

Staff Scientists @ Weizmann

The 2023 HR Staff Scientist Workshops



Photo credit: Dr. Mark Iron

The HR Division has launched the second annual workshop series for staff scientists aimed at providing tools to improve communications skills and to better the work environment between WIS staff scientists and their scientific collaborators. The series includes four individual workshops each with a dedicated topic (*I Am the Brand*, *Those Who Know How to Manage Themselves are the "World Champions" in Management*, *It's All About People*, *"How" is Everything*) and also a series of three "Consultation Groups" meetings dedicated to discussing specific problems that staff scientists may have and how to try and solve them. One has the option of participating in some or all of the workshops and/or in a consultation group. **Spots are still available (register [here](#)).**

Upcoming Staff Scientist Survey

In the upcoming days, you will receive from us a request to participate in a survey, which is run in collaboration with the *VP Office for Technology Transfer*. The aim is to increase staff scientist opportunities in scientific activities on-campus through Bina and potentially other Weizmann Institute research initiatives. We would very much appreciate ~3 minutes of your time to answer a few important questions.

2022 Idea-to-action Workshop



(Photo credits: Dr. Ghil Jona)

Idea-to-Action, a three-day workshop, was held at the beginning of September at the WIS. The workshop, organized by Bina and in collaboration with the *Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado Boulder*, was led by two amazing mentors: Erick Mueller and Brad Werner. The program brought together sixteen staff scientists from across the WIS campus to learn the basics of how to identify and evaluate research projects that have the potential to be further developed into a product or even a company.

The program started with an introduction to the basic terminology of entrepreneurship (יזמות). Next, we learnt how to identify projects with the potential for further development into a product and/or company and then how to transform these ideas into a sellable product and to evaluate its "real" potential. In parallel, we learnt various tools to develop networking skills. This started with networking between the course participants and then continued with networking with a few Israeli entrepreneurs who had established companies in recent years. To complete the workshop, each participant used the tools taught during the workshop to develop their own idea into a project to be implemented with the ultimate goal to (hopefully) bring their product to market. The highlight of the workshop were five-minute pitches of their products to "sell" to potential "investors."

Overall, this unique workshop was the first program aimed to familiarize staff scientists with entrepreneurship and give us, experts in our fields of research and technology, the basic tools for becoming leaders of applied research at the Institute. We would like to thank BINA and UC Boulder for providing this amazing opportunity and look forward to the next workshop.

the workshop "aimed to shift our focus from the basic science that we do in the lab towards understanding how to take our unique idea and turn it into a product," said Gili Ben Nissan, an associate staff scientist in Weizmann's biomolecular sciences department. "We learned the various aspects of commercialization, and we were inspired to fly with our imagination to higher grounds and realize that if we have a good idea and the ambition to make a difference, it is possible."

Grants Deadlines - Reminder

The next application deadline for the long-term travel grants is August 1, 2023. The purpose of these travel grants is "to explore collaborations and acquire expertise in cutting edge technologies" (per the grant description). For details, see the [RGP site](#).

Applications for the Staff Scientists Internal Grant Program is April 2, 2023. These grants are intended to provide funding for staff scientists in support units to further their own projects towards advancing their unit's capabilities. For details, see the [RGP site](#).

Spotlight on Science Lecture Series

We would like to thank Dr. Ayelet Vilan (Chemical and Biological Physics) for agreeing to run this important lecture series this year. Details of the upcoming lectures have been posted [here](#). If you are interested in presenting your scientific work next year, please contact [Dr. Ayelet Vilan](#).

Looking to Highlight Staff Scientist Research

On the Staff Scientists website we highlight the latest research accomplishments of staff scientists at the Weizmann Institute. Do you have a nice image we could use to highlight the amazing research we conduct? If you do, please [submit it](#) along with a short blurb (including the relevant citation).

Staff Scientists Website

We are continuously updating our website, an invaluable resource of information for any staff scientist or candidate. Make sure to check it out [here](#).

2022 Staff Scientist Retreat



(Photo credits: Dr. Ghil Jona)

At the beginning of November 2022, close to 100 staff scientists enjoyed our biennial retreat to the Dead Sea area. Much fun and great food was to be had while we toured the Sink Holes and learnt all about the formation of these fascinating features. We would like to thank Drs. Shlomit Reich-Zeliger, Orith Leitner, Ira Zaretsky and Rotem Ben Tov Perry for all their hard work in organizing (thrice) this wonderful bonding experience.

Retiring? Now You Can Stay Connected

The WIS Administration recently implemented the change that from now on staff scientists who retire will be given three years temporary affiliation. This means that they will be able to keep their WIS email address and access to all computational platforms (including library access, internal services, etc.). Furthermore, if there is a balance in their KAKA™M upon retirement and the staff scientist remains employed by the WIS (e.g., as a paid or unpaid consultant), the balance can be used for scientific travel for a period of 3 years post-retirement. Senior Research Fellows who retire can now keep their email address for life (just like professors emeriti). This decision can be applied retroactively to staff scientists who have recently retired if they contact their departmental administrator.

Updated Scientific Council Prizes for Excellent Staff Scientists

We would like to thank Vice President Ziv Reich who recently announced the dedication of two staff scientist Life Contribution Prizes. These prizes will recognize staff scientists who have established themselves over the course of their careers as leaders in their respective fields and have substantially contributed to the research excellence at the Weizmann Institute; to be eligible, one must be at least ten years in the track as a tenured staff scientist. These prizes are in addition to the current two Scientific Council and two Maxine Singer prizes already awarded. Recipients of past Scientific Council prizes are still eligible for the Life Contribution Prizes.