



**295 Madison Avenue, Suite 1030, New York, NY 10017-7754**  
Tel **212.969.9800** • fax **212.969.9822** • toll free **888.654.ICRF (4273)**  
e-mail [mail@icrfny.org](mailto:mail@icrfny.org) • web site [www.icrfonline.org](http://www.icrfonline.org)

## **RESEARCH AWARDS 2015-2016**

For the 2015/2016 funding year, ICRF is supporting 91 grants at a total of \$3,713,336. This is broken down as follows:

- 3 International Collaboration Grants**
- 4 L. & S. Mark Initiative for Ovarian/Uterine Cancer**
- 3 Acceleration Grants**
- 13 Research Professorships**
  - 2 Clinical Research Career Development Awards**
- 28 Research Career Development Awards (RCDAs)**
  - 1 B. S. Goodman Endowed RCDA for Pancreatic Cancer**
- 30 Project Grants**
  - 6 Postdoctoral Fellowships**
  - 2 Booster Grants**

With the 2015/2016 grants, ICRF's funding has now reached 2,206 grants totaling \$56,075,000.

Among the areas of cancer research directly sponsored by ICRF in 2015/2016 are: studies in bladder, bone, brain, breast, colorectal, intestinal, liver, lung, ovarian, pancreatic, pediatric, skin, and vascular cancers; anticancer drug mechanisms, drug resistance, and targeted therapy; development of new diagnostic imaging techniques; leukemia, lymphoma, blood cells, and tumor blood vessel growth (angiogenesis); cancer stem cells and cellular reprogramming; expression, regulation, and mutation of genes; tumor viruses; tumor metastasis; inflammation and cancer; immunology and immunotherapy; protein interactions; oncogenes and tumor suppressor genes, such as p53; cell-cycle regulation, natural killer cells, programmed cell death (apoptosis), and the DNA damage response.

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE
<b>INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION GRANTS</b>	<b>Sol Efroni, Ph.D. (PI)* and Francisco Quintana, Ph.D. (Co-PI)*</b> <i>* to begin in 2016-2017</i>	Bar-Ilan University and Brigham & Women's Hospital	<i>miR-29b and miR-9 to Target Glioblastoma Multiform via AHR and p38 Network Modulation</i>
	<b>Ephrat Levy-Lahad, M.D. (PI) and Mary-Claire King, Ph.D. (Co-PI)</b>	Shaare Zedek Medical Center and University of Washington	<i>Genomic Analysis of Inherited Breast and Ovarian Cancer for Israeli Women of all Ancestries</i>
	<b>Uri Nir, Ph.D. (PI) and Eldad Zacksenhaus, Ph.D. (Co-PI)</b>	Bar-Ilan University and Toronto General Hospital	<i>Studying the Role of Mitochondrial Reprogramming by Fer/FerT in Tumor Metastasis</i>
<b>LEN &amp; SUSAN MARK INITIATIVE FOR OVARIAN AND UTERINE/MMMT CANCERS</b>	<b>Sol Efroni, Ph.D.</b>	Bar-Ilan University	<i>A Single Mutation in BCL-2 as a Biomarker for Paclitaxel Treatment Response</i>
	<b>Rotem Karni, Ph.D.</b>	Hebrew University/ Hadassah Medical School	<i>Discovery of Transcriptomic Changes that Lead to Ovarian Cancer Progression</i>
	<b>Keren Levanon, M.D., Ph.D.</b>	Chaim Sheba Medical Center	<i>Novel Approaches for Early-Detection Biomarkers for Ovarian Cancer</i>
	<b>Varda Rotter, Ph.D.</b>	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Oncogenic Mutant p53 Gain of Function in Ovarian Cancer Stem Cells</i>
<b>ACCELERATION GRANTS</b>	<b>David Gurwitz, Ph.D.</b>	Tel-Aviv University	<i>SSRI Antidepressants as Anticancer Therapy: Role for Down-Regulation of miR-221</i>
	<b>Tomer Shlomi, Ph.D.</b>	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>Targeting Antifolate Resistance in Cancer via Metabolic Synthetic Lethality</i>
	<b>Ruth Sperling, Ph.D.</b>	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Nuclear microRNA in Cancer</i>

