A FIRST: NUCLEAR TRANSFER TO REPROGRAM ADULT PATIENT CELLS INTO STEM CELLS DEMONSTRATED

The capacity to reprogram adult patient cells into pluripotent, embryonic-like, stem cells by nuclear transfer has been reported as a breakthrough by scientists from the US and the Hebrew University of

The work, described in the journal Nature, was accomplished by researchers from the New York Stem Cell Foundation Research Institute and Columbia University and by Nissim Benvenisty, the Herbert Cohn professor of Cancer Research and director of the Stem Cell Unit at the Institute of Life Sciences at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and his graduate student Ido Sagi. The latter assisted in the characterization of the pluripotent nature of these cells. Pluripotency means the ability of stem cells to develop into all the cells of our body, including those in the brain, heart, liver and blood. In 2012, the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded

for two discoveries showing that mature

(differentiated) cells can be converted

into pluripotent, embryonic-like cells,

into female eggs, in a process called

factors or by transfer of cell nuclei

either by forced expression of genetic

However, the actual ability to reprogram cells from humans by nuclear transfer had only been accomplished until now by using foetal cells for this purpose, until this latest work involving reprogramming of adult patient cells demonstrated by the researchers from the US and the Hebrew University, as described in the new Nature article.

Future research should allow further characterisation of these novel, pluripotent cell types and their comparison to other stem cells. "Human pluripotent stem cells generated from adult cells may change the face of medicine," says Prof. Benvenisty, leading to totally new, personalised genetic therapy involving the reprogramming of a patient's own cells to achieve cell replacement and healing.

STOP PRESS Researchers, led by Prof. Benvenisty, have reported a major breakthrough in understanding the molecular basis of Prader-Willi syndrome (PWS), perhaps the most studied among the class of diseases that involves defects in parental imprinting.

NATURE CAN, SELECTIVELY, BUFFER HUMAN-CAUSED GLOBAL WARMING, SAY ISRAELI. US SCIENTISTS

Rising ocean temperatures bring regional cooling higher in the atmosphere

Can naturally occurring processes selectively buffer the full brunt of global warming caused by greenhouse gas emissions resulting from human activities?

Yes, find researchers from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Johns Hopkins University in the US and NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

As the globe warms, ocean temperatures rise, leading to increased water vapor escaping into the atmosphere. Water vapor is the most important greenhouse gas, and its impact on climate is amplified in the stratosphere.

Since water vapor is a very strong greenhouse gas, this effect leads to a negative feedback on climate change. That is, the increase in water vapor due to enhanced evaporation from the warming oceans is confined to the nearsurface area, while the stratosphere

becomes drier. Hence, this effect may actually slightly weaken the more dire forecasted aspects of an increasing warming of our climate, the scientists say. The researchers are Dr. Chaim Garfinkel of the Fredy and Nadine Herrmann Institute of Earth Sciences at the Hebrew University and formerly of Johns Hopkins University, Dr. D. W. Waugh and Dr. L. Wang of Johns Hopkins, and Dr. L. D. Oman and Dr. M. M. Hurwitz of the Goddard Space Flight Center. Their findings have been published in the



Atmospheres, and the research was also

highlighted in Nature Climate Change.

Journal of Geophysical Research:

HEBREW UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES ONE-YEAR ENGLISH MBA IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION

Program includes professional internship during all three semesters, and access to Israel's business hub of innovation, hi-tech firms and start-ups

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem is launching a new one-year International MBA in Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Starting in 2014, the Englishlanguage program — offered jointly by the Jerusalem School of Business Administration and the Rothberg International School — will include a professional internship over all three

The 48-credit program will include advanced elective courses in Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Global

Aspects of Finance, and Globalization and Management. Students will have the opportunity to take courses on Israeli society and culture. A rich extracurricular program will include tours, cultural and social events and

Students interested in joining the class can learn more at http://overseas. huji.ac.il/mba. Scholarships based on demonstrated need or merit may be available.



NEW MOLECULE PROTECTS THE BRAIN FROM DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS ASSOCIATED WITH DIABETES AND HIGH BLOOD SUGAR



Recent studies indicate that high levels of sugar in the blood in diabetics and non-diabetics are a risk factor for the development of dementia, impaired cognition, and a decline of brain function. Diabetics have also been found to have twice the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease

Now, researchers from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem have found a potential neuro-inflammatory pathway that could be responsible for the increases of diabetics' risk of Alzheimer's and dementia. They also reveal a potential treatment to reverse this process. The research group led by Prof. Daphne Atlas, of the Department of Biological Chemistry in the Alexander Silberman Institute of Life Sciences at the Hebrew University, experimented with diabetic rats to examine the mechanism of action that may be responsible for changes in the brain due to high sugar levels. The researchers found that diabetic rats displayed high activity of enzymes called MAPK kinases, which are involved in facilitating developed, we hope to explore its cellular responses to a variety of stimuli, leading to inflammatory activity in brain cells and the early death of cells.

