



TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY TRUST
Pursuing the Unknown



THE DROP EVERYTHING COVID-19 DRIVE



A Message from the CEO

As many of us continue to work from home and social distancing has become the norm, I do hope this finds you and your loved ones healthy and safe.

Times are difficult and unsettling for us all. But one thing that gives me hope is seeing the incredible work coming out of Tel Aviv University. Over 120 TAU researchers and labs are focused on finding a vaccine and treatment for COVID-19, a crisis that affects us all.

The dedication of our virology experts, nanoscientists, microbiologists, immunologists, and engineers, among others, is inspiring. I feel privileged to be part of the wonderful community that makes up Tel Aviv University as I see major advances our faculty are making to help halt the spread of this awful disease.

You can read about some of these and in particular I should point out that TAU Professor Jonathan Gershoni, a renowned virology expert, is 2/3 of the way to developing a vaccine and was recently awarded a US patent for his coronavirus vaccine design.

If you happened to catch Prof Gershoni earlier this week in one of our global webinars we hope you enjoyed it. If not, you can still watch this plus many other recent webinars we have included in links below. There will be more such webinars offered to you in the coming weeks so please do keep your eye out for details.

While we are delighted to share our fantastic faculty and their advances with you, we cannot continue to fund our many projects alone nor can we support our many students who are facing serious financial difficulties.

In response to the University's needs, we launched a global crowdfunding campaign, **DROP EVERYTHING and DONATE COVID-19** drive, providing a platform to support TAU in its groundbreaking initiatives.

TAU cannot continue to research and advance innovative projects such as robotic antibody tests and nano vaccines alone without help.

Please if you are able, we ask you to **DROP EVERYTHING and DONATE**. Any amount will show us your care.

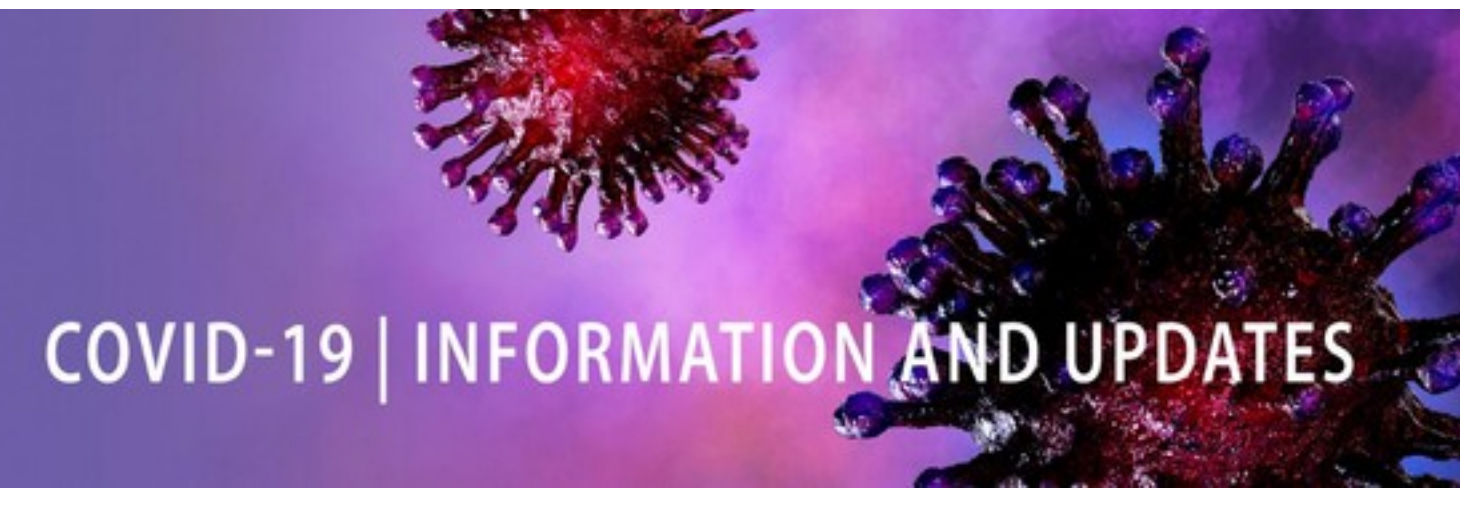
You can donate **HERE** by going onto our site and I also encourage you to watch this short **VIDEO** showing you what TAU is doing to fight the war on corona virus.

We thank you for your support and wish you good health and calm in this time of stress.

