האקדמיה הלאומית הישראלית למדעים
المجمع الوطني الإسرائيلي للعلوم والآداب
THE ISRAEL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

מלגות רות ארנון

RuthArnon

Fellowships

Seminar 2026 | סמינר תשפ"ו



Prof. Ruth Arnon

Former President of the Israel Academy

Israel Prize Laureate in Medicine

Prof. Ruth Arnon earned both her M.Sc. (1955) and her Ph.D. at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (1960) prior to joining the Weizmann Institute in 1960. She is the incumbent of the Paul Ehrlich Chair in Immunochemistry and has held several senior positions at the Weizmann Institute, including Head of the Department of Chemical Immunology (1973–74 and 1975–78), Dean of Biology (1985–88), and Vice President (1988–97). From 1985 to 1994, she was the Director of the Weizmann Institute MacArthur Center for Molecular Biology of Tropical Diseases.

Prof. Arnon has made significant contributions to the fields of vaccine development, cancer research, and the study of parasitic diseases. She co-developed Copaxone, a multiple sclerosis (MS) drug currently marketed worldwide. She continues to focus on understanding the mechanism by which Copaxone exerts its beneficial effect. She is also developing a synthetic vaccine to provide broad-range immunity against infection with influenza viruses.

Between 2010–2015, Prof. Arnon served as President of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities. She is an elected member of the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) and of the American Philosophical Society. She has also served as President of the European Federation of Immunological Societies (EFIS), Secretary-General of the International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS), President of the Association of Academies of Sciences in Asia (AASA) and was a member of the European Union Research Advisory Board (EURAB).

Prof. Arnon's awards and honors include the Robert Koch Prize in Medical Sciences (1979, Germany), the Jiménez Díaz Memorial Award (1986, Spain), the Legion of Honor (1994, France), the Hadassah World Organization's Women of Distinction Award (1997), the Wolf Prize (1998), the Rothschild Prize (1998), the Israel Prize (2001), the Aesku Prize for Lifetime Contribution to Autoimmunity (2008), the "Yakir Tel-Hai" award of Tel-Hai Academic College (2008), and the Dr. Tovi Comet-Walerstein C.A.I.R Institute Science Award of Bar-Ilan University (2015). She holds honorary doctorates from several universities in Israel and Europe, including Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (2007), Tel Aviv University (2011), the Open University of Israel (2014), and Leuphana University in Germany (2014).

Over the years, Prof. Arnon has been active both nationally and internationally in efforts to advance women scientists. She has done so by participating in conferences, such as the Fulbright Foundation conference on *Women in Science: The Challenge of Progress in Academia* at the Open University of Israel in December 2012, and the *Women and the World Conference on Women in Science* in Tokyo in 2015, and by sitting on various committees. She also chaired the Arnon Committee to Further Women in Israel's Institutions of Higher Education for the Council for Higher Education and its Planning and Budgeting Committee. One of her committee's recommendations was to seek additional funding to assist women in traveling abroad for postdoctoral training – an essential stage in advancing their scientific careers.

In order to address this issue, Prof. Arnon has most generously presented the Israel Academy with a personal gift to establish a fund that would encourage alumnae of the Adams Fellowships Program to travel abroad for postdoctoral training upon completion of their theses. Each year, one Adams alumna is awarded a fellowship in the amount of $20,000 to supplement her postdoctoral fellowship. The recipient is selected by the Adams Fellowships Committee based on excellence in research, taking into consideration personal circumstances as well.



Photograph of Prof. Arnon courtesy of the Weizmann Institute of Science



Prof. Moshe Oren

Academy Member;
Chair of the Adams Fellowships Steering
and Approval Committee

Dear Ruth Arnon Postdoctoral Fellows,

Gender inequality in academic leadership remains a major problem in Israel, as it is throughout the world. As a researcher in the life sciences, I am repeatedly saddened to see that while the majority of graduate students in our various fields are women, when it comes to professors and research group leaders, the balance is heavily skewed toward men. There is no objective reason why this must be so: as graduate students, women are at least as capable as their male peers. Moreover, Ruth Arnon's own distinguished career demonstrates that women can excel as professors and scientific leaders without compromising their devotion to family life.

How can we ensure, then, that this potential does not go to waste? There is much talk about gender imbalances in scientific career ladders and about the need to rectify them, but few take action to ensure a more balanced representation of women researchers in the top ranks of the scientific community. This is exactly what Ruth Arnon had in mind when she so generously established this special fellowship program, which aims to facilitate your transition from bright Ph.D. students to accomplished, independent researchers. And you are exactly the type of young researchers she envisioned.

Being selected as Adams Fellows is already a recognition of your unique excellence. Receiving the Ruth Arnon Postdoctoral Fellowship is yet another mark of distinction on your rigorous doctoral work: you promised, and you richly delivered!

