

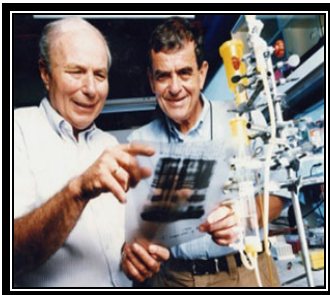


ISRAEL CANCER RESEARCH FUND

ICRF

Special Informational Bulletin – July 2007

Six weeks ago, the British Union of Colleges and Universities expressed clear support for a boycott of Israeli academic institutions and instructed the union's executive to distribute Palestinian propaganda promoting a boycott to all branches of the union for information and discussion. The UCU is the largest trade union and professional association for academics, lecturers, trainers, researchers and academic-related staff working in further and higher education throughout the UK.



The decision by a British academics' union to urge its members to boycott their Israeli counterparts has generated outrage and concern among academics and supporters of Israel. The stunningly illogical decision to shun Israeli academic institutions threatens some of the organizations most involved in promoting peace and human rights in Gaza and the West Bank and could impede progress Israeli universities enable in scores of fields. Below are facts and figures that will help anyone show how valuable Israel's academics and universities are to the world. Academics, people who care about peace and people who care about progress, should all fight the boycott and the viral impact it might have. One need only glance at the following achievements to understand what Israel's universities have contributed to human progress and peace.

(Drs. Avram Hershko & Aaron Ciechanover, Israel's 2004 Nobel Laureates)

- **Velcade**, a new cancer drug that treats multiple myeloma, is based on research of two ICRF funded scientists, Hershko & Ciechanover of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology professors, who won the **2004 Nobel Prize** for their groundbreaking work.
- Two of the world's most widely used FDA-approved multiple-sclerosis drugs, Copaxone and Rebif, were developed from research carried out at Weizmann Institute of Science.
- A new drug developed at Bar-Ilan University holds out hope for millions of people who suffer from schizophrenia.
- Scientists at Hebrew University have developed the FDA-approved drug Exelon for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease and are now working on a new anti-Alzheimer's drug also suitable for treating strokes and traumatic brain injuries.
- University of Haifa researchers working as part of an international cooperative team identified the gene capable of increasing the protein content of wheat a giant step towards combating world hunger.
- Research at the Weizmann Institute has led to the development of new therapies for acute spinal cord injuries. The late actor Christopher Reeve described Israel as the 'world-center' for research on paralysis treatment. The company founded to commercialize this research is also developing a therapy for Parkinson's with support from the Michael J. Fox Foundation.
- An Israeli scientific team from the Technion has succeeded in creating beating heart tissue from human embryonic stem cells.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

A recent survey by the Milken Institute showed that of over 400 universities examined worldwide, Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University were ranked 12th and 21st respectively for registering biotech patents. Only one British establishment, London University, could beat those placings. The Weizmann Institute of Science, one of the most important research centers in the world for brain studies, was voted the best university in the world for life scientists to conduct research.

Israel has the highest ratio of university degrees to the population in the world. Twenty-four percent of the workforce holds university degrees, ranking third in the industrialized world, after the US and Holland; and 12 percent hold advanced degrees. As a result, Israel leads the world in the number of scientists and technicians in the workforce - 145 per 10,000, compared to 85 in the US, 70 in Japan, and less than 60 in Germany. Israel also produces more scientific papers per capita than any other nation, 109 per 10,000 people, as well as one of the highest per capita rates of patents filed.

In proportion to its population, Israel has the largest number of startup companies in the world (3,500, mostly in high tech). In absolute terms, Israel has the largest number of startup companies than any other country, except the US. Israel also has the highest concentration of high-tech companies outside of Silicon Valley, and is ranked number two in the world for venture capital funding, behind the US.

Special thanks to ISRAEL21c, 15233 Ventura Blvd. Suite 1108, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403, www.israel21c.org

ICRF Funded Scientist, Dr. Avram Hershko, Speaks Out

Science is a Language of Peace - So Why are British Academics Seeking to Ban any Dialogue?

Financial Times United Kingdom
June 4 2007

From Prof Aaron Ciechanover:

Sir, Britain's University and College Union (UCU) of academics has passed a motion encouraging its 117,000 members to sever all academic ties with me and my colleagues at the Technion, the Israel Institute of Science Technology, on the basis of our Israeli citizenship. Why should I be prevented from talking to others about their scientific findings just because someone does not like my government?

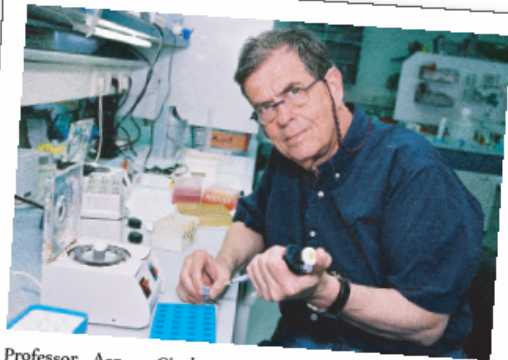
In 2004, I received a Nobel prize for my research into cures for certain types of cancer. This is just one of the groundbreaking research projects that have been undertaken by the Technion in recent years.

Others include the most advanced treatment for Parkinson's disease, pioneering treatment for heart failure that could offer hope to millions, and high-tech goggles to help disabled patients walk. Would UCU members prefer that UK sufferers were refused leading treatments which can improve their quality of life on the basis that Israeli expertise developed them?

Science for me is a language of peace and the only one I know which is absolutely international. I can talk to a UK scientist or any scientist worldwide about my research and they understand exactly what I am talking about. We may even find an area of mutual interest to collaborate on and together we can make an even greater impact on the world around us.

Preventing academics such as myself from talking this international language of science not only prohibits the progress of the human race but prevents different nations from building bridges.

Aaron Ciechanover,
Technion, Israel Institute of Science and Technology,
Haifa 32000, Israel



Professor Aaron Ciechanover, M.D., D.Sc., ICRF-funded scientist and winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2004.

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