Shabbat shalom,

Cara G. Case
Chief Executive
TAU Trust

[Please Donate Here](#)



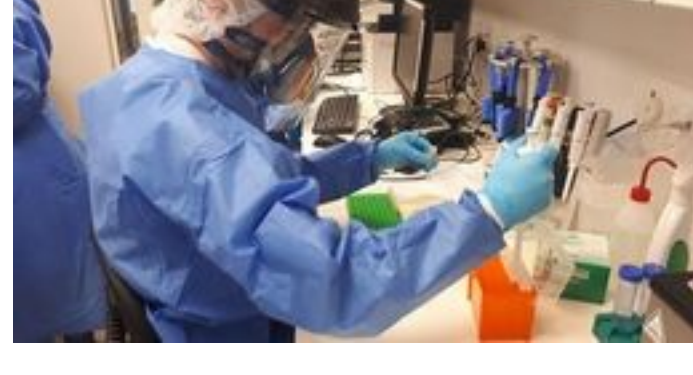
●●● BREAKING NEWS



TAU SCIENTIST AWARDED U.S. PATENT FOR NOVEL CORONAVIRUS VACCINE DESIGN

The patent, approved in March, covers a vaccine that targets the most vulnerable point in a coronavirus's structure, through which it penetrates human cells. Researchers worldwide are racing at breakneck speed to develop potential vaccines and drugs to fight the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2. Now, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has granted a patent to **Tel Aviv University's Prof. Jonathan Gershoni** of the School of Molecular Cell Biology and Biotechnology at TAU's George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences for his innovative vaccine design for the corona family of viruses.

To take advantage of the unique opportunity to participate in an online course with Prof. Gershoni in the comfort of your own home register **HERE!**



TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY JOINS NATIONAL CORONAVIRUS TESTING SYSTEM

Israel's Health Ministry has approved opening a Tel Aviv University COVID-19 testing lab, which will allow Israel to perform 1,600 coronavirus tests a day. The TAU lab, headed Prof. Ariel Munitz of TAU's Sackler Faculty of Medicine, was born virtually overnight of the interdisciplinary efforts of some 30 TAU researchers, graduate students and management staff of the Sackler School of Medicine and the George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences.

[Read more](#)



TAU LAB IDENTIFIES EFFECTIVE ANTIBODIES FROM RECOVERED CORONAVIRUS PATIENTS

Antibody-based therapies can be used to protect at-risk populations, including medical workers, from the virus.

The race to develop effective antibody-based treatments for COVID-19 is advancing at a rapid pace. Now, a Tel Aviv University laboratory reports it has successfully isolated two antibodies that would neutralize the virus's ability to infect human cells.

The two suitable antibodies were identified in patients recovering from COVID-19, according to Dr. Natalia Freund who heads the Laboratory for Human Antibody Responses at TAU's Sackler Faculty of Medicine.

[Read more](#)



TAU STUDENT, COVID-19 SPRINT INVENT DISPOSABLE VENTILATORS TO HELP TREAT CORONAVIRUS PATIENTS

Israel's Health Ministry has approved the use of a prototype in a pilot study! Together with COVID-19 Sprint, a technology task force led by Assuta Ashdod Hospital, Rafael Advanced Technology and Weizmann Institute of Science, a doctoral student at Tel Aviv University's Iby and Aladar Fleischman Faculty of Engineering is helping to develop an inexpensive disposable ventilator specifically tailored to treat COVID-19 patients.

It's called MANSHEMA, is cheap, suitable for mass production and easy to use, and Israel's Health Ministry recently approved the use of its prototype in a pilot study.

[Read more](#)



IN AN ONLINE SEMINAR, PROF. COLIN PRICE CONNECTS THE DOTS BETWEEN TWO CURRENT DISASTERS: THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

The coronavirus pandemic caught us off guard. Without any warning, it transformed our daily routines overnight and caused a global shock, which will take a long time to recover from. The climate crisis, on the other hand, has been a subject of discussion for scientists for many years. Are there any points at which these two threats connect? And will dealing with the immediate threat, the coronavirus, also lead to more ecological and considerate behavior towards the environment? Prof. Colin Price, head of the Porter School of Environmental Studies and Earth Sciences, created an online seminar on the topic and called on heads of state to take advantage of the opportunity we've been given to save the world from an irreversible crisis which is about to reach the point of no return.

[Read more](#)

●●● WEBINARS AND EVENTS

Earlier this week we were fortunate to have an hour with **TAU Professor Jonathan Gershoni**, one of Israel's foremost virology experts, who was featured in a webinar on **"2/3 of the Way There: a Vaccine Candidate"**. If you missed it and would like to watch the recording click **HERE!**

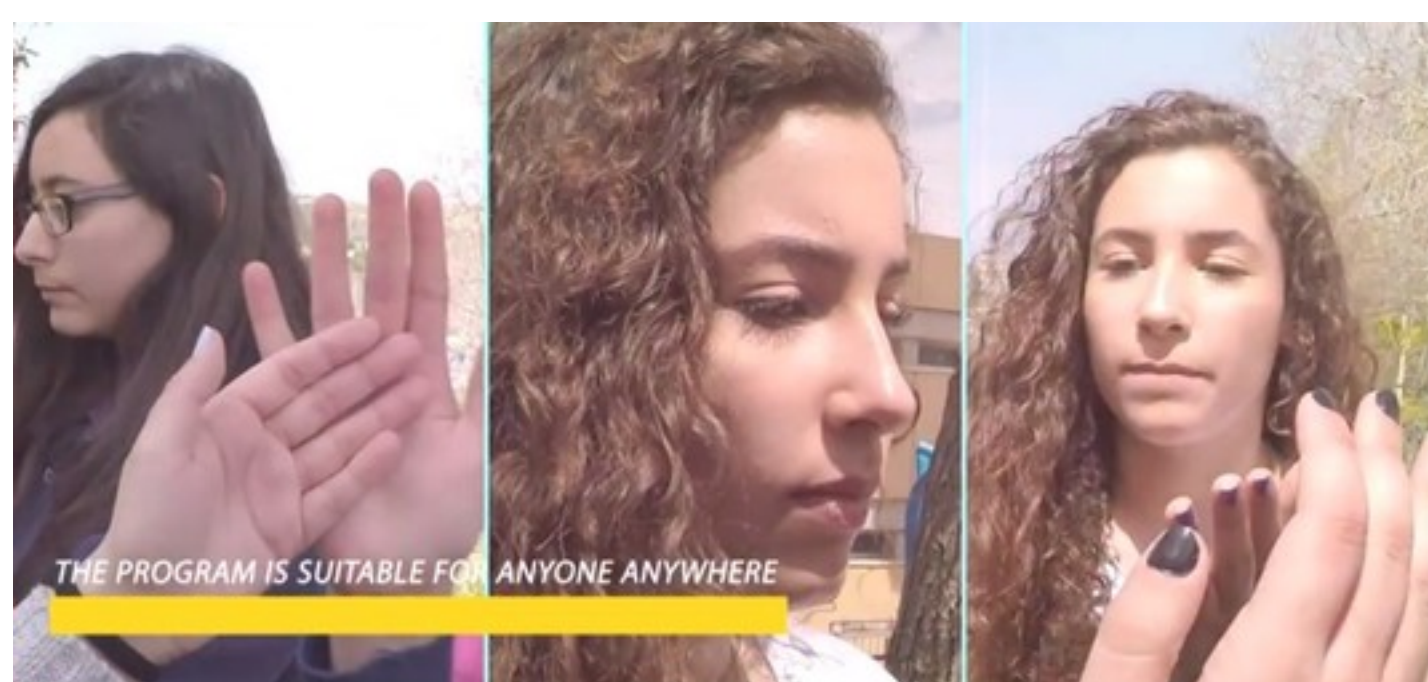
Other webinars we are happy to share with you include a session on **mindfulness**, featuring TAU's **Dr. Ricardo Tarrasch**, a neuro-scientist who shared tips on mindful meditation. We recommend listening to hear practical tips that can be incorporated into daily life. Click **HERE!**

And TAU President, Professor Ariel Porat gave insights on **"How to Lead the Corona Crisis Wisely"** along with leading TAU experts. Click **HERE!**

Virtual Piano Festivities
The Competition has been postponed
but the music goes on!
05-21.05.2020
daily broadcast at 18:00 (TLV Time)
Live on the
BUCHMANN-MEHTA SCHOOL OF MUSIC FACEBOOK PAGE
Young Israeli pianists and former Rubinstein laureates
in a tribute to the Arthur Rubinstein Competition

For those of us who would like to add a little culture to your daily lives, we are excited to share that the **Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Competition**, a prestigious international piano competition specializing in the music championed by Arthur Rubinstein, is partnering with the **Buchmann-Mehta School of Music** and will be a virtual international piano festival broadcast from Claremont Hall on TAU's campus. The competition has been held every three years in Tel Aviv since 1974. This year's virtual festival will run for two weeks and will be shown every day at 4pm UK time. We invite you to **WATCH** and enjoy.

●●● COLLABORATIONS



Music for Dialogue

In an urgent response to the Coronavirus crisis and in collaboration with Israel's Ministry of Education, TAU's Music for Dialogue Venture has been operating a special online emotional support programme for youth at-risk.

Currently reaching close to 1,000 youth aged 12-18, the programme is taking place at 30 centers across the country. Working in groups through a dedicated website, participants engage in a series of tasks geared to facilitate opening up, sharing, listening to and empathising with others. Yoni B., a youth at-risk group counsellor is working with one of the groups in the programme: "It's very difficult to discuss emotions with these teenagers. But thanks to this project they really manage to open up and share and that's so important especially now."

Music for Dialogue was founded by TAU Governor Aviad Meitar and the Programme Director Dr Ori Leshman.



DON'T FORGET TO DROP EVERYTHING AND DONATE TO OUR COVID-19 CAMPAIGN!