



TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY TRUST
Pursuing the Unknown



In these uncertain and difficult circumstances, we join our fellow charities in disappointment about the emptying of our calendars, and we come together to grieve over the sad news which comes terribly often at this time.

We believe that knowledge is power and liberation comes from education, and we will not let these circumstances prevent us from sharing TAU's cutting-edge research. As such, we have launched a series of Webinars, conversations and talks from experts on viruses, epidemics and more that are live-streamed to your home. We have received an unprecedented influx of sign-ups in a short space of time for each of our online events, so we think we have hit on something very worthwhile.

The Webinars brought our community of interested and like-minded people together, remotely. Please read more about these milestone events below. We will be hosting more of these Webinars in the future and invite you to join us for those.

Pesach is all about strength and resilience in the face of adversity. We have been faced with huge challenges before, and what gives us renewed hope is the gathering together of community, and the sharing of knowledge.

We expect you will be heartened by the ground-breaking research on coronavirus that our faculty are carrying out, which you can read about below. Wishing you all a healthy April, and we do hope you have a meaningful Pesach.

Chag Pesach Sameach,

Cara Case

Chief Executive

TAU Trust

[TAU Trust](#)

TAU NEWS

COVID-19 | INFORMATION AND UPDATES

Webinars on Coronavirus

They say that necessity is the mother of invention, and diamonds are made under pressure, and these sayings rang true at TAU Trust these past few weeks. We broke new ground with our UK community, and globally, by hosting a series of Webinars on Coronavirus.

First we hosted **'Coronavirus and Me: Overcoming the Crisis'**, bringing in a global audience and filling online capacity. Dr Ella Sklan from the Sackler Faculty of Medicine spoke candidly and professionally on 'Coronavirus: everything you wanted to know but were too afraid to ask'; Professor Aviad Kleinberg enlightened us on medieval epidemics and the renowned Professor Leonardo Leiderman addressed the very important question of financial markets and economic trends during the Coronavirus crisis.

The next Webinar was on the topic of **'Technology, Globalisation and Privacy in the Age of Corona'**. Speakers included Professor Michael Birnhack and Professor Hila Shamir from the Buchmann Faculty of Law, and Dr. Dan Yamin from the Iby and Aladar Fleischman Faculty of Engineering. They spoke brilliantly on privacy, big data and human rights through the lens of epidemic.

We also hosted a musical lecture yesterday entitled **"La Follia" (The Madness): Magical Sounds That Emerged From Contagion'**. This gave us a chance to showcase internationally the wonderful talent of faculty and students cellist Professor Hillel Zori and pianists Tom Borrow and Jonathan Senik. The poignant and stimulating event was chaired by Professor Tomer Lev, Head of TAU's esteemed Buchmann-Mehta School of Music.

If you would like to watch any of these or other Webinars, please see this [link](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

"Keeping Sane during Corona Madness" with Prof. Yair Bar Haim, School of Psychological Sciences, Prof. Rachel Gali Cinamon, Jaime and Joan Constantiner School of Education and Prof. Karni Ginzburg, Bob Shapell School of Social Work, Gershon H. Gordon Faculty of Social Science.

The Webinar will take place on **Thursday, April 23rd, 2020 16:00-17:00**.

Participate in TAU's Online Courses!

We are delighted to invite you to participate in a collection of online courses put together by TAU virologist and coronavirus expert Prof. Jonathan Gershoni and other TAU faculty. Please see below for the clickable, comprehensive list, spanning a range of topics and areas of interest and enjoy these interesting topics in the comfort of your home.

[Viruses & How to Beat Them: Cells, Immunity, Vaccines](#)

[Unlocking Information Security](#) ('how systems are hacked and defended' -- highly popular!)

[HOPE: Human Odyssey to Political Existentialism](#) (HOPE has been created in collaboration with Princeton University)

[Arab-Islamic History: From Tribes to Empires](#)

[Introduction to Holocaust Studies](#)

[The History of Modern Israel](#)

We are delighted to be able to bring these fascinating courses right into your home.

BREAKING NEWS



TAU constructs emergency lab for Covid-19 testing

TAU has built an emergency COVID-19 testing lab, which will allow Israel to perform an additional 2,000 coronavirus tests per day. The new facility was born virtually overnight of the interdisciplinary efforts of TAU researchers, graduate students and management staff of the Sackler Faculty of Medicine and the George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences.

Construction for the lab began on Tuesday, March 24th, at 7am, and was completed Friday, March 27th, with engineers, construction workers, professors and graduate students working around the clock. A Health Ministry official reviewed the lab to ensure that it meets health and safety protocols before commencing operations.

"We realized immediately how critical testing was and how we at the University could contribute to Israel's diagnostic landscape," explains Prof. Ariel Munitz of Sackler's Faculty of Medicine, who spearheaded the establishment of a testing lab on campus. "It was not an easy decision. It was unclear whether the Health Ministry would approve, and we did not know exactly what the protocol was or what was required – but we knew we needed to act."

[Read more](#)



Students Volunteer to Increase and Improve Coronavirus Testing Across Israel

Israeli hospitals and universities, including TAU, have joined forces to build an enormous student volunteer base to expand and improve the detection of people infected with novel coronavirus all over Israel. In addition, TAU, together with the Weizmann Institute of Science and other institutes in Israel, have recruited over 600 doctoral students to volunteer their time and assist overburdened hospitals process coronavirus tests in laboratories.

The medical student initiative was launched by researchers and doctors at Chaim Sheba Medical Center, Hadassah Medical Center and Shamir Medical Center, together with the co-chairs of the Medical Students Association, which represents medical students at Israel's five universities.

The volunteer base is geared at scaling up Israel's capacity to conduct tests and produce critical coronavirus infection results more quickly. Accordingly, over 1,000 medical student volunteers from all over the country are helping Magen David Adom, Israel's National Pre-Hospital Medical and Blood Emergency Services Organization (MDA), collect test samples from people in communities across the country.

The students are doing their bit in the crisis. See below how you can support them.

[Read more](#)



TAU researcher launches urgent push or vaccine

TAU researcher Dr. Natalia Freund and her team have abandoned their everyday work of isolating antibodies for HIV and other infectious diseases to urgently fight and treat COVID-19, the new coronavirus. The highly contagious disease has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization, with almost 200,000 cases worldwide at press time.

Freund, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the Sackler Faculty of Medicine, will analyze blood samples from Israelis who have recovered from COVID-19 (eleven at press time). Working with graduate student Michael Mordekovich, she will use cutting-edge technology to isolate and extract special cells that produce antibodies following infection and immunize us against the virus. From these cells, she will isolate antibodies against the virus, produce them in her lab and test them for viral inhibition.

Freund is hopeful that within a few weeks her team will generate an antibody that will be ready for preclinical trials. The anticipated result is a treatment for COVID-19 patients and a candidate for the development of a vaccine, "although these would be ready in a best-case scenario months down the line," said Dr. Freund.

Dr. Freund featured in the American Friends of TAU's Webinar, the link to which is above.

[Read more](#)

Welcome to Resilience.



Passover celebrates resilience in the face of hardship, and we remain resolute and united with our entire TAU family of students, researchers, staff and friends worldwide.

We wish you strength and health this Passover!



[Support TAU's Coronavirus Research](#)