



ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

**RESEARCH**

**ISF Grant for Innovative Educational Research**

Prof. Yael Kali from the Department of Learning Sciences and Education has received an ISF grant through the Breakthrough Research Program (Mafatz). Her project stands out as the sole education-focused study among the funded initiatives. With a grant of 4 million NIS, Prof. Kali will advance her pioneering research, *Engaging Schools in Societal Advancement Endeavors* (ESCALATE), which introduces a novel approach for expanding educational initiatives in the information society.

**Citizen Science: High School Students in Sleep Research**

A new impact project, winner of the CFP by the Division of Innovation and Sustainability, aims to enhance student health and quality of life, advance adolescent sleep research, and develop a national database for education policymakers. [The project is a collaboration among the TCSS Center](#), led by Prof. Yael Kali, Prof. Tamar Shochat, Prof. Eran Tauber, and Prof. Danny Ben-Zvi, and is spearheaded by



Opening event of the International MA Program in Education and Development in Early Childhood (Credit: University of Haifa website).

Ms. Noam Malkinson, a TCSS member and PhD candidate at the University of Haifa and Shamir Institute.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**SPARC: Connecting Research with Community Empowerment**

SPARC was established with the vision and strong desire to integrate research and society, focusing on the needs of individuals with special needs and their families. [The center](#) promotes inclusion through diverse activities, partnering with various stakeholders to help these individuals explore new opportunities. Families also benefit by participating in an

array of activities and seeing their loved ones integrate and engage in meaningful ways.

**Teaching Empathy to Future Doctors**

Have you ever felt that your doctor didn't explain your condition clearly or empathetically? This often happens because doctors-in-training focus heavily on medical skills, neglecting essential abilities like communication and stress management. To address this, Prof. Dana Vashdi (a participant in the Ambassadors Lecture Series) and her team have led a six-year initiative, supported by the *Israeli Medical Association*, to revamp fellowship programs across

Israel. Their [competency-based approach](#), inspired by global models, is currently being piloted in a groundbreaking Neonatology program to foster well-rounded, emotionally attuned medical professionals.

**Prof. Orkibi elected President of Division 10 of APA**

Prof. Hod Orkibi from the School of Art Therapy has [been elected](#) as the incoming President of Division 10 of the American Psychological Association (APA), the Society for the Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts. Prof. Orkibi is the first art therapist from Israel to hold this position.

**LEARNING AND STUDENTS**

**International MA Program in Early Childhood Education Launched**

The International MA Program in Education and Development in Early Childhood recently launched with an event hosted by Ora and Eytan Stibbe, supported through the Anatta and Israeli Friends' Academic Forum. [This program](#), led by Prof. Avi Sagi-Schwartz and Prof. Yair Ziv, offers interdisciplinary training to enhance child well-being in developing countries, following a holistic *Tikkun Olam* approach aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Despite the ongoing War, the program welcomed 24 professionals from 20 countries, including China, Ethiopia, Germany, India, Kenya,

and Israel. Moreover, it received 50,000 NIS from the Division of Innovation and Sustainability for the students' final projects.

**Excellent IDEA**

Twenty-six gifted and outstanding youths in the humanities participated in the University of Haifa Youth Division's inaugural ['IDEA' Summer Program](#), in partnership with the Future Scientists Center and the Ministry of Education. For two weeks, they engaged with researchers, enjoyed activities such as bowling, and Qigong, and toured the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library, the Hecht Museum, and archaeology labs. At the closing ceremony, students presented mini-research projects recognized by the Ministry of Education as part of their matriculation requirements.

**International PME in Haifa**

The 46th International PME (International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education), the most prestigious conference for mathematical education researchers, was held this year at the University of Haifa. The [theme of the conference](#) was 'Mathematical Education for Sustainability'.

**OPERATIONS**

**Variety of online learning opportunities**

Established in August 2000 under the Office of the Rector, the [Online Learning Unit](#) aims to enhance academic instruction

through the integration of computer technologies and innovative tools. Recently, it promoted teaching and e-learning at the University of Haifa, providing a range of tools and services for lecturers and students. The unit also offers a selection of free [podcasts](#) featuring members of the University of Haifa.

**Post-Doctorate: First Steps**

The Bloom Graduate School organized [a workshop](#) titled 'Post-Doctorate: First Steps', providing valuable insights and information on the next phase of graduate professional careers. Approximately 120 doctoral students attended the event.

**From Idea to Academic Publication**

Recognizing the need for advanced information skills among research students, the library, in collaboration with the Online Learning Unit and academic advisors, has created an online course titled ['From Idea to Academic Publication](#) – Information Skills for Research Students'. This course covers locating research, critical reading, academic writing, and navigating research journals, while also addressing the growing role of AI tools in academic research. The course is free and available to all grad students and researchers.