**Science and Innovation in Israel: Past, Present and Future**

**A Conversation with Prof. Ruth Arnon, Renowned Immunologist**

**Hosted by Eran Broshy, AFOUI Chairman**

Prof. Arnon and AFOUI Chairman Broshy will discuss the state of Science and Innovation in Israel, including in vaccines and therapeutics

**Wednesday, March 10, 2021**

9am PT / 11am CT / 12pm ET / 19:00 IST

**Professor Ruth Arnon**, the Paul Ehrlich Professor of Immunology at the Weizmann Institute of Science, is a world-renowned immunologist who has been at the forefront of scientific research in Israel for many decades. Among her scientific contributions is the development of Copaxone®, a drug for the treatment of multiple sclerosis which is marketed worldwide. Prof. Arnon is currently researching a universal, recombinant influenza vaccination as well as a cancer vaccine. A member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, she chaired its Sciences division and from 2010-2015 served as the President of the Academy. She was President of the European Federation of Immunological Societies, Secretary-General of the International Union of Immunological Societies and the President of the Association of Academies of Sciences in Asia. Her awards include the Robert Koch Prize in medical sciences, Spain’s Jiménez Diaz Prize, France’s Legion of Honour, the Wolf Prize for Medicine, the Rothschild Prize in biology and the Israel Prize and the Maimonides Award. She is an elected member of the American Philosophical Society (APS) as well as the European Academy of Science & Art and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS). She has an honorary doctorate from several universities in Israel and abroad, and among other Board roles serves on the Open University of Israel’s High Council.

**The Open University of Israel** is the largest university in Israel, educating over 49,000 students at its state-of-the-art online higher education learning platform and its 70 physical campuses spread across Israel. During Covid-19, following a smooth transfer to 100% accessible online/distance learning, the 2020-21 academic year has begun with a 32% increase in new students. Among Israel’s most vital institutions, the Open University’s core values are based on academic excellence, an open admissions policy, social justice and the inclusion of all citizens of Israel. Since its inception (1976), the Open University has graduated tens of thousands of students, nearly one third of whom were scholarship recipients. Today, a large percentage of Open University alumni are productive contributing members of Israeli society. The tremendous positive impact of the Open University on Israeli society is immeasurable. Indeed, the Open University waves not only the largest academic justice and social justice flags in Israel but also the flag of the path to excellence.

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