As you move on to the next step in your careers, en route to becoming independent researchers and mentoring the next generation of students, you must remember that your Adams mission is not yet over. Much as Ruth Arnon herself did, you are now also tasked with serving as role models to young women students: showing them that they too must believe in themselves and aspire to fulfill their academic aspirations and dreams. This is what Ruth Arnon expects you to do, and what every member of the Adams Fellowships Committee likewise expects. It is my hope that despite the challenges our country is facing these days, you will satisfy these expectations right here in Israel. On behalf of the Adams Fellowships Committee, I wish you continued success in your postdoctoral research. We will be looking forward to seeing you back in Israel as exemplary scientists and future leaders of our research community.



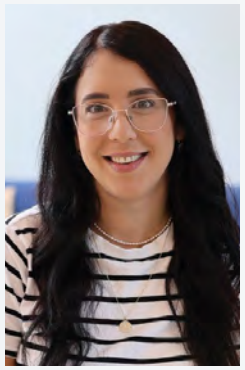
Ruth Arnon Fellowships Award Ceremony, 2023



Ruth Arnon Fellowships Award Ceremony, 2024

Ruth Arnon Fellowship Awardee, 2026-2027 Academic Year

Dr. Dana Binyamin



Dr. Dana Binyamin is a microbiome researcher specializing in host-microbe interactions, with a focus on how microbial communities influence human health and disease. She was born and raised in Tiberias, Israel, and currently lives with her husband and their three daughters in California, where she is pursuing her postdoctoral research. During her undergraduate studies, she trained in a microbiology lab, gaining her first hands-on research experience while studying antibiotic resistance in Helicobacter pylori at the Tzafon Medical Center microbiology laboratory. This experience sparked her interest in scientific research and shaped her decision to pursue a research career.

She continued her academic training at the Azrieli Faculty of Medicine at Bar-Ilan University, where she completed her master's degree under the supervision of Prof. Avi Peretz and Prof. Omry Koren. Her research focused on Clostridium difficile and antibiotic resistance, later expanding to broader questions surrounding microbial communities and the gut microbiome.

She then joined Prof. Omry Koren's lab for her Ph.D., where she studied how the gut microbiota influences aging and host physiology, including its effects on metabolic processes. In parallel, she investigated microbiome dynamics in pregnant women with inflammatory bowel disease, examining host microbiome interactions and potential implications for disease susceptibility in their children. Her Ph.D. was supported by the Adams Fellowships Program of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

As a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Pathology at Stanford University School of Medicine, Binyamin focuses on understanding the ways in which the microbiome influences host physiology and disease. Building on her background in microbiome research, she investigates how microbial communities and their metabolites affect metabolic, immune, and disease-related pathways. Her long-term scientific goal is to uncover microbiome-driven mechanisms that can be translated into targeted therapeutic strategies, advancing disease prevention and improving health through precision microbiome interventions.

Ruth Arnon Fellowship Awardee, 2025-2026 Academic Year

Dr. Einat Seidel Posner



Dr. Einat Seidel Posner is a physician-scientist whose work bridges clinical medicine and immunological research. She earned her M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from The Hebrew University Faculty of Medicine through its combined M.D.–Ph.D. program. Her doctoral research, under the supervision of Prof. Ofer Mandelboim, focused on viral immune evasion mechanisms – specifically on how viruses such as the human cytomegalovirus (HCMV) avoid recognition by natural killer (NK) cells.

Dr. Seidel Posner completed her residency in internal medicine at Hadassah Ein Kerem Medical Center. In parallel with her clinical training, she has been actively involved in academic medicine, teaching medical students and co-supervising a Ph.D. student.

She has authored 17 peer-reviewed manuscripts published in leading journals, including *Nature Communications, Cell Reports, Journal of Cell Biology*, and *PLOS Pathogens*. Her research has advanced our understanding of strategies that viruses use to evade immune detection at the molecular level and has identified cellular pathways involved in immune ligand maturation.

Her work has been presented at national and international conferences, and has earned recognition through multiple fellowships and awards, including the Adams Fellowships Program, the Foulkes Fellowships Program, and the Rector's and Dean's Prizes for academic excellence.

In addition to her academic and clinical work, Dr. Seidel Posner contributes to public health education through Midaat, an Israeli nonprofit promoting science-based medical information and vaccine advocacy.

She has recently begun the next phase of her scientific career – a postdoctoral fellowship at the Institut Pasteur in Paris, France, focusing on autoimmunity. Her long-term goal is to return to Israel as a physician-researcher, combining patient care with translational research in the field of rheumatology.

Ruth Arnon Fellows 2016-2025

Dr. Rivka Bekenstein

Dr. Sophia Buhbut-Sinai

Dr. Sharon Fleischer

Dr. Ayelet Arazi

Dr. Bracha Laufer-Goldshtein

Dr. Avia Raviv Moshe

Dr. Anael Ben Asher

Dr. Yael Korem Kohanim

Dr. Aseel Shomar

Dr. Gali Noti

Dr. