



הועדה לתכנון ותקצוב | Planning & Budgeting Committee

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### Press Release

**The Minister of Education and the Chairman of the Council for Higher Education: The names of the winners to set-up ten additional Centers of Excellence will be announced within a few months.**

Mr. **Gideon Sa'ar**, Minister of Education and Chairman of the Council for Higher Education, announced this evening that the names of those researchers who will set-up the upcoming ten new Centers of Excellence will be published in a few months time. **Minister Sa'ar** made the announcement on the eve of the inauguration ceremony of the first four Centers of Excellence to be held tomorrow (Tuesday) in the presence of Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu**.

Minister **Sa'ar** added that to date, **15** researchers have returned to Israel from top universities and research institutes in the world, such as **Harvard, MIT, Stanford and Berkley**, and more than 50 additional researchers will be joining the Centers of Excellence in Israel during the academic year of 2012/13.

**Minister Sa'ar** noted that presently four Centers of Excellence have been established in the fields of: **Molecular Medicine, Alternative Energy, Cognitive Sciences and Computer Sciences**, and that centers in the fields of Humanities and Social Sciences will be included within the ten upcoming centers.

**The Minister of Education, Mr. Gideon Sa'ar** says: "The promotion of excellence is the key to Israel's future. Establishing these Centers of Excellence is an act of Zionism and merit. It is a significant principle in our policy for excellence which also includes changing the budgetary model for universities. Israel must and shall remain at the forefront of world research".

The ceremony for the inauguration of the first four Centers of Excellence will be held tomorrow, Tuesday, in the presence of Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu**, **Mr. Gideon Sa'ar** Minister of Education and Chairman of the Council for Higher Education, **Prof. Manuel Trajtenberg**, Chairman of the Budgeting and Planning Committee, **Prof. Benny Geiger** Chairman of the Academic Board of the Israel Science Foundation, and a number of worldwide leading researchers who are members in the Scientific Advisory Committee of the program, among them: **Prof. Roger Kornberg** – Nobel Prize laureate for Chemistry, **Prof. David Gross** – Nobel Prize laureate for Physics, **Prof. Steven Katz** – Head of the **Eli Weisel** Center for Judaic Studies at Boston University and **Prof. Linda Gregerson** from the University of Michigan.

The program of the ceremony will include addresses by the Prime Minister, the Minister of Education, the Chairman of the Budgeting and Planning Committee, the Chairman of the Israel Science Foundation, and the presentation of foundation charters to representatives of the winning groups of researchers. Additionally, a panel discussion will be held on the subject of “Scientific Research in Israel - Future Challenges” with the participation of Nobel Prize laureate **Prof. David Gross**, the Head of the Israel Academy of Sciences **Prof. Ruth Arnon**, **Dr. Ofer Yizhar** who has lately returned to Israel and to the Weizmann Institute to join the Center of Excellence in the field of Cognition, upon completing his post-doctorate term at Stanford University, and **Dr. Maya Bar-Sadan** who following completion of her post-doctorate at the Research Centre Jülich, returned to Israel to the Ben-Gurion University as part of the Center of Excellence for Alternative Energy.

For additional details please contact:

Sharon Achdut, Spokesperson for the Council for Higher Education and the Budgeting and Planning Committee 050-6233326

Lital Apter, Media Consultant to the Minister of Education and Chairman of the Council for Higher Education 050-3900900