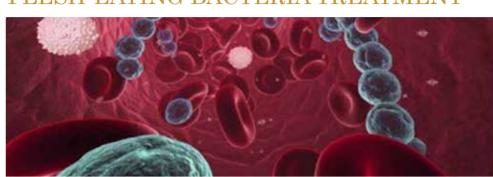
The study shows that the diabetic rats given a daily injection of the sugarowering drug rosiglitazone for a month enjoyed a significant decrease in MAPK enzyme activity accompanied by a decrease in the inflammatory processes in the brain. According to the authors, this finding represents the first unequivocal evidence of a functional link between high blood sugar and the activation of this specific inflammatory pathway in the brain.

Using the diabetic rat model, they

explored a novel approach that would lower the activation of these enzymes in the brain and decrease neuronal cell death. In the last few years, Prof. Atlas developed a series of molecules whose role is to protect the cells from early death through activating inflammatory rats, one of the molecules, TXM-CB3, significantly reduced the activity of these enzymes, and lowered the accelerated brain cell death. These results indicate that the molecule managed to cross the blood-brain barrier and improve the condition of the brain cells, through lowering the inflammatory processes in the rats' brains, despite the high glucose levels afflicting the rats.

The Hebrew University's Prof. Atlas said: "This study paves the way for preventive treatment of damages caused by high sugar levels, and for reducing the risk of dementia and Alzheimer's disease in diabetics or people with elevated blood sugar levels. Following the successful animal testing of the molecule we potential benefit for treating cognitive and memory impairments caused by diabetes on humans."

ATOX BIO RAISES \$23 MILLION TO FUND FLESH-EATING BACTERIA TREATMENT



Hebrew University researchers Prof. Raymond Kaempfer and Dr. Gila Arad from the faculty of Medicine of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Yissum, the technology transfer company of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, founded Atox Bio in 2003 to develop treatments for severe infections. They have now secured a \$23 million investment to fund testing of their treatment for flesh-eating bacteria. Necrotizing soft tissue infections (NSTI), commonly referred to as "flesh eating bacteria" is a life-threatening, rapidly progressing soft-tissue infection primarily involving the superficial fascia (also known as hypodermis). It is a severe medical condition with high morbidity

and mortality that requires a multi disciplinary approach to care. As neither surgical removal of dead, damaged, or infected tissue nor antibacterial therapy directly address the immunological pathogenesis of NSTI, reducing the host inflammatory response with AB103, developed by Atox Bio, could lead to important clinical benefits in both morbidity and mortality. Outbreaks of a severe and often deadly form of necrotizing soft tissue infection are caused by Streptococcus pyogenes, the "flesh-eating bacteria". The incidence of NSTI is 21,000cases/ vear in the US, with overall case fatality of up to 35%.

SCIENTISTS FIND A NEW MECHANISM UNDERLYING DEPRESSION

Hebrew University research could lead to efficient and fast-acting antidepressant drugs





depression "the leading cause of disability worldwide," causing more years of disability than cancer, HIV/AIDS, and cardiovascular and respiratory diseases combined. In any given year, 5-7% of the world's population experiences a major depressive episode, and one in six people will at some point suffer from the disease. Now researchers at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem have shown that changes in one type of nonneuronal brain cells, called microglia, underlie the depressive symptoms brought on by exposure to chronic stress. In experiments with animals, the researchers were able to demonstrate that compounds that alter the functioning of microglia can serve as novel and efficient antidepressant drugs.

Hebrew University scientist Prof. Raz Yirmiya: "This suggests new avenues for drug research, in which microglia stimulators could serve as fast-acting antidepressants in some forms of depressive and stress-related conditions."

