

PRESS RELEASE

MONDAY, JULY 11: EIGHT OUTSTANDING DOCTORAL STUDENTS TO RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS ADAMS FELLOWSHIPS OF THE ISRAEL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, FOR A TOTAL OF US \$ 1 MILLION

NEW THIS YEAR: AWARDING OF THE RUTH ARNON POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS FOR ADAMS ALUMNAE

On Monday, July 11, in a ceremony at the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities in the context of its annual Adams Seminar, eight exceptional doctoral students, half of them women, will be awarded the prestigious Adams Fellowships of the Israel Academy of Sciences. Each will be granted over \$100,000 for four years of doctoral studies (\$30,000/year), in addition to a full exemption from tuition. This year the ceremony's guest speaker will be **Prof. Ruth Arnon**, past President of the Academy, who will lecture on "**The Development of Copaxone – From Lab Bench to Sickbed and Back**". The fellowships will be awarded in the name of Mr. Marcel Adams by his daughter and son, Linda Adams of Jerusalem and Sylvan Adams, who recently immigrated to Israel from Canada with his wife Margaret and now lives in Tel-Aviv.

Academy President **Prof. Nili Cohen** recently said of the Adams Fellowships: "The rigorous selection process run by the universities and the Academy's scholarly committee ensures that the fellows in this twelfth cycle represent the acme of Israel's future researchers in the disciplines of the natural sciences, mathematics, computer science, life sciences and engineering."

Prof. Cohen emphasized that fellowship alumni have continued to postdoctoral training in the world's foremost universities: "We are proud that of the program's 81 graduates to date, 26 are in senior university faculty positions, 2 are conducting research at Beilinson Hospital, 10 are in high-tech companies and 3 are doing post-doctoral research in Israel. The remaining 40 are conducting postdoctoral research and ivy league universities abroad, The Adams Foundation's investment in these young and talented scientists has borne fruit, ensuring the future of science in Israel."

Mr. Marcel Adams of Montreal established the Adams Fellowship fund in his name at the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities in 2005. So far, 103 promising young Israeli researchers have received these grants. Mr. Adams, who will celebrate his 96th birthday this August, is an ardent lifelong Zionist. Born in Romania in 1920, he was deported to a Nazi forced labor camp during World War II, but he escaped and found his way to Israel, where he served in the War of Independence. He emigrated to Canada in 1951 and a few years later, in 1958, established his real estate company, which has grown and prospered over the years.

Adams Fellowship recipients for 2016:

Angelica Elkan (Niazov) (Weizmann Institute, Organic Chemistry). Angelica immigrated to Israel with her family from Tashkent at the age of 5. She attended Jerusalem's Boyer High School for gifted students and in 2004 received the Ministry of Education's Prize for Excellence. After serving in the navy, she matriculated in 2007 at Bar-Ilan University, where she focused on medicinal chemistry with the goal of doing research toward improving the quality of human life. As an undergraduate, she received the Rector's and Dean's Prizes for excellence. In 2011 she began her MSc under the supervision of Prof. Itamar Willner

at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Today she is a doctoral student in Prof. Boris Ruvinsky's lab at the Weizmann Institute, in the new field of green chemistry, which creates environmentally friendly nano-materials.

Hezi Grisaro (Technion, Industrial and Environmental Engineering). Hezi, 29 and newly married, lives in the Technion's student housing. At 18, he was accepted into the Israel Army's highly selective Academic Atuda Program, which allows gifted students to defer their service in order to complete their first degrees and then serve the IDF in their areas of expertise. In 2008, after completing his BSc *summa cum laude* in structural engineering, he began his service in the IDF Engineering Corps, where he researched the reinforcement of buildings against explosions and missile impact. He completed his officer's training in 2009 and began studying civil engineering at the Technion in the same year. He started on his doctorate in September 2014, upon completing both his military service and his MSc, which he was awarded *summa cum laude*.

Yael Korem (Weizmann Institute of science, Molecular Cell Biology). Yael, who lives in Bethlehem of Galilee in northern Israel, studied for her BSc at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in the framework of the Amirim Interdisciplinary Honors Program for Outstanding Students. She moved on to focusing on mathematical models of biological systems, and she is now pursuing her PhD in bioinformatics under the supervision of Prof. Uri Alon at the Weizmann Institute, with the goal of developing new therapies. She teaches bioinformatics and writes articles on popular science for the institute's *Davidson On-line* website.

