



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**ISRAEL TO LAUNCH I-CORE, EXTENSIVE PROGRAM PROMOTING RESEARCH EXCELLENCE
UNPRECEDENTED FUNDS ALLOCATED TO MAINTAIN ISRAEL AT GLOBAL FOREFRONT OF
ACADEMIC RESEARCH, KEEPING TOP TALENT IN COUNTRY**

I-CORE Research Centers Bring Together Top Experts to Produce Scientific Breakthroughs

**First I-COREs in Renewable Energy, Molecular Medicine, Cognitive Science, Computer Science
to be Inaugurated Tuesday, January 3rd at 18:30 in Presence of
Prime Minister, Minister of Education, University Presidents, Nobel Laureates**

(Jerusalem) – I-CORE – Israeli Centers of Research Excellence – a groundbreaking new initiative of the Government of Israel to reinforce the country’s leading edge in scientific research and promote synergy among its top academics and research institutions, will be launched next week.

Acknowledging the need to maintain and boost Israel’s global standing at the forefront of research breakthroughs and keep top researchers in the country, the government has committed an unprecedented allocation of funds to the creation of the I-CORE centers. The first four I-COREs, of about 20 to be established over the next five years, will be inaugurated next Tuesday, January 3rd at 18:30 at Binyanei Ha’uma in the presence of the Prime Minister, Minister of Education, University Presidents and leading academics and Nobel Laureates from Israel and the United States. Only members of the press corps with a valid GPO card will be admitted. Please contact Hadass Teshler at hadass@tesher.com or 054 449 3131 to secure accreditation.

On the occasion of the I-CORE launch, Prof. Manuel Trajtenberg, Chairman of the I-CORE Planning and Budgeting Committee, noted that, “So that we can continue producing Nobel Prize winners, Israel has once again made academic research a national priority. The I-CORE program will significantly boost Israel’s research capabilities and enable our researchers to continue leading the way to discoveries that will impact the lives of people everywhere.”

In its first-ever commitment to promoting academic excellence, the government allocated significant funding to the creation of the I-CORE program. The budget totals US\$360 million, or NIS1.35 billion, of which one-third will be funded directly by the government, one-third by participating research institutions and one-third is expected from philanthropic funds. These resources enable the I-COREs to recruit top researchers, including Israelis currently affiliated with overseas institutions, with each researcher receiving a start-up grant and an annual research grant for five years.

I-CORE's guiding principle is to enable collaborative groups of talented scholars to lead breakthroughs and nurture cutting-edge research at Israel's institutes of higher education. Selected after a highly competitive international process, the first four I-COREs to be inaugurated next week will research: Renewable and Sustainable Energy (focusing on solar fuels); Molecular Medicine (focusing on genetic regulation of complex human diseases); Advanced Approaches to Cognitive Science (focusing on retrieved understanding); and Advanced Topics in Computer Science (focusing on algorithms). Please see more the attached document for more information.

“Israeli researchers have been subject to severe budgetary constraints over the past decade. The I-CORE centers will fortify Israel’s capacity for innovation and multi-disciplinary synergy and serve as catalysts for scientific and intellectual progress the world over,” says Prof. Benjamin Geiger of The Weizmann Institute of Science and Chairman of the Israel Science Foundation Academic Board.

I-CORE was designed by Israel's Council for Higher Education and endorsed by the Government of Israel . Future I-COREs will cover a range of disciplines in the exact sciences, life sciences and medicine, social sciences and humanities. The evaluation process is conducted by the Israeli Science Foundation (ISF), with the participation of international evaluation committees. For more information, please contact Hadass Teshler at hadass@tesher.com or 054 449 3131.

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