The research was conducted by Prof. Raz Yirmiya, director of the Hebrew

Laboratory, and his doctoral student Tirzah Kreisel, together with researchers at Prof. Yirmiya's laboratory and at the University of Colorado in Boulder, USA. Prof. Yirmiya said, "We were able to

demonstrate that such microgliastimulating drugs served as effective and fast-acting antidepressants, producing complete recovery of the depressive-like behavioural symptoms, as well as increasing the neurogenesis to normal levels within a few days of treatment. In addition to the clinical importance of these results, our findings provide the first direct evidence that in addition to neurons, disturbances in the functioning of brain microglia cells have a role in causing psychopathology in general, and depression in particular. This suggests new avenues for drug research, in which microglia stimulators could serve as fast-acting antidepressants in some forms of depressive and stress-related conditions."

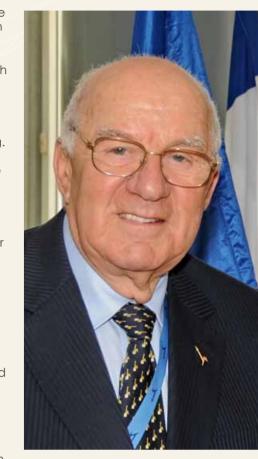
The Hebrew University's technology transfer company, Yissum, has applied for a patent for the treatment of some forms of depression by several specific microglia-stimulating drugs.

IN MEMORIAM – BEREL GINGES

Eliyahu Honig, Honorary Governor of the Hebrew University, describes Berel as an outstanding and unique individual. Eliyahu recalls that Berel selected the Hebrew University as the vehicle through which he would express his profound understanding of practical Zionism. As a youngster in Habonim in Melbourne he was committed to working together looking for ways for making Israel strong. He so much admired his friends from the movement who were able to make Aliyah and whether on Kibbutz or living in the city, they were contributing to making Israel a strong and vibrant society and country. All of his life he was so proud of these friends and never lost contact with them. Berel had served as president of the Australian Friends, giving him clear insights as to the University's priorities. He chose to undertake programs that would express the very essence of the practical Zionism he believed in. He looked for ways of helping young people who came from underprivileged backgrounds. He gave scholarships but then he came up with a new and exciting way of helping these young people go forward and achieve their goals. Along with former President of the Hebrew University, Professor Hanoch Gutfreund, he developed the idea of the Computer Centers that he and Agnes established on all campuses and for all faculties. These provided young people, who would be the leaders of tomorrow, with much needed up to date sophisticated hardware and specific programs to meet their special needs.

Eliyahu recollects on one of the occasions when they went unannounced to visit one of the Centers - it was packed with mostly young students from Israel and overseas intense with their work. He saw the absolute delight in Berel's eyes when he spoke to some of these young people. He was so thrilled to see the effect of what he and Agnes were doing. He saw in the many students from African countries and other developing areas around the world, coming to study Agriculture and Medicine at the Hebrew University, and using the modern and sophisticated facilities he and Agnes provided, important Good-Will Ambassadors for Israel on their return from Israel when they would put to good use the expertise – some in fighting endemic disease and others helping provide new sources for nutritious food – all that they gained at the Hebrew University. He and Agnes received numerous letters of appreciation and thanks from these students as well as from new

immigrant students, many from the underprivileged sections of society, who having completed their army service, were given the opportunity to study. The Computer Centers and the Library Information Centers were so vital to their studies and success. These letters and there were so many over the years, gave Berel and Agnes a great sense of satisfaction in that they were indeed doing something of great importance to help young people and to make Israel strong. The same may be said for the Medical Research programs in the neuro-sciences Berel and Agnes undertook and through former Dean Oded Abramsky, they understood the overall importance of this work not just



for Israel, but for the world at large Berel was so much admired by all University staff with whom came in contact over the years, as he was by the Hebrew University and Board of Governors leadership. All were so impressed year after year by his modesty and sense of purpose, by his sense of humour and by his devotion. He will be greatly missed at the Hebrew University by so many – friends and colleagues, students and graduates in Israel and overseas, researchers junior and senior, in so many fields of the Sciences, Medicine and Agriculture. During the HU Board of Governors meeting held in June, HU President, Menahem Ben-Sasson spoke of Berel's outstanding legacy. There is great sadness at his passing but at the same time the memory of a man of great vision and the ability to implement his ideals will live on at the Hebrew

At a recent Australian Friends executive meeting, it was noted that Berel's support of the Hebrew University during his lifetime was unparalleled. His and Agnes' generosity have had a tremendous impact on infrastructure throughout all campuses, resulting in great benefit to academics and students. In addition to having been President of the Federal office he was an Honorary Governor of the Hebrew University and had been awarded an Honorary Fellowship and Doctorate by the University. Federal President, Robert Simons, noted how moving it was to witness Berel's delight in seeing the fruits of his generosity during his lifetime. His passing has left an enormous void - a great loss to the University, the Australian Friends and of course his family and many friends.