Gali Noti (Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Computer Science). Gali, a native of Yuvalim in the Lower Galilee, joined the Hebrew University's Federman Center for the Study of Rationality while pursuing her MSc. She began her doctoral studies last spring in the field of game theory and behavioral algorithms, under the supervision of Prof. Noam Nisan. As a research student of both computer science and brain science, she focuses on decision-making systems, inspired by the classic works of Tversky and Kahneman in this area. Gali hopes to contribute meaningfully to understanding the algorithmic systems that underlie human interactions in the real world.

Avia Raviv Moshe (Tel-Aviv University, Physics and Astronomy). As a teenager, Avia, born in Lod and raised in Rosh Ha'ayin, taught private lessons and waitressed on weekends to fund her schooling at the Aleph High School for Arts and Sciences in Lod. After graduating with distinction in mathematics, physics and chemistry, she volunteered for National Service as a teacher of children at risk and tutored students for their matriculation exams. She received her BSc in physics *magna cum laude* and her MSc in theoretical particle physics *summa cum laude*, and she is continuing in the same field for her doctorate. The mother of a baby girl, she hopes to continue to postdoctoral studies and then to teach in an Israeli academic institution, while volunteering in high schools, especially in the periphery, to encourage students, particularly girls, to choose careers in science.

Asael Roichman (Bar-Ilan University, Life Sciences). Asael, 29, lives in Har Bracha in Samaria with his wife and three daughters. Born in Jerusalem, he moved with his family to Kochav Hashachar and then to Boston for two and a half years, while his father did postdoctoral research in mathematics at Harvard and MIT. After finishing high school, where he focused on science and took courses in biology and agriculture (including beekeeping), Asael studied in the Hesder Yeshiva at Har Bracha and served in the IDF's Golani

Brigade. Returning to the life sciences for his academic studies, he did research for his MSc in Prof. Haim Cohen's Molecular Mechanism of Aging lab at Bar Ilan University, and he is pursuing his doctorate in ageing, metabolism and diseases of the elderly. Looking ahead, he hopes to do postdoctoral work abroad in cancer research, a field connected with his present studies.

Alexander (Alex) Shleyfman (Technion, Industrial Engineering and Management). Alex immigrated to Israel from the Ukraine with his family as a child. Attracted to mathematics from an early age, he participated in national and international tournaments. After completing his BSc in mathematics, he entered the Technion's Faculty of Industrial Engineering and Management and completed his MSc *summa cum laude* in the field of artificial intelligence. He is pursuing a doctorate in the same field under the supervision of Prof. Carmel Domshlak and intends to develop algorithms for artificial intelligence.

Amitai Yuval (Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Mathematics). Amitai, who considers mathematics his mother tongue, has always been drawn to the beauty of pure mathematics. He began his BSc in mathematics at the end of eighth grade and graduated at the age of 20. He spent the next ten years playing and writing music, dancing and performing in a circus. At 30, having gained some life experience and become the father of a baby girl, he finally felt mature enough to approach the world of mathematical research. His purpose in life is to search for beauty in everything and to share it with as many people as possible.

RUTH ARNON POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

This year, Prof. Ruth Arnon, past President of the Israel Academy, will inaugurate the Ruth Arnon Postdoctoral Fellowships for Adams Alumnae. After heading the Committee for Furthering and Representing Women in Institutions of Higher Education set up by the Planning and Budgeting Committee of the Israel Council for Higher Education (Vatat), Prof. Arnon decided to take a personal and practical step toward fulfilling its recommendations by establishing a postdoctoral fellowship for alumnae of the Adams Fellowship Program. The fund will bestow an annual fellowship of \$20,000. In this first year of the program, Prof. Arnon has added a second fellowship in the same amount for an alumna of previous years.

Ruth Arnon Fellowship recipients, 2016:

Rivka Bekenstein (Technion, Physics). After completing her doctorate under the supervision of Prof. Moti Segev in the field of basic physics, Rivka will be going to Boston with her husband and two daughters to pursue postdoctoral research in the Quantum Optics Laboratory of Prof. Mikhail Lukin at Harvard.

Dr. Sophia Buhbut-Sinai (Weizmann Institute, Solar Energy). Sophia completed her doctorate in the Institute of Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials at Bar-Ilan University under the supervision of Prof. Arie Zaban and is now completing a first round of postdoctoral research at the Weizmann Institute with Dr. Rafael Klein's Group in the Department of Organic Chemistry. She will pursue further postdoctoral research abroad in Prof. Daniël Vanmaekelbergh's Laboratory of Condensed Matter and Interfaces at the University of Utrecht in Holland.

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