

# NEWS

e-mail: [news@weizmann.ac.il](mailto:news@weizmann.ac.il)  
<http://wis-wander.weizmann.ac.il>



מכון ויצמן למדע  
WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

Publications and Media Relations Department P.O.Box 26, Rehovot 76100, Israel  
Tel: 972 8 934 3852 / 56 Fax: 972 8 934 4132 / 04

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**CONTACT:** Yivsam Azgad, Tel: 972-8-934-3856/2  
**EMAIL:** [Yivsam.azgad@weizmann.ac.il](mailto:Yivsam.azgad@weizmann.ac.il) / [news@weizmann.ac.il](mailto:news@weizmann.ac.il)

## **The Weizmann Institute of Science establishes the Dr. Barry Sherman Institute for Medicinal Chemistry**

In an effort to advance basic research insights for the benefit of therapeutic discoveries, the Weizmann Institute of Science is establishing the **Dr. Barry Sherman Institute for Medicinal Chemistry** thanks to a major gift from the Sherman family.

The Sherman Institute for Medicinal Chemistry will fund innovative research on compounds that hold promise for becoming therapies for a range of human diseases and disorders, including autoimmune diseases, cancer, neurodegenerative diseases and infectious diseases.

Among the investigations that are expected to be undertaken at the Sherman Institute are efforts to develop new antibiotics so as to overcome the growing challenge of antibiotic resistance; harnessing plant metabolites for potential drugs, including an unprecedented method of bioengineering plants to generate L-DOPA, the leading drug for the treatment of Parkinson's disease; and advancing a promising, effective, and inexpensive anti-malaria potential drug compound.

The Sherman Institute will be headed by Dr. [Sarel Fleishman](#) of the Department of Biomolecular Sciences.

“This visionary gift comes at an important moment, when new, sophisticated evaluation and screening tools make it possible to take promising molecules to the next level for the benefit of human health, and the Sherman Foundation is turning this possibility into a reality,” says Prof. Daniel Zajfman, President of the Weizmann Institute. “We are grateful for this partnership with the Sherman family”.

### **About the supporters**

Barry Sherman was a Canadian scientist, businessman and philanthropist. He received his BSc from the University of Toronto on scholarship in engineering physics, and an MSc and PhD on scholarships in astrophysics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He founded the generic pharmaceutical manufacturer Apotex in 1974 with a mission of improving access to medicines for patients worldwide. It became one of Canada's leading generic drug companies, and provided more than \$50 million in medicines to disaster zones in the last decade.

Barry and Honey Sherman were leading philanthropists in Canada, and also supported many causes in Israel. They have been supporters of the Weizmann Institute since the 1980s, where the majority of their support has been directed to research in alternative energy and biomedicine. In their memory, the foundation that bears their name continues to advance their philanthropic goals. In the last year, the Sherman Foundation has also supported postdoctoral awards for women scientists through the Weizmann Institute, and the foundation, in partnership with Apotex, has committed to supporting clinical trials on ALS in Canada.

For more information on the Dr. Barry Sherman Institute for Medicinal Chemistry, please contact:

Kelly Avidan, Weizmann Institute of Science

[Kelly.avidan@weizmann.ac.il](mailto:Kelly.avidan@weizmann.ac.il)

Susan Stern, Weizmann Canada

[susan@weizmann.ca](mailto:susan@weizmann.ca)

The Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, is one of the world's top-ranking multidisciplinary research institutions. Noted for its wide-ranging exploration of the natural and exact sciences, the Institute is home to scientists, students, technicians and supporting staff. Institute research efforts include the search for new ways of fighting disease and hunger, examining leading questions in mathematics and computer science, probing the physics of matter and the universe, creating novel materials and developing new strategies for protecting the environment.

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