Berel is survived by Agnes, their four children, ten grandchildren and three great grandchildren. We hope Agnes and her family will continue their involvement and support of the University, as we are sure Berel would

May his memory be a blessing.

COMBINING THE BEST IDEAS FROM AUSTRALIA AND ISRAEL TO FIGHT PROSTATE CANCER

When AUSiMED (Australia/Israel Medical Research) a new tax deductible charity, recently asked the Scientific Community for medical research ideas that combined Australian and Israeli research, they were overwhelmed with great project ideas.

One of the projects that stood out was between Prof Ygal Haupt, a leading cancer researcher in Melbourne and ex-Israeli, from the Peter McCallum Cancer Research Institute as well as Prof Abraham Rubinstein, from the Hebrew University (a former Head of Pharmaceutical R&D at Teva Pharmaceuticals).

This team, who had previously worked and published together in cancer treatments had a great idea about developing a new treatment for men with prostate cancers whose tumours were not responding to any current

"We were very impressed with the innovation of the project and the way in which the teams combined their knowledge and skills" said Roz Kaldor-Aroni, CEO of AUSIMED.

water supply systems

student Yossi Kabessa has brought

home the top prize from the Global

Kabessa, who received the award

from Singapore's president Tony Tan

Keng Yam, returned to Israel with the

Singapore Challenge gold medallion

Kabessa is the Bryant and Lillian Shiller

Fellow at the Hebrew University's Peter

and Computer Science, which focuses

Global Young Scientists Summit brought

on applying scientific discoveries into

Organised by Singapore's National

Research Foundation, the five-day

engineered bacteria to monitor the presence of pollutants and hazardous

Broide Center for Innovative Engineering

and a \$100,000 cash prize.

ground-breaking technology.

sustainable cities.

Young Scientists Summit in Singapore.

Hebrew University of Jerusalem doctoral

HU PHD STUDENT WINS GOLD

MEDAL AT YOUNG SCIENTISTS

Proposed system to detect dangerous materials in large

SUMMIT IN SINGAPORE

"Their idea combined a recent discovery from Prof Hauptabout the effective dosage of a protein called p53 (a well known agent that kills tumour cells) with a specially formulated hydrogel matrix or "Trojan Horse" which was developed in Israel by Professor Rubinstein to deliver agents like p53 directly to the tumour," said Ms Kaldor-Aroni.

Prof Haupt said "It will be great to be able to continue my work with Avri thanks to AUSIMED's support of our

The Project will commence as soon as AUSiMED has raised sufficient funds and will take three years to complete.





Associate Professor Yaal Haupt

According to Yossi Kabessa, "The Global

Young Scientists Summit provided a

great opportunity to exchange ideas

with top scientists and Nobel laureates

from around the world. I was proud to

present made-in-Israel ideas for ensuring

the world, and I was especially honoured

to bring home the gold medallion to the

Hebrew University and to Israel."

that made headlines by building

In 2013, Kabessa was part of a team

the world's tiniest menorah (below),

of Hanukkah, to demonstrate the

system based at the Broide Cente

the size of a speck of dust, in honour

revolutionary abilities of the Nanoscribe

the safety of large populations around

Professor Abraham

CONTACT US

- Do you want to know more about the activities of the Friends?
- Interested in upcoming events?
- Going to Israel soon and keen to visit the Hebrew **University?**
- Interested in study at the University, or do you know someone who is?

Become our Facebook friend – join us on Facebook www.facebook.com/AUSTFHUpage

Please contact us; we can assist. Sydney Office:

Barry Joseph, Federal Exec. Director L5, 59-75 Grafton St, Bondi Junction 2022 Tel: (02) 9389 2825 Fax: (02) 9387 5584 Email: nswfhu@austfhu.org.au

Melbourne Office:

Eitan Drori, Executive Director 306 Hawthorn Rd, Sth Caulfield 3162 Tel: (03) 9272 5511 Fax: (03) 9272 5510 Email: vicfhu@austfhu.org.au

Perth:

Yael Jacobson, WA Representative Tel: 0431 757 127

Email: wafhu@austfhu.org.au For study inquiries, please contact: Inna Katsenelson:

studynsw@austfhu.org.au Atida Lipshatz: studyvic@austfhu.org.au

"BREAKING HOLOCAUST TABOOS IN PALESTINIAN SOCIETY"

On Holocaust Memorial Day, Prof. Mohammed S. Dajani Daoudi delivered the lecture "Not Being a Bystander: Breaking Holocaust Taboos in Palestinian Society" at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Ein Kerem

campus

Prof. Dajani Daoudi is a Professor of International Relations and Diplomacy, and Director of the American Studies Institute, at Al-Quds University; and Founder of Al-Wasatia, a moderate Islamic movement. The event was presented in cooperation with the

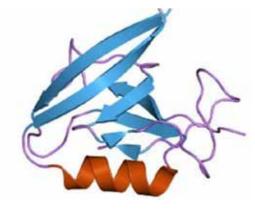
Jerusalem Center for Genocide Prevention and moderated by Prof. Elihu Richter.

In March, Professor Dajani Daoudi led a group of 27 Palestinian university students with 4 PhD candidates to the concentration camps at Auschwitz and Krakow, to teach them about the Holocaust. The visit was part of a study program on conflict resolution involving students and scholars from Friedrich-Schiller-University of Jena, Al-Quds University, Tel Aviv University and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

RESEARCHERS REVEAL PROTEIN'S ROLE IN PREVENTING GROWTH OF HEART MUSCLE LEADING TO HEART FAILURE

Cardiovascular disease remains the number one cause of death in the Western world, with heart failure representing the fastest-growing subclass over the past decade.The stage that precedes heart failure in a significant number of cardiovascular diseases is pathological hypertrophy — the growth of the heart muscle in an attempt to increase its output. Not all hypertrophy is pathological; for example, during pregnancy or high physical exertion, the muscle of the heart grows but myocardial function remains normal. But when hypertrophy is excessive, prolonged and unbalanced, it becomes pathological, leading to heart failure and arrhythmias.

Now, for the first time, researchers at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Faculty of Medicine have revealed how a protein called Erbin acts as a brake against this excessive and pathological growth of heart muscle. They also demonstrated that damage to this protein leads to excess growth of heart muscle, a decrease in function, and severe pathological growth of heart muscle. The research was conducted by Ms. Inbal Rachmin as part of her doctoral thesis, under the supervision of Prof.



Ehud Razin and Dr. Sagi Tshori at the Institute for Medical Research Israel-Canada in the Faculty of Medicine at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Ms. Rachmin detected a significant decrease in the expression of the protein Erbin in the heart tissue of patients suffering from heart failure. Moreover, the induction of hypertrophy in mice lacking Erbin led to the early death all of these mice, compared to only about 30 percent mortality observed in the control group. Histological examination showed that heart failure was the main reason This important research also has further

implications in the area of breast cancer treatment. Erbin interacts with the receptor Her2/ErBb2, which is overexpressed in approximately 30% of breast cancers. The standard treatmen in these cases is the use of Herceptin, an antibody to this receptor. Studies have shown that 5-10 percent of breast cancer patients who received this treatment together with chemotherapy have a significant decrease in heart function. The researchers describe a cardioprotective role for Erbin, which suggests it is a potential target for cardiac gene therapy.



NEWS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES

HONOURS CLUB

The Honours Club continues to attract top speakers. Our May meeting was addressed by Dasia Black-Gutman, whose topic was "Can One Change Racist Attitudes & Behaviour". In June, our guest speaker was Rabbi Zalman Kastel, with the title of his address being "Bringing people together, Aboriginal, Jewish, Muslim, Christian and other Australians". Whilst in July, the Honours Club was addressed by Prof Les Copeland, the Former Dean of Agriculture at



Sydney University. His topic was "The Links between Nutrition and Heath Production - are we what we eat?"

UPCOMING EVENTS

On the 17th of September we are co-hosting a dinner event with the Sir Zelman Cowen Universities Fund. At this function, to be held in the McLaurin Hall at Sydney University, we will be celebrating the work of the Fund and presenting the 2014 Sir Zelman Cowen Universities Fund Prize for Discovery in Medical Research and the Leslie Rich Scholarship for Dementia Research. In addition our guest speakers of the evening will be Prof David Celermajer, an eminent Sydney cardiologist and Prof Emeritus Michael Stone who is an internationally renowned Dead Sea Scrolls scholar. For those who wish to attend, please contact our Sydney office.

QUAY DINNER

This year the annual dinner at Leon Fink's Quay Restaurant will be held on Sunday evening 2nd November. This is always a wonderful evening and we invite everyone to attend. Funds raised at this event go to our Committee for Student Support towards scholarships.

