



RESEARCH

Understanding Schizophrenia

Prof. Shani Stern and fellow researchers at the Sagol Department of Neurobiology performed a meta-analysis of numerous publications focusing on individuals with Schizophrenia (SCZ) from various populations and ancestral backgrounds. The analysis led to the revealing of common genetic variants that could potentially play a significant role in the pathophysiology of SCZ. The team's [results](#) were published in *Schizophrenia Research*, and their conclusions highlights the potential benefit of identified common genetic variants in predicting the disease status among individuals with schizophrenia.

Killing by Degradation

A [new article](#) published in *Cells*, by Prof. Sarit Larisch, head of Cell Death and Cancer Research Laboratory, and others, illustrates the cell suicide process (Apoptosis) that is essential for human health. Impaired apoptosis is associated with a variety of human diseases. As the levels of pro- and anti-apoptotic proteins can determine the life or death of cells, tight regulation of these



Prof. David Roe (Credit: University of Haifa)

proteins is critical. The ubiquitin proteasome system (UPS) is essential for maintaining protein turnover, which can either trigger or inhibit apoptosis. Compounds that specifically target proteins for degradation resulting in effective tumor killing may dramatically improve the success of cancer therapy.

AI GRID Ambassador

Prof. Mor Peleg is a Professor of Information Systems and Director of the Data Science Center at UofH. As Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Biomedical Informatics* and an International Fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics, Prof. Peleg's renowned expertise led to her nomination as an [ambassador of](#)

[AI GRID](#), an initiative that cultivates exchange and collaboration between young professionals in the field of Artificial Intelligence. Her research focuses on clinical guideline-based decision support systems (CDSS) for patients and physicians.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Haifa Age Friendly University.

The Center for Research and Study of Aging at the university, in collaboration with a multidisciplinary team including members of the university's faculties, begins to fulfill the social, ethical, and innovative vision of making the university the first in Israel to be senior-friendly, part of an impact project.

Art Therapy for those coping with Breast Cancer

During Breast Cancer Awareness Month, The School of Arts Therapy held a conference attended by dozens of women currently coping or recovering from breast cancer. [The women took part in a study](#) headed by Dr. Johanna Czamanski-Cohen, of the Psychosomatic Study of Art Therapy Lab, and funded by the American Health Organization, examining the role of emotional processing in art therapy in reducing depression, pain, and fatigue among women affected by breast cancer.

Promoting Social Change to Mitigate Community Stigma in Mental Health

To promote equality, health, and welfare, Prof. David Roe (Department of Community Mental Health) and his team train and guide teaching staff at local schools to assist their students in coping with mental health stigmas. Through an integrated course for MA students together with individuals with mental disorders, participants interact and create short films based on personal stories. These films aim to [empower those coping with mental health](#) challenges and change attitudes among students and to mitigate stigma in the wider community.

LEARNING & STUDENTS

Customizing Psychotherapy

A diverse team of over 40 post-doctoral, PhD, MA, and BA students carry out the mission of the UofH [Psychotherapy Lab](#), whose mission is to improve the available treatments for depression by seeking to identify the most effective treatment and custom tailor to the individual's needs, preferences, and characteristics. Their clinical experience supplies research questions and hypotheses to advance how therapists can contribute to treatment.

Biological Clocks

Prof. Eran Tauber heads the [Laboratory of Biological Clocks](#) at the University of Haifa. The main focus of his research team is to understand the genetic basis of individuals' tendency to be active either early or late during the day. This barely known trait (called chronotype) impacts human behavior and health. The group has studied this trait in wild populations of *Drosophila*, vinegar fruit fly. The extraordinary range of chronotypes exhibited by these flies provided an opportunity for using *Drosophila* for the genetic dissection of chronotypes. The Biological Clock laboratory with Prof. Tamar Shochat (UofH) and Prof. Ayelet Baram-Tsabari (Technion) has initiated a citizen science project for middle- and high school students, entitled 'Sleep - A Third of Life', which aims to map sleep patterns of adolescents in Israel.

OPERATIONS

Seeking to Increase Inclusion

An intensive process explores how to increase diversity and inclusion is being advanced by the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences, led by Prof. Naomi Schreuer, Prof. Hisham Abu-Rayya, and Dr. Carmit-Noa Shpigelman, who began by addressing diversity among faculty, administrative staff, and Ph.D. students. Whereas data shows that

across the faculty, women fill over 50% of academic positions,

there is more work to be done to ensure representation of Arab, religious, LGBTQ, and single parents.

Racing to Commemorate

Each of the last 49 years, a [race has been held to commemorate](#) the university's fallen students, in the name of Ilan Shapira, a university student who was killed in the Yom Kippur War. Hundreds of students, faculty, staff, and guests participate in the run hosted by the University each year.