

**Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00 – 10:30 Greetings & Opening Remarks**

Dov Litvinof-Mayor, Tamar Regional Council in Israel's Southern District  
Prof. Joseph Klafter- President, Tel Aviv University (TAU)  
Prof. Yona Chen- ICA Board of Directors

Introducing of:

Prof. Ehud Gazit- Chairperson, Executive Research Steering Committee  
Prof. Mauro Ferrari- Chairperson, International Board of Governors  
Dead Sea Research Institute (DSRI)

**10:30 – 10:50 Treasures & Uniqueness of the Dead Sea: An Overview**

Dr. Mira Marcus-Kalish-Medical Informatics, VC HBP, Director, International Research Affairs, TAU

**10:50 – 11:15 Coffee Break**

**11:15 –13:00 Session I: Health & Biomedical Translational Research**

Chairman: Prof. Ehud Gazit-Faculty of Life Sciences, TAU Executive Council member, Academic Director of the BLAVATNIK CENTER for Drug Discovery,Head of the Laura Schwartz-Kipp Institute for Biotechnology

*Advanced Human Studies & Treatment: Why at the Dead Sea?*

Dr.Marco Harari, MD-Joint Research Institute on Climatotherapy for Skin Diseases at the Dead Sea, Hadassah Medical Center

*Heat Acclimatization Mediated Cardio-Protection: A Lesson from Diastolic Chamber Stiffness Post Coronary Bypass Surgery*

Prof. Michal Horowitz-Laboratory of Environmental Physiology, Hebrew University  
Prof.Arthur Pollak, MD- Cardiology, Hadassah Medical Center

*The Microbiome Core Facility – A New Horizon for Agriculture Medicine & Science Education at the Dead Sea*

Prof.Zvi Bentwich, MD-Director, Masada Branch, Arava Dead Sea Science Center, Head, Center for Tropical Diseases and AIDS, Ben Gurion University

*Dead Sea Skin Research – New Findings in Treatments & Products*

Dr. ZeevMa'or- CTO R&D, AHAVA - Dead Sea Laboratories

*Desert Plants: "Green Pesticides" and Novel Metabolites for Drug Discovery*

Dr. Rivka Ofir- Dead Sea &Arava Science Center, and Ben-Gurion University



מכון Dead Sea מעמד  
מחקר Research  
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13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 16:30 **Panel Discussion: A Lesson from Nature – The Take Home Message**  
*Moderator:* Prof. Yoav Henis, VP R&D TAU

*Panelists*

Prof. Antonello Bonci, MD-Scientific Director, NIDA, NIH

Prof. LeneJuel Rasmussen-Managing Director, Center for Healthy Aging,  
Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, Copenhagen University, Denmark

Prof. Eliora Ron- President of International Union of Microbiological Societies,  
School of Molecular Cell Biology & Biotechnology, TAU

Prof. Eliot Sigal-VC Research Information Systems, University of Maryland  
School of Medicine, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine

16:30– 18:00 Cocktail Reception at the Ein-Gedi Spa

19:00 – 20:30 Dinner

21:00 Guided Tour of the Ein-Gedi Botanical Gardens

## Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>

09:30 – 11:00 **Session II: Life in Extreme Conditions –Lessons from Nature**  
Chairman: Prof. Yaron Oz-Rector, TAU

*Earthquake Fishing in the Dead Sea: How to Characterize Rare Invisible Processes in Real Time*

Dr. Hillel Wust-Bloch - School of Earth Sciences, TAU

Dead Sea Fault: a Unique Global Site

Prof. Zvi-Ben Avraham- Israel Academy of Science

*Life under Extreme Conditions: Diurnal Activity in Small Desert Rodents*

Prof. Noga Kronfeld- Chair, School of Zoology, Head, Ecological and Evolutionary  
Physiology Laboratory, Faculty of Life Sciences, TAU

*The DEadSEa Research VEnue (DESERVE) Project - Lessons for the Future*

Prof. Pinhas Alpert- Department of Geosciences, TAU

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:00 **Panel Discussion: Lessons from Nature**

*Moderator:* Prof. Zeev Levin- The Goldemberg Chair - Atmospheric Physics,  
Faculty of Exact Sciences, TAU

*Panelists*

Prof. Jonathan Trent-Director, OMEGA Global Initiative; Biomolecular Engineering,  
UC Santa Cruz, NASA

Prof. Flavia Marinelli-Fermentation Chemistry and Biotechnology University of  
Insubria, Varese, Italy

Prof. Fritz Geiser-Director, Centre for Behavioral and Physiological Ecology (BPE),  
School of Environmental and Rural Science, New England University, Australia

Dr. Eiichi Fukuyama- Director, Earthquake and Tsunami Research Division,  
National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience (NIED),  
Tsukuba, Japan

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 16:00 Masada Nowadays Excavation

A guided tour with Dr. Guy Stiebel- TAU Institute of Archeology

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break

16:30 – 17:30 **Session III: Environment as Cross Boundary Collaboration –  
A Bridge between Conflicts**

Chairman: Prof. Raanan Rein- Vice President, TAU

*Migrating and Resident Birds Coping with Extreme Conditions*

Prof. Yosi Leshem-Zoology Department, Faculty of Life Sciences, TAU, Founder & Director,  
International Center for the Study of Bird Migration at Latrun

*Reconstructing History by Genetics: The DNA of the Dead Sea Scrolls*

Dr. Noam Mizrachi-Acting Chair, Department of Biblical Studies, Faculty of Humanities

Dr. Oded Rechavi-Faculty of Life Sciences, TAU

*The time-proof consistency of creating semantic fields in Hebrew*

David Benshabat - Head, Center for Regional Thinking. Director, DSRI

19:00 Dinner followed by a Night Tour of Havarim Canyon

**Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>**

09:30 – 11:30

**Session IV: Science – Where to in the Next Decade**

Chairman: Prof. Mauro Ferrari-President and CEO, Houston Methodist Research Institute, Director, Institute for Academic Medicine at Houston Methodist Hospital, Executive Vice President, Houston Methodist Hospital

*Trends in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Science*

Prof. Alan Leshner—Chief Executive Officer, Emeritus, AAAS and former Executive Publisher, *Science*.

*Information Theory and the Future of Computation*

Dr. Dario Gil– Vice President of AI and IBM Q

*Qyo Vadis Modern Biology?*

Prof. Mart Saarma- Institute of Biotechnology University of Helsinki

*Precision Medicine – Reality or a Dream in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?*

Prof. Dan Peer- Managing Director, Center for Translational Medicine TAU

11:30-12:00

**Session IV: Science – Future collaboration**

NSF- existing collaborations and future opportunities

Dr. Rita Rodriguez, Director NSF center US

**Open discussion and research proposal presentation**

12:00 – 13:30

Lunch

13:30

Guided Tour of the Dead Sea Sinkholes

**Return to Tel Aviv**