2014 FEDERAL AGM

This year's Federal AGM will be held in Surfers Paradise on the weekend of 28th

On the Saturday evening, we have planned a community function, which will be

Rabbi Zalman Kastel with Barry Joseph

addressed by the Hebrew University's President for External Relations Prof Ronnie Friedman and Senator, the Hon Brett Mason, who is the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

VICFHU

The Australian Friends of the Hebrew University-Victorian Division, participated in the Yom Ha'atzmaut Exhibition for Israeli Innovations at the Victorian State Parliament. The three day event introduced politicians, members of the public, and community leaders to a ground breaking exposé of hi-tech and science technology made in Israel. Aust FHU-Vic presented Yissum, the Hebrew University's commercia company that transforms research and development in nanotechnology, medicine, biology and agriculture into business. The response of visitors to the Exhibition to Yissum's achievements was overwhelming and major interest was shown by Victorian parliamentarians.



The Israeli Innovation exhibition at Parliament House with David Southwick MP and Eitan Drori.

Aust FHU-Vic participated in the Yom Ha'atzmaut Family Festival at the Beth Weizmann Community Centre. We screened short films provided by the HU's Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archive with a great response.

WAFHU

CHALLENGING IDEAS

A huge crowd turned out on Thursday 8 May for Australian Friends of the Hebrew University talk by Dr Carmen Lawrence.

The audience enjoyed a fascinating talk about "The Psychology of the Holocaust". Dr Lawrence discussed decision-making in difficult situations and explained how ordinary people can become Hitler's Willing Executioners.

It was also an opportunity to welcome Yael Jacobson to her new role as Public Relations Officer and to farewell Nikki Leib and wish her well for the future.

HOW OCTOPUSES DON'T TIE THEMSELVES IN KNOTS

Hebrew University research may help advance bioinspired robot design

An octopus's arms are covered in hundreds of suckers that will stick to just about anything, with one important exception: those suckers generally won't impressively flexible animals would quickly find themselves all tangled up.

Now, researchers from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem report that they discovered how octopuses manage this feat, even as the creatures' brains are unaware of what their arms are doing. A chemical produced by octopus skin temporarily prevents their suckers from

"We were surprised that nobody before us had noticed this very robust and easy-to-detect phenomenon," says Dr. Guy Levy, who carried out the research with co-first author Dr. Nir Nesher in the Department of Neurobiology at the Hebrew University's Alexander Silberman Institute of Life Sciences. "We were entirely surprised by the brilliant and simple solution of the octopus to this potentially very complicated problem." Experiments have supported the notion that octopuses lack accurate knowledge about the position of their arms. And that raised an intriguing question: How do octopuses avoid tying themselves up in



To answer that question, the researchers observed that octopus arms remain active for an hour after amputation. Those observations showed that the arms grab onto the octopus itself, otherwise the never grabbed octopus skin, though they would grab a skinned octopus arm. The octopus arms didn't grab Petri dishes covered with octopus skin, either, and they attached to dishes covered with octopus skin extract with much less force than they otherwise would.

> "The results so far show, and for the first time, that the skin of the octopus prevents octopus arms from attaching to each other or to themselves in a reflexive manner," the researchers write. "The drastic reduction in the response to the skin crude extract suggests that a specific chemical signal in the skin mediates the inhibition of sucker grabbing."

The active agent in the animals' self-avoidance behavior is yet to be identified, but they say it is yet another demonstration of octopus intelligence. The self-avoidance strategy might even find its way into bio-inspired robot design. "Soft robots have advantages [in] that they can reshape their body," Nesher says. "This is especially advantageous in unfamiliar environments with many obstacles that can be bypassed only by flexible manipulators, such as the internal human body environment."

The researchers are sharing their findings with European Commission project STIFF-FLOP, which aims to develop a flexible surgical manipulator in the shape of an octopus arm. "We hope and believe that this mechanism will find expression in such new classes of robots and their control systems," Hochner says.

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM THESE NAMES LIVE ON

By including The Hebrew University in their Will, they have enabled the University to continue its

For free legal assistance, please contact our Federal Office: Australian Friends of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem Limited

Phone: 02 9389 2825 | Fax: 02 9387 5584 | Email: nswfhu@austfhu.org.au | Web: www.austfhu.org.au

together 350 post-doctoral fellows and PhD students from around the world, along with internationally eminent science and technology leaders, among them 13 Nobel laureates. The young researchers were encouraged to submit proposals to address challenges related to urban development and Kabessa's winning proposal was for the use of biosensors based on genetically