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE
<b>PROFESSORSHIPS</b>	<b>Michal Baniyash, Ph.D.</b>	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>The Role of Immunosuppressive Cells and Gut Microbiota in Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Colorectal Cancer: Clinical Implications</i>
	<b>Yinon Ben-Neriah, M.D., Ph.D.</b>	Hebrew University/ Hadassah Medical School	<i>Dissecting the Role of the Casein Kinase I Family in Gut Physiology and Cancer</i>
	<b>Yehudit Bergman, Ph.D.</b>	Hebrew University/ Hadassah Medical School	<i>The Role of Epigenetic Regulation in Stem Cells and Cancer</i>
	<b>Howard Cedar, M.D., Ph.D.</b>	Hebrew University/ Hadassah Medical School	<i>Regulation of Gene Expression in Animal Cells</i>
	<b>Aaron Ciechanover, M.D., D.Sc.</b>	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>Ubiquitin-Mediated Generation of NF-κB: Mechanisms &amp; Involvement in Carcinogenesis</i>
	<b>Avram Hershko, M.D., Ph.D.</b>	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>Roles of the Ubiquitin System in the Control of Cell Division and in Cancer</i>
	<b>Eli Keshet, Ph.D.</b>	Hebrew University/ Hadassah Medical School	<i>Tumor Neovascularization Assisted by VEGF-Recruited and Educated Myeloid Cells</i>
	<b>Martin Kupiec, Ph.D.</b>	Tel-Aviv University	<i>Dissecting the Molecular Functions of Elg1/ATAD5</i>
	<b>Ofer Mandelboim, Ph.D.</b>	Hebrew University/ Hadassah Medical School	<i>Learning from Viruses: MicroRNAs Controlling Tumor Cell Attack by NK Cells</i>
	<b>Yosef Shiloh, Ph.D.</b>	Tel-Aviv University	<i>The ATM-Mediated DNA Damage Response: Moving between the Forest and the Trees</i>
	<b>Israel Vlodaysky, Ph.D.</b>	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>Heparanase: From Basic Research to Therapeutic Applications</i>
	<b>Yosef Yarden, Ph.D.</b>	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Control Circuits of Growth Factor Signaling: Relevance to Cancer Progression and Therapy</i>

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE
CLINICAL RESEARCH CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS	Einav Nili Gal-Yam, M.D., Ph.D.	Chaim Sheba Medical Center	<i>Dissecting Tumor Heterogeneity through Epigenomic Characterization</i>
	Ruth Perets, M.D., Ph.D.	Rambam Health Care Campus	<i>The Role of Fallopian Tube Lineage in Ovarian Cancer Pathogenesis</i>
BARBARA S. GOODMAN ENDOWED RCDA FOR PANCREATIC CANCER	Moran Amit, M.D.	Rambam Health Care Campus	<i>Roles of the L1 Cell Adhesion Molecule in the Pathogenesis of Pancreatic Cancer</i>
RESEARCH CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS (RCDAs)	Nabieh Ayoub, Ph.D.	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>Deciphering KDM4C (GASC1) Role in Carcinogenesis via Systematic Mapping of its Non-Histone Substrates</i>
	David Azoulay, Ph.D.	Western Galilee Hospital	<i>BDNF Gene Polymorphism and Protein Levels in Circulating Blood as Biomarkers for CIPN in Cancer Patients</i>
	Dalit Barkan, Ph.D.	University of Haifa	<i>Characterizing the Role of LOXL2 in Breast Cancer Recurrence</i>
	Michael Berger, Ph.D.	Hebrew University/ Hadassah Medical School	<i>Targeting T-Lymphocyte Quiescence as a Novel Treatment for T-ALL</i>
	Tal Burstyn-Cohen, Ph.D.	Hebrew University/ Hadassah Medical School	<i>Molecular and Cellular Function of Protein S in Cancer</i>
	Michael Blank, Ph.D.	Bar-Ilan University	<i>Investigating the Role of Smurf2 in DNA Damage Response and Anticancer Genotoxic Therapies</i>

