

Rector's Prize for Excellent Researchers | 2019

Prof. Badi Hasisi | Faculty of Law

Prof. Badi Hasisi is Head of the Institute of Criminology in the Faculty of Law. His research focuses on police, crime and the struggle against terrorism in the judicial system and society. He has published in the most distinguished platforms and has received many research grants and prizes. In his groundbreaking research, he relates, among other things, to policy aspects based on data relating to prisoner rehabilitation, to understanding the factors for which people choose to join terrorist and criminal organizations and to taking effective steps to minimize crime and more. Prof. Hasisi excels in public activity promoting cooperation between government and civil society. He has greatly expanded the study programs in criminology in the University, including establishing a new and successful study program in the Bachelor's curriculum as well as many Master's study programs as well. Thanks to his leadership and unique professional stance as well as his diligence and dedication to his work, Badi has succeeded in fostering cooperation between the Institute of Criminology and the Israeli Police Force. Badi is exemplary in tolerance, professionalism and determination, all with cordiality and great wisdom. We award Prof. Badi Hasisi the Rector's Prize for the combination of his groundbreaking research, excellent teaching and public activity.

Prof. Yossi Tam | School of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medicine

Prof. Yossi Tam is a promising young researcher at the Hebrew University. Since he joined our faculty, he has established a large and active research lab leading in the field of Cannabinoids, the active agents in the cannabis plant. Prof. Tam was awarded many research grants, among them the prestigious ERC grant. His research is published in leading scientific journals and he is the recipient of many international prizes. He is the founding director of the University Center for the Study of Cannabinoids. Yossi Tam has succeeded in developing remarkable remedies based on cannabinoid materials, without the psycho-active influence, for treating obesity. He has a team of researchers in his lab who deal with various diseases connected with metabolic syndromes such as diabetes, obesity, fatty livers and renal failure. Prof. Tam is a partner in the development of unique treatments in certain autism syndromes with medical cannabis and he combines basic and applied research on a very high international level. Alongside this, he is an excellent teacher who appears annually in the list of excellent teachers. He devotes time and energy to community activities in order to promote science in the general population. We award Prof. Yossi Tam the Rector's Prize for his modesty, pleasantness as well as for being industrious, creative and an upright academic leader.

Prof. Limor Shifman | Faculty of Social Science

Prof. Limor Shifman is a faculty member in the Department of Communication and Journalism in the Faculty of Social Sciences and serves as Vice-Dean in the Faculty. Her research focuses on studying the implications of digital media on social, cultural and political processes. Prof. Shifman often publishes in leading periodicals in her field, and following the publication of her book on *Memes in a digital world: Reconciling with a conceptual troublemaker*, she has established herself a leader in this new, important and interesting field in communication. Her achievements receive wide recognition and she received the prestigious research grant from the EU as well as other prizes. Her research focuses specifically on the development of memes that may be considered to be passed from one individual to another by nongenetic means, especially imitation. Limor is an excellent teacher for many years already. In her capacity as Vice-Dean she is responsible for teaching in the Faculty and for maintaining equal opportunity for Arab students studying at the University. Thanks mostly to her efforts the faculty has become a role model for other faculties in the field of student aid and teaching promotion. We award Prof. Limor Shifman the Rector's Prize for her excellence in leadership and creativity and all with friendliness and humor.

Prof. Michal Goldberg | Institute of Life Sciences, Faculty of Science

Prof. Michal Goldberg is a faculty member in the Department of Genetics in the Silberman Institute for Life Sciences in the Faculty of Science. Michal serves as Department Head of Life Sciences in the Institute. She is a leading researcher in the field of DNA damages and in understanding how this develops into cancer. Her research is published in leading periodicals and she has an excellent international standing. Prof. Michal Goldberg presents a new mapping of genes controlling cancer cells development. Her study shows that many cancer chemotherapy treatments are designed to damage the cancer cell division and thus kill it. She believes that a deep understanding of the unique genetic features of the cell cycle in each tumor can improve appropriate chemotherapy selection and avoid unnecessary side effects. Michal runs a large research lab and she is a valued teacher who also leads many new teaching techniques and study programs in the Institute of Life Sciences. We award Prof. Michal Goldberg the Rector's Prize for her outstanding integration of research, teaching and public service.

Prof. Shai Morin | Faculty of Agriculture, Food & Environment

Prof. Shai Morin is a researcher in the Department of Entomology in the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment and he has until recently served as Vice-Dean of the Faculty. His laboratory's research interests are in ecological and evolutionary genetics, as they relate specifically to insect-plant and insect-environment interactions. Shai's research is published in leading journals and he has a successful international reputation. Prof. Morin was awarded many prestigious research grants, including a grant from Bill & Melinda Gates, a very competitive grant that very few receive. Shai is a world expert in the field of molecular evolution of technologies that develop insect-proof plants and in understanding the influences of environmental changes that affect these insects. His research team is multi-disciplinary and combines plant genetic engineering with insect ecology, chemistry, behavior and genomics to characterize natural processes and to understand the complex interaction between plants and insects. Shai integrates basic research with applied research to develop friendly defense mechanisms against insects. He is an excellent teacher who often appears in the university poster for excellent teachers. He is involved in public voluntary activities and has served in various faculty positions. Shai also took part in the faculty teaching revolution. We award Prof. Shai Morin the Rector's Prize for his affable and modest disposition and for his vast knowledge and diligence.