index of Jewish Art

The Center for Jewish Art at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem has launched the world's largest online database of Jewish art at the World Congress of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem.

The Bezalel Narkiss Index of Jewish Art is a collection of digitized images and information about Jewish artifacts from all over the world. The online collection includes more than 260,000 images of objects and artifacts from 700 museums, synagogues and private collections in 41 different countries, as well as architectural drawings of 1,500 synagogues and Jewish ritual buildings from antiquity to the modern day.



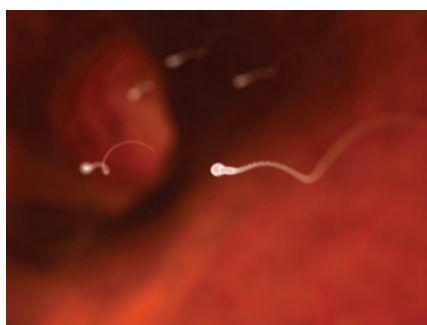
Access the Bezalel Index of Jewish Art and start exploring the world of Jewish art at:
<http://cja.huji.ac.il/browser.php>

...What's new at HU

Decline in sperm counts of western men

Meta-analysis finds that among men from North America, Europe and Australia, sperm concentration has declined more than 50% in less than 40 years.

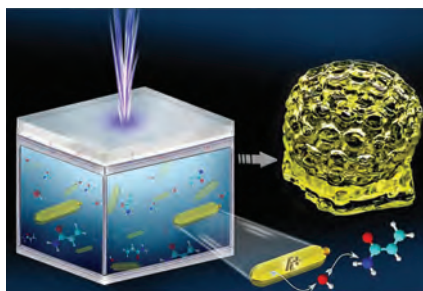
In the first systematic review and meta-analysis of trends in sperm count, researchers from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Faculty of Medicine and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai report a significant decline in sperm concentration and total sperm count among men from western countries. The study is published today in *Human Reproduction Update*, the leading journal in the fields of Reproductive Biology and Obstetrics & Gynaecology.



By screening 7,500 studies and conducting a meta-regression analysis on 185 studies between 1973 and 2011, the researchers found a 52.4 percent decline in sperm concentration, and a 59.3 percent decline in total sperm count, among men from North America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand who were not selected based on their fertility status. In contrast, no significant decline was seen in South America, Asia and Africa, where far fewer studies have been conducted.

3D printing in water holds promise for old and new industries

Researchers at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Center for nanoscience and Nanotechnology have developed a new type of photo-initiator for three-dimensional (3D) printing in water. These novel nanoparticles could allow for the creation of bio-friendly 3D printed structures, further the development of biomedical accessories, and drive progress in traditional industries such as plastics.



3D printing has become an important tool for fabricating different organic based materials for a variety of industries. However, printing structures in water has always been challenging due to a lack of water soluble molecules known as photoinitiators – the molecules that induce chemical reactions necessary to form solid printed material by light.

Prof. Uri Banin and Prof. Shlomo Magdassi at the Hebrew University's Institute of Chemistry describe an efficient means of 3D printing in water using semiconductor-metal hybrid nanoparticles (HNPs) as the photo-initiators.

3D printing in water opens exciting opportunities in the biomedical arena for tailored fabrication of medical devices.

Children's neurological disease traced to a single gene

In a new study, a multinational team of researchers describes, for the first time the biological basis of a severe neurological disorder in children.

The extremely rare disorder is characterized by developmental regression and neurodegeneration. At first the children lead normal lives and seem identical to their age-matched peers. However, at around 3 to 6 years of age, they present with neurological deterioration, gradually losing motor, cognitive and speech functions. Although the condition progresses slowly, most patients are completely dependent on their carers by 15-20 years of age.

Researchers from the Hadassah Medical Center and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Faculty of Medicine, working with a multinational research team, have now identified and studied 7 children who suffer from the disorder.

The researchers found in all patients the same spontaneously occurring, non-inherited genetic change in a gene responsible for ribosomal RNA formation. Because of this small change, the patients' cells are flooded with ribosomal RNA and are poisoned by it. (Ribosomes are responsible for the translation and production of cell proteins; themselves, they are made up of ribosomal proteins and of ribosomal RNA in a precise ratio).

The researchers found an identical error in all the patients tested, representing a difference of one letter among the roughly 3 billion letters that make up human DNA.

Diary Dates

October 2017 – London
'Honours Club' event

25 October - 1 November – Israel
BFHU annual Legacy Mission

2 November 2017 – London
Women's Group speaker event

14 November 2017 – London
Women's Group AGM

16-19 November 2017 – Sicily
European Brain Circle
(10th Anniversary) convention

16 November 2017 – London
Prof Rachel Elior speaker event in
conjunction with UCL Institute for
Jewish Studies

November 2017 – London
BFHU Medical Group, Speaker event

December 2017 – Jerusalem
Biennial Albert & Lilian Neuberger
Memorial lecture

December 2017 – London
Annual legator Chanukah tea 'Hebrew
University Student & Graduate Panel'

December 2017 – London
BFHU Legal Group, Young Professional
Group, Women's Group, Chanukah
events

December 2017 – Birmingham
Limmud UK – Hebrew University guest
speaker, Prof. Richard Cohen, The
Paulette and Claude Kelman Chair in
French Jewry Studies, department of
the History of the Jewish People

January 2018 – London
'Honours Club' event

January 2018 – London
BFHU Medical Group
Prof Merav Ahissar Autism lecture

March 2018 – London
'Honours Club' event

April 2018 – Tel Aviv
BFHU Pesach tea

9 April 2018 – Jerusalem
66th annual BFHU Lionel Cohen Law
Lecture. Sir Terence Etherton, Master
of the Rolls of England and Wales

May 2018 – London
BFHU Medical Group, Speaker event

8-13 June 2018 – Jerusalem
81st Board of Governors gathering
'marking the 100th anniversary of the
Cornerstone ceremony 1918'

5 July 2018 – London
65th Annual BFHU Legal Group Dinner.
Chair, Lord Pannick QC. Guest speaker,
Lord Thomas of Cymgiedd, former Lord
Chief Justice of England and Wales

July 2018 – London
'Honours Club' event

Note: where no specific date or details are provided these can be obtained from the BFHU office nearer the time.

HANNAH BARKLEY BLADON ז"ל



It was with great shock and sadness that on 14 April 2017 we heard about the tragic murder of Hannah Barkley Bladon, whilst travelling on the Jerusalem light railway.

Hannah was a Theology and Archaeology student at Birmingham University spending a year abroad at the Rothberg International School at the Hebrew University as part of a student exchange programme.

Hannah had been in Jerusalem since January and was fully immersed in her course. She had been taking part in an archaeological dig close to the city. Only a few days before her death, Hannah was excavating a vase of a type not previously known to have existed at that time.

At her funeral in Burton upon Trent, the Vicar Stanley Monkhouse, Vicar of Burton upon Trent St Modwen and of St Aidan and St Paul described her as "a most unusual young lady: bright, intellectually supple, intellectually resilient, intellectually fearless and

completely open-minded. She was not political, but believed all people should be equal. She had a profound sense of justice for the underdog. She did not think she was special. She lacked self-confidence. She never expected to get the scholarship from HSBC that enabled her to go to Birmingham University in 2015. She did not expect her application to the Rothberg International School at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem to be successful. The assessors could see what a wonderful ambassador she could be."

In the words of her parents "When Hannah came into the world our lives changed forever. Hannah made such a positive impact on everyone who met and knew her in her all-too short lifetime." That positive impact was recognised by Justin Welby Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ipgrave Bishop of Lichfield and Ephraim Mirvis Chief Rabbi in Jerusalem on 3 May during a moment of joint prayer at the Hebrew University Rothberg International School.



The Inaugural Thea Zucker z"l Memorial Lecture

in partnership with the Institute of Jewish Studies, UCL

"Jewish female literacy – what happened between Devorah the Prophetess and Devorah Baron?"

Professor Emerita Rachel Elior

John and Golda Cohen Emeritus Professor of Jewish Philosophy and Jewish Mystical Thought at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Thursday 16 November 2017, 7.30-9.30pm

at a prestigious Central London academic venue*

No entry fee. No appeal. Includes refreshments

To secure your place please email friends@bfhu.org or call Alison Baker 020 8349 5757

Early booking is strongly recommended



Professor Emerita Rachel Elior, a world renowned academic in Jewish thought, has been a research fellow and visiting professor at University College London, the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, the Oxford Center for Hebrew and

Jewish Studies, Case Western University, Yeshiva University, Tokyo University, Princeton University, Doshisha University at Kyoto and Chicago University.

She is the author of numerous works on Jewish Mysticism and Hasidism and the recipient of many honours, among them the Fridenberg Excellence Award of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Yigal Alon-Brecha Fellowship, Rothschild-Geneva Award, Lucius Littauer Prize, Memorial Foundation Fellowship and Warburg Prize.

She was awarded the 2006 Gershom Scholem Prize for the Study of the Kabbalah and Jewish Mysticism by the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

Thea Zucker z"l and her late husband Joe lived in Belgium and were devoted and active supporters of the Hebrew University and other organisations. Thea especially, through her work as a Governor and Honorary Fellow of the Hebrew



University, as well as the International Council of Jewish Women furthered education and the status of Jewish women in society. The lecture series in her memory is generously funded by her grandson, Marc larchy (London).

*Venue details and other information will be provided about one week prior to the event.



Rothschild Private Wealth is delighted to support the British Friends of The Hebrew University



For more than 200 years we have proudly lent our support to the communities in which we operate, with a focus on education and health, aiming to combine business with humanity.

Rothschild Private Wealth provides an objective long-term perspective on investing, structuring and safeguarding assets, to preserve and grow the wealth of some of the world's most successful families, entrepreneurs, foundations and charities.

Helen Watson
CEO, UK Wealth Management
020 7280 5000 or helen.watson@rothschild.com

rothschild.com

A page from a testimonial presented by the Jews' Free School to Nathaniel, 1st Lord Rothschild on his 70th birthday in 1910. The testimonial expresses the thanks of all members of the school's community, past and present, for his dedication to them. He was notably responsible for the extension of the school's buildings and the creation of the Rothschild Wing, illustrated here. Courtesy of The Rothschild Archive.



Calling all **HEBREW UNIVERSITY ALUMNI**

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI COMMUNITY

Are you a Hebrew University graduate? First degree? Masters? PhD? Rothberg International School? Short course or Ulpan graduate?

All over the world, Hebrew University Alumni are getting back in touch and we now invite you to do the same through the new portal: <https://hujiconnect.com/>.

Once you register (at no cost), a world of personal and professional contacts will open up along with other exclusive benefits.

We'll also keep you informed about alumni news and unique events in the UK, some exclusively designed for Hebrew speakers. Even if you have registered before please ensure

we have your current email address and contact details.

Any questions and/or for further details please contact Simon Arenson at simon.arenson@bfhu.org

Welcome back!!

Prof. Yaakov Nahmias, co-founder of the Hebrew University BioDesign Medical Innovation programme, gave an engaging talk at a BFHU Alumni event kindly hosted at the home of Mili and Michael Gottlieb.

Prof. Nahmias spoke about his work in bio-engineering and medical science at The Hebrew University. He is also the proud winner of the 2014 Rappaport Prize for Biomedical Sciences for his "groundbreaking work on liver tissue engineering" and the "development of nano-technology therapies for the treatment of diabetes".



Funds generously donated at our Einstein Lecture 2015 supported three Hebrew University President Scholarships Awards in 2016/17

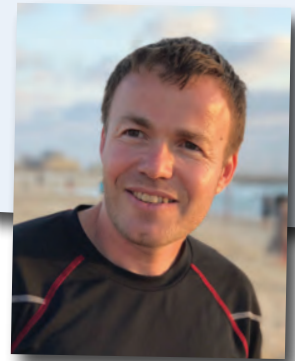
I started my PhD about 4 years ago. During my studies I focused on the physiological detection of concealed information. More specifically, on the theoretical underpinnings of this method and different factors that affect its validity (enhanced arousal, memory). At the beginning of my studies I had a rather small income, which all changed once I received this scholarship! It surely made my life a bit easier and I didn't have to worry about working next to my studies. So, I am deeply grateful for your support and generosity.

**All the best,
Nathalie Klein Selle**



I am honoured to be one of the recipients of the scholarships. Thanks to your generous support I am the first in my family to study for a Doctorate degree. Growing up in a less privileged community has not only offered financial and academic challenges, but has also helped me realize the value of a higher education. My topic of research is "Fatherhood, Fathering and Father" and I can already report that my research is fascinating. My goal is to become a leading researcher in my field and influence future policies to educate the next generations of social workers. Your generosity inspires me to help others and give back to the community. Thank you for enabling this opportunity.

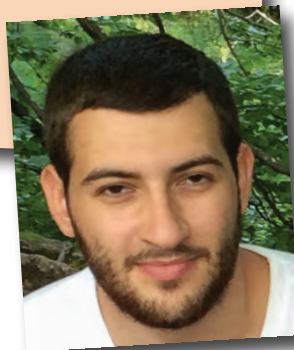
**Sincerely,
Yan Serdtse**



Ahmed Radwan's scholarship was jointly funded by the BFHU and the British Council.

I began my first year in the university doing a dual degree in Chemistry and Biology and participating in two honorary programs. I was born and raised in Jerusalem. My father came to Israel from Ukraine and my mom from Belarus. As you can imagine I study most of the day and the mental load is quite big. One of the most helpful factors has been this scholarship, allowing me to immerse myself fully in my studies. The huge benefit of this can be seen in my first tests in the university, with average score 95. All that is thanks to you and your generosity! Thanks for the great work you're doing and please keep it up so future generations of young scientist can flourish and eventually lead the science community worldwide.

**With deepest appreciation,
Daniel Chausovsky**



I am a PhD student at Yossi Buganim's Lab at the Institute for Medical Research Israel Canada (IMRIC). Our lab exploits horizons of stem cell biology through nuclear reprogramming. Using this method, a wide range of clinically-relevant cell types can be produced with patient's own cells. My research is focused on studying detailed molecular processes on conversion from one cell type to another, to understand incomplete cell conversion to improve its quality and efficiency. Your generous contribution has lightened my path through my PhD study. As a Palestinian scholar, I hope my path and my beliefs will be followed by younger generations. I hope one day to be able to guide and help students to achieve their goals as you helped me.

**Sincerely,
Ahmed Radwan**



An interview with Sir Trevor Pears CMG

Nigerian doctor Rilwan Raji is back working in his country's north, trying to eradicate polio, measles, Ebola, meningitis and Lassa fever from refugee camps near areas controlled by Boko Haram, Islamist terrorists who abhor all things Western, including vaccinations.

Problems are many, but the doctor is now better prepared to deal with them after having spent a year at the Hebrew University studying for his International Masters in Public Health, on a scholarship paid for by Trevor Pears and his two brothers. Raji was part of a cohort comprising 19 nationalities, including three Palestinians.

Meeting alumni like Raji brings home to Pears what his family's money is doing. He tells Raji. "Among all the programmes we support, this is the one we wouldn't drop."

The Pears Foundation is well known in the Jewish community for its philanthropy, but Pears himself keeps a low profile – this is his first interview in ten years. "People in philanthropy talk about measuring impact, and here we are sat opposite somebody who is impacting tens if not hundreds of thousands of people," he says. "If you can be a small part of that journey – wow."

Isn't he the reason for the journey? "No, they're the reason for the journey. If Rilwan didn't exist, we couldn't help him. If the Hebrew University didn't have this public health course or others covering animal, plant and nutritional science, we couldn't help. Strangely, very few people in British Jewry – or in Israel for that matter – actually know about these programmes."

He's right. Israel has a history of reaching out to developing countries, particularly in Africa, but Israel's Mashav – the equivalent of Britain's Department for International Development – is little known among Israelis. It's good work, done quietly.

"You don't shout about these things. We believe in it, as British Jews. These are core central Jewish values. But Israel has been engaged in this since day one, which is remarkable. What you do is who you are. At the heart of Israel, at the heart of being Jewish, is welcoming the stranger, working with others. You talk about Maimonides' highest form of giving, helping people help themselves. In this case we're helping people who then go on to help countless others. It's phenomenal."



Trevor Pears with Rilwan Raji.

Pears knows that the world offers plenty of challenges – he was in Ghana last year, supporting a project to reduce child mortality – and travels a lot. But what comes across in our interview is that he genuinely, passionately cares. He's a stayer, too: the Pears family has backed this programme for 17 years, and it currently supports 30 scholars from developing countries. They are an international group – West African, Colombian, Nepalese, Ukrainian and others, many of whom go on to attain senior positions in their countries. Describing his voyage into philanthropy, he says: "At first it was like getting in a boat, putting up the sail, and off I went, going where the wind blew me. We support a good

range of what we think are interconnected good causes. But it's less about the cause than it is the people. Rilwan is the perfect example. It's in them that we invest."

"I get immense pleasure in helping people help others"

Are there funding decisions he regrets? Not really, but some have gone better than others. "We've learnt a lot along the way. Even things that didn't go as well as we'd hoped have led on to other opportunities."

It feeds into his journey of the past 20 years, and goes to who he is. "We all have multiple identities – we're many things – and one is my Jewish identity. We were drawn to international development as global citizens, but I felt quite lonely in that space, as the only Jew."

"After two or three years and several meetings, however, some of the people I got to know would quietly say to me 'By the way, I didn't tell you before, but I'm Jewish too.' These people were doing this stuff not because they were Jewish, but despite being Jewish. They felt they had to give something up to do it because it wasn't seen as something Jews did. It was very odd to see."

He is still sometimes asked what percentage of his funding goes to Jewish causes, he adds. "My answer is 'every penny', because that's how we see the world. Some people still think 'you're Jewish so you should support that', or 'you're British so you should support this'. I don't see it like that. We're all these things, and they complement each other."

An edited version of an article originally published in Jewish News

British Friends News...



Trevor Pears addresses the audience, including many Pears International Masters Scholars, at the Hebrew University Wall of Benefactors ceremony in recognition of the exceptional support of Pears Foundation.

British Friends hosts Hebrew University Public Health Pears scholar Dr. Rilwan Raji

In conjunction with Pears Foundation, BFHU hosted Hebrew University International Public Health Pears scholar Dr Rilwan Raji in London to help showcase how the intensive masters course equips public practitioners to intervene in their

home countries to help improve quality of life. Dr Raji himself is working on polio eradication in his home country of Nigeria.

During his 5 day visit with his wife Jamila, Dr Raji met with schools, academic institutions, BFHU trustees, gatherings at the Israeli Embassy and was interviewed by the media.



Meeting with Dr Josephine Ojiambo (Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth, former Ambassador of Kenya to the UN, graduate of the Hebrew University International School of Public Health), Deputy Israeli Ambassador, Sharon Bar-Li.

The BFHU Medical Group

Supports medical student scholarships. Several lectures are given each year by leading Hebrew University researchers.



L to R: Prof. Stuart Stanton Chair BFHU Medical Group, Prof. David Katz Chair Jewish Medical Association, Prof. Dame Parveen Kumar DBE the Henry Cohen 2017 visiting professor. Professor of Medicine and Education, Barts and the London School of Medicine, Queen Mary, University of London

The BFHU Honours Club

is an exclusive group for those who have committed to a legacy in support of the Hebrew University including those who have participated in a legacy mission.

Their social and cultural meetings each year include excellent Hebrew University academics.



Meeting with BFHU trustees.



Dr Vladimir Levin, Director of the Centre for Jewish Art at the Hebrew University gave an illustrated talk about the work of his team.

British Friends News...

The BFHU Women's Group

chaired by Suzanne Perlman-Sternberg, held a number of fund-raising events during the year, starting in September with afternoon tea with head butler, Sean Davoren, of London's luxury Savoy Hotel.

In March, award-winning journalist and author Luke Harding gave a fascinating talk on his book, "A Very Expensive Poison", highlighting the death of the former Russian spy, Alexander Litvinenko.

The biennial "Any Questions" current affairs evening in June (pictured), was chaired by Lord Grabiner QC. His co-pañellists were Rabbi Joseph Dweck, editor of the Jewish News Richard Ferrer, writer and broadcaster Norman Lebrecht and communal figure Rosalind Preston OBE. The capacity audience enjoyed a challenging and lively debate encompassing international, national and community issues.

Proceeds from these events support scholarships for students at the Hebrew University's Agricultural Faculty. The committee would like to express their thanks and gratitude to everyone who has attended events and donated to their fundraising activities.

Below, L to R: Rabbi Joseph Dweck, Mr Norman Lebrecht, Chair Lord Grabiner QC, Mrs Ros Preston OBE, Mr Richard Ferrer.



Annual BFHU Lionel Cohen legal group dinner and law lecture



L to R: Lord Pannick QC, Michael Gee, HE the Israeli Ambassador Mark Regev, Lord Dyson, Jonathan Cohen QC, Professor Michael Karayanni Dean of the Hebrew University Law Faculty.



Dinner sponsors – Richard and Gillian Dawood, Fleet Street Clinic and Whitby & Co.

Guests gathered at Middle Temple Hall in March for the 64th Annual Dinner of the Legal Group of the British Friends of the Hebrew University, an evening hosted by Lord Pannick QC, Chairman of The Legal Group with guest speaker, the Right Honourable Lord Dyson, former Master of the Rolls of England and Wales. The new Dean of the Law Faculty, Professor Michael Karayanni was in attendance as was the Ambassador of Israel Mark Regev.

In May 2017 the Law Faculty at the Hebrew University hosted the 2017 Annual Lionel Cohen Lecture, now in its 64th year with guest speaker the Right Honourable the Lord Thomas of Cymgieidd, Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales. British Ambassador to Israel, David Quarrey also attended.

Student Corner

The **British Friends** continues to support students and researchers between major UK universities and the Hebrew Universities and vice versa as shown here in these two short stories of worthy BFHU scholarship recipients.

"I spent a very stimulating and enjoyable year at the Hebrew University, completing my MBA in Innovation & Entrepreneurship.

My course mates – both Israeli and other international students – were interesting and high-calibre people. The courses I took were engaging and varied and my internship placement at Hadassah Hospital, where I led a departmental improvement project, was influential in helping me secure a job at a public services consultancy back in the UK."

Harris Lorie



For the past three years I've had the pleasure of being a graduate student at the University College London Institute of Education. My research focuses on a few fundamental questions in education, and in my PhD thesis I offer a novel understanding of the use of manipulations in educational settings. Studying at UCL has made it possible for me to have plenty of close interactions with leading scholars and outstanding students in my field. It was a time of fascinating challenges and rapid intellectual growth. I was also honoured to present parts of my research in conferences in the UK and at UCL. I'm very excited towards the next step of bringing my work to the attention of educational practitioners and policy makers in the UK, Israel and other countries. I am very grateful to the British Friends of the Hebrew University for their scholarship funding of my research, as I wouldn't have been able to complete my PhD without it. The Hebrew University will always have a warm place in my heart. I studied there for six formative years.



After experiencing academic institutions worldwide, I am much more appreciative today of the academic excellence the Hebrew University embodies. As a student at the university I seemed to have taken it for granted that the academic standards of staff and students are extremely high, but I now know that it is on par, and possibly beyond, the most esteemed universities in the world. The Hebrew University achievements and ongoing excellence should be celebrated and praised. It is not only my intellectual home; it is also a home that I'm very proud to be a part of.

Magen Inon

The annual Sir Sigmund and Lady Hazel Sternberg Prizes

and Lecture for Interfaith Understanding on the Study of Religion in the Department of Comparative Religion of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Below R to L: Dr David Satran the Hebrew University Department of Comparative Religion, Ruth Tamir daughter of the late Sir Sigmund z"l and Lady Hazel z"l with the four prize winners.



Food for thought with the Young Professionals

Ben Stowe, Chair BFHU Young Professionals, addressed an enthusiastic gathering, at a wine tasting evening at Hedonism wine bar.

History in the Making – The Hebrew University celebrates the opening of the Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences

During the 2017 Board of Governors gathering, a series of ceremonies marked the glittering inauguration of the Hebrew University centre for brain research.

Picture right – The ribbon cutting L to R: Lord Foster, Mikey Federmann Chairman of the Hebrew University Board, Madame Lily Safra, Nir Barkat Mayor of Jerusalem, Prof. Menahem Ben Sasson Hebrew University Chancellor.

Below – Professors Segev, Sompolinsky and Vaadia in front of the Goodman Building.

Inset left – The large lecture theatre.

Inset right – the gala dinner held in the new open-air courtyard.





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Hebrew University 80th Board of Governors



The annual convocation ceremony



Chairman of the Board Mikey Federmann addresses the benefactors ceremony.



Honorary Doctorate recipients.



Israeli author David Grossman addresses the convocation on behalf of all Honorary Doctorate recipients.

The opening party





The Benefactors Breakfast

Wall of Life



Brian Morris honoured at the Wall of Life.



Josephine Urban (and grandson), honoured at the Wall of Life.



The Wall of Life honourees.

BFHU annual cocktail party



BFHU annual cocktail party, King David Hotel. Christian Duncumb Director British Council Israel address the guests.

Nigel Salomon Chief Executive BFHU with 2 UK-supported International Masters of Public Health scholars, Kandarp from India and Khandmaa from Mongolia.



Hebrew University 80th Board of Governors

The Kaye Innovation Awards



Isaac Kaye, centre with the recipients of the Kaye Prizes for Innovation.

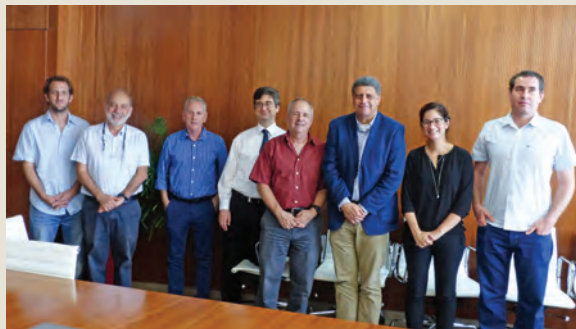
The Polonsky Prizes



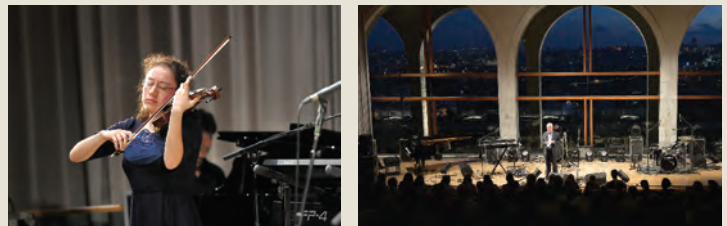
The Polonsky Prizes for Creativity and Originality in the Humanistic Disciplines, centre Dr Leonard Polonsky & Marc Polonsky.

Closing concert at the Brigham Young Mormon University, Mount of Olives

The Ellis & Alma Birk Prizes



Profs Karayanni and Wolff with members of the Birk family and the 2017 prize winners in Law and Agriculture.



Gala dinner, Claridges, January 2017

Funds generously raised at the dinner are supporting the recruitment of the brightest new young faculty to the Hebrew University,

Dr Anat Perry writes “Dear members of the British Friends of the Hebrew University, thanks to your generous support I have the opportunity and the honour to join the Psychology Department at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem this coming fall. My research focuses on different aspects of social cognitive neuroscience – from the behavioral level, to the hormonal and brain levels, in healthy individuals as well as in those with brain damage.

I received my PhD in Psychology from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 2011. My PhD focused on brain mechanisms that enable our understanding of others, and specifically on the role of the motor system in understanding others through motor simulation. I continued to a postdoc fellowship at the University of Haifa and then at the University of California, Berkeley, both of which contributed to my expertise and interest in the growing field of social cognitive neuroscience. Today, my research interests lie in the area of social cognitive neuroscience. I study social phenomena in terms of interactions between their social (social cues, contexts, experiences, and

behaviors), cognitive (mental information processing mechanisms), and neural (neural representations and mechanisms) aspects. My research involves applying behavioral, electrophysiological, pharmacological and neuroimaging research techniques to both healthy and clinical populations. I will establish The Hebrew University’s Social Cognitive Neuroscience lab in 2017.”



A British Friends Pesach Tea invitation – the Hilton Hotel, Tel Aviv

Pesach 2018 – A unique opportunity to meet Hebrew University international masters students from the developing world, who are learning the latest skills to help tackle challenges of health and nutrition.

SAVE
THE
DATE



For further information or to reserve
your place please contact
the BFHU office: 020 8349 5757

Board of Governors June 2018 Jerusalem

SAVE
THE
DATE

A special Board of Governors and International Friends gathering, Jerusalem, 8-13 June 2018.

Be part of the exclusive 100th anniversary celebrations, marking the 1918 cornerstones-laying ceremony of the Hebrew University and the events of the first year of the British Mandate and the Balfour Declaration.

Witness the exceptional development and global impact of Israel's foremost centre of advanced learning and research. Celebrate and commemorate with us, including Friday night gala dinner at the King David Hotel and the British Friends cocktail evening.

**For further information or to reserve your place
contact the BFHU office: 020 8349 5757.**



An all expenses paid visit to Israel and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsor, the British Friends of the Hebrew University is privileged to offer a **unique Living Legacy Mission to Israel and the Hebrew University** where you will explore, discover and be thrilled by this iconic land and its worldwide acclaimed University.

Join us in Israel in October 2018 for what could be the best eight days of your life

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For more information about this mission contact

Gill Benson

British Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Supreme House, 300 Regents Park Road, London N3 2JX

**Tel 020 8349 5757 or Email gill.benson@bfhu.org
www.bfhu.org**

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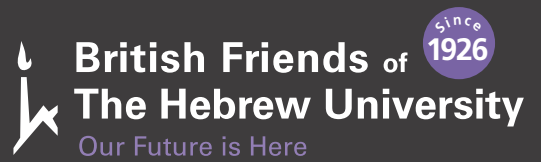
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