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE
<b>RCDAs</b> <i>(continued)</i>	<b>Shay Covo, Ph.D.</b>	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Revealing the Role of Severe Genome Instability and Mitochondria in Drug Resistant Polyploidy Yeast</i>
	<b>Neta Erez, Ph.D.</b>	Tel-Aviv University	<i>The Role of Fibroblasts in the Formation of a Permissive Metastatic Niche in Breast Cancer Metastasis</i>
	<b>Sara Eyal, Ph.D.</b>	Hebrew University/ Hadassah Medical School	<i>Non-Invasive In Vivo Optial Imaging of Cancer Multidrug Resistance</i>
	<b>Dinorah Friedmann-Morvinski, Ph.D.</b>	Tel-Aviv University	<i>Reprogramming in Cancer and Novel Targets for Immunotherapy</i>
	<b>Yaron Fuchs, Ph.D.</b>	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>Apoptotic Regulation of Cancer Stem Cells</i>
	<b>Gabi Gerlitz, Ph.D.</b>	Ariel University Center of Samaria	<i>The Role of Global Chromatin Condensation in Melanoma Cell Migration</i>
	<b>Zvi Granot, Ph.D.</b>	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>The Effect of VEGF on Neutrophil Function in the Context of Tumor Growth and Metastatic Progression</i>
	<b>Shoshana Greenberger, M.D., Ph.D.</b>	Chaim Sheba Medical Center	<i>TGFβ Pathway in Infantile Hemangioma Involution</i>
	<b>Yaqub Hanna, M.D., Ph.D.</b>	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Novel Humanized Stem Cell Based Platforms for Modeling Human Disease and Cancer Development</i>
	<b>Ayelet Lamm, Ph.D.</b>	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>Identifying the Mechanisms by which Intracellular Transport affects Pancreatic Cancer Development</i>
<b>Dan Levy, Ph.D.</b>	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	<i>Lysine Methylation in Cancer</i>	

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE
<b>RCDAs</b> <i>(continued)</i>	<b>Michael Milyavsky, Ph.D.</b>	Tel-Aviv University	<i>Isolation and Characterization of Novel Therapy Resistance Factors in Acute Myeloid Leukemia</i>
	<b>Ariel Munitz, Ph.D.</b>	Tel-Aviv University	<i>Molecular Regulation of Eosinophil Activation in Colorectal Cancer</i>
	<b>Vered Padler-Karavani, Ph.D.</b>	Tel-Aviv University	<i>Anti-Neu5Gc Antibodies for Cancer Therapeutics</i>
	<b>Niv Papo, Ph.D.</b>	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	<i>Engineering Antagonistic Ligands as Tools for Cancer Imaging and Therapy</i>
	<b>Niv Pencovich, M.D., Ph.D.</b>	Tel-Aviv Sourasky Medical Center	<i>Genome-Wide Characterization of the Escape from Tumor Dormancy</i>
	<b>Marjorie Pick, Ph.D.</b>	Hadassah Medical Organization	<i>Generating Functional Platelets from Human Pluripotent Stem Cells</i>
	<b>Shiran Shapira, Ph.D.</b>	Tel-Aviv Sourasky Medical Center	<i>Humanized Anti-CD24 Antibody; A Potential Biology Tool for Cancer Immunotherapy</i>
	<b>Noam Shomron, Ph.D.</b>	Tel-Aviv University	<i>Combining Genetic and Epigenetic Markers: How SNPs and miRNAs Determine Cancer Development</i>
	<b>Ran Taube, Ph.D.</b>	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	<i>P-TEFb and SEC as Targets for Treating MLL – Role in Promoting Leukemogenesis</i>
	<b>Amit Tzur, Ph.D.</b>	Bar-Ilan University	<i>Elucidating the E2F1-E2F7/8 Circuitry in Single Proliferating- and DNA-Damaged Cells</i>
	<b>Reuven Wiener, Ph.D.</b>	Hebrew University/ Hadassah Medical School	<i>Structure-Function Study of MCP1 to Understand its Role in Cancer</i>

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE
<b>POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS</b>	<b>Shlomit Erenfeld, Ph.D.</b>	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Role of Natural killer cells in elimination of Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Cells</i>
	<b>Noa Rabinowicz, Ph.D.</b>	Chaim Sheba Medical Center	<i>The Role of Centrosomal Amplification and Aneuploidy in Cancer – Modeling in the Hematopoietic System</i>
	<b>Deborah Rosenberg-Nejman, Ph.D.</b>	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Tumor Microbiome-Mediated Chemo-resistance in Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer</i>
	<b>Alona Sarver, Ph.D.</b>	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Dissecting the Role of Nitric Oxide in Colon Cancer by Regulating Arginine Substrate Availability</i>
	<b>Sivan Shoshani, Ph.D.</b>	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Enhancing the Efficacy of BCG Treatment of Transitional Carcinoma of the Urinary Bladder by Means of Recombinant BCG Bacteria</i>
	<b>Carmit Strauss, Ph.D.</b>	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Involvement of RNF20 and H2Bub1 in DNA Replication Plasticity upon Oncogenic Stress</i>
<b>BOOSTER GRANTS</b>	<b>Jonathan Kornspan, Ph.D.</b>	Hadassah Medical Organization	<i>Deciphering the Role of TLE-Corepressors as Modulators of Therapeutic Responses in Breast Cancer</i>
	<b>Vadim Maximov, Ph.D.</b>	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Dissecting the Roles of WWOX in Bone Biology and Osteosarcoma</i>
<b>PROJECT GRANTS</b>	<b>Ami Aronheim, Ph.D.</b>	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>The Role of Host c-Jun Dimerization Protein 2, JDP2, Expression in Cancer Growth, Metastasis and Therapy</i>
	<b>Gil Ast, Ph.D.</b>	Tel-Aviv University	<i>The Regulatory Effect of Splice Site Spatial Proximity and Genomic Location on Splicing</i>

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE
<b>PROJECT GRANTS</b> <i>(continued)</i>	<b>Gilad Bachrach, Ph.D.</b>	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Role of Natural Killer Cells in Acceleration of Colorectal Carcinoma by Fusobacterium Nucleatum</i>
	<b>Shay Ben-Aroya, Ph.D.</b>	Bar-Ilan University	<i>Understanding the Roles of the Iron-Sulfur Cofactors in Regulating the Function of Proteins Involved in Maintaining Genome Stability</i>
	<b>Ittai Ben-Porath, Ph.D.</b>	Hebrew University/ Hadassah Medical School	<i>Regulation of Heterogeneity in Breast Cancers through Control of Symmetric Divisions</i>
	<b>Dalit Ben-Yosef, Ph.D.</b>	Tel-Aviv Sourasky Medical Center	<i>Induction of APC Somatic Mutation in FAP Human Embryonic Stem Cells for Studying Early Stages in Malignant Transformation</i>
	<b>Avri Ben-Ze'ev, Ph.D.</b>	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>The Role of Intestinal Stem Cell Signature Genes in Colon Cancer Progression</i>
	<b>Limor Broday, Ph.D.</b>	Tel-Aviv University	<i>The Role of an Evolutionary Conserved SUMO Protease in Tissue Morphogenesis and Tumorigenesis</i>
	<b>Chaya Brodie, Ph.D.</b>	Bar-Ilan University	<i>microRNA Delivery by Mesenchymal Stem Cells for Brain Tumor Therapy</i>
	<b>Cyrille Cohen, Ph.D.</b>	Bar-Ilan University	<i>Development and Study of a Cell-Secreted 'Ligand Trap' to Mitigate TGFb Effects</i>
	<b>Benjamin Dekel, M.D., Ph.D.</b>	Chaim Sheba Medical Center	<i>Targeting Cancer Initiating Cells in Rhabdoid Tumors</i>
	<b>Amir Eden, Ph.D.</b>	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>EZH2 and ErbB Family Inhibition in Rhabdoid Tumors</i>



AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE
<b>PROJECT GRANTS</b>  <i>(continued)</i>	<b>Ari Elson, Ph.D.</b>	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Tumor Promoting Roles of the Phosphatase PTPROt</i>
	<b>Dale Frank, Ph.D.</b>	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>Protein Kinase 7 Isoforms Regulate Wnt Signaling in Development and Cancer</i>
	<b>Assaf Friedler, Ph.D.</b>	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Disordered Proteins As Anti-Cancer Drug Targets</i>
	<b>Asaf Hellman, Ph.D.</b>	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>Understanding Epigenetic Contribution to Cancer Risk and Malignancy Through Targeting the DNA Methylation of Transcriptional Enhancers</i>
	<b>Fuad Iraqi, Ph.D.</b>	Tel-Aviv University	<i>Mapping Modifiers of APC Gene in Intestinal Cancer Development in Collaborative Cross Mice</i>
	<b>Shai Izraeli, M.D.</b>	Chaim Sheba Medical Center	<i>Modeling Initiation of Human Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia by Activated Cytokine Receptors Signaling</i>
	<b>Nathan Karin, Ph.D.</b>	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>The Role of CCR5 in the Mobilization of CD11b+GR1+ Myeloid Derived Suppressor Cells to the Tumor Site and its Implications in Melanoma</i>
	<b>Bella Kaufman, M.D.</b>	Chaim Sheba Medical Center	<i>Patterns of Molecular Evolution through the Course of Disease in Recurrent Breast Cancer</i>
	<b>Agnes Klochendler, Ph.D.</b>	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>The Genetic Program of Cancer Replicating Cells</i>

AWARD	AWARDEE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE
PROJECT GRANTS (continued)	Doron Melamed, Ph.D.	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>A Role for microRNAs in Responsiveness and Resistance to Anti-CD20 Therapy of B Cell Lymphoma</i>
	Yifat Merbl, Ph.D.	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Elucidating Regulatory Principles of Ubiquitin HECT-Domain E3 Ligases in Mammalian Systems</i>
	Gera Neufeld, Ph.D.	Technion, Israel Institute of Technology	<i>Elucidation of Enzyme Activity Dependent and Enzyme Activity Independent Mechanisms by which Lysyl-Oxidases Promote Tumor Progression</i>
	Rachela Popovtzer, Ph.D.	Bar-Ilan University	<i>Detection of Metabolic Activity using CT</i>
	Shoshana Ravid, Ph.D.	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>The Role of Par6-aPKCzeta Complex in EGF-Dependent Cell Migration</i>
	Yosef Shaul, Ph.D.	Weizmann Institute of Science	<i>Viral Oncogenesis and the Hippo Tumor Suppressor Pathway</i>
	Yehuda Tzfati, Ph.D.	Hebrew University of Jerusalem	<i>The Role of RTEL1 Deficiency in Telomere Dysfunction, Genome Instability, and Cancer Predisposition</i>
	Gideon Zamir, M.D.	Hadassah Medical Organization	<i>Role of Ribosomal Protein rpS6 in the Development of Pancreatic and Lung Carcinoma</i>
	Tsila Zuckerman, M.D.	Rambam Health Care Campus	<i>AML Heterogeneity using Single Leukemic Cells; Genomic Analysis and Clonal Hierarchy</i>