9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION



Prof. Roi Poranne, Faculty of Computer & Information Science (Credit: University of Haifa)

RESEARCH

AI Chatbots Excel at Pluralistic Reasoning

A study by Dr. Nurit Novis-Deutsch, Dr. Zohar Eliyosef and doctoral researcher Tal Eliyosef (Faculties of Education and of Social Welfare and Health Sciences), published in *AI & Society*, found that AI chatbots show stronger pluralistic reasoning than humans, recognizing the legitimacy of opposing views. The study also found that, when given the opportunity, chatbots often try to persuade users to adopt their own position.

AI Uncovers Hidden Archaeology

A new study by Dr. Yitzchak Jaffe, doctoral researcher Erel Uziel (School of Archaeology and Maritime Cultures) and Prof. Motti Zohar (School of Environmental Sciences), published in the Journal of Archaeological Science, developed a machine learning tool that identifies building stones and wall remains in drone images, mapping hundreds of thousands of stones within minutes and revealing architectural patterns hard to detect from the ground.

Three AI Studies Featured at NeurIPS 2025

Three studies by University of Haifa computer science researchers were presented at NeurIPS 2025: Dr. Dan Rosenbaum on probabilistic learning using Flow Matching, Dr. Alaa Maalouf (Spotlight paper) on adapting large language models using a single gradient step and 100 samples, and a third on unsupervised reconstruction of aerial images distorted by water surfaces.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

HIL SPARKS Launches with Meet-up on Impact Measurement

Haifa Innovation Labs (HIL) launched its HIL SPARKS series with a meet-up on impact measurement for entrepreneurs, HIL alumni and students, featuring Hilly Hirt, Head of Sustainable Finance and Development at Valop Impact Ventures, who shared insights on impact measurement and investing.

Academia Meets Industry

The University hosted an innovation event organized by Carmel- University of Haifa Economic Corporation Ltd., bringing together entrepreneurs, investors and business leaders to explore researchers' work with commercial potential. Vice President and CEO Mr. Sharon Zaid and Mr. Tamir Frank, CEO of Carmel and the Research Authority, emphasized turning academic discoveries into real-world innovation through industry partnerships.

HIL FUND Graduate Among Top Health Innovators

Aviv Kushnir, a graduate of the HIL FUND accelerator, was named one of the Top 10 Health Innovations of the Year by the Reboot Forum and *Yedioth Ahronoth* for WELLPLAY. Drawing on his master's degree in psychodrama, he developed an app offering patients immediate complementary support, helping mental health providers reduce waiting times.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

WE SEARCH: Where Ideas Meet Innovation

WE SEARCH, an advanced research space affiliated with the Faculty of Social Sciences, brings cutting-edge technologies and methods to computational social sciences, giving researchers tools to analyze complex social phenomena and large-scale data.

Challenge 2 Innovation: Turning Healthcare Challenges into Solutions

The second cohort of "Challenge 2 Innovation" by HIL concluded with graduate students and healthcare professionals from Clalit Health Services and Carmel Medical Center presenting solutions to real-world healthcare challenges, including fall prevention, information sharing, nurse well-being and missed appointments. A third cohort is already underway.

University of Haifa Launches New Tech Faculty

The University is opening a new Faculty of Computer and Information Sciences, led by Prof. Rita Osadchy, with undergraduate programs in computer science, information systems and cybersecurity, and unique tracks in game development, Blue Tech and cyber-focused information systems, strengthening ties with industry.

OPERATIONS

New Student Portal Infrastructure at SAP Conference

Mr. Elad Bachman, Deputy CEO of the Computing and Information Systems Division, presented the University's new student portal infrastructure at SAP's annual conference. Built on SAP Business Technology Platform (SAP BTP), it provides an advanced foundation for student information systems and services.

Designing Together

The University Human Resources Division launched a Canva course, led by Rona Yahel-Borer, to help faculty and staff independently create and design visual content.

Summer Fashion Design Course for Teens

The External Studies Unit invites young creators to a hands-on summer course in sewing and fashion design, where participants learn to design, create, sew and work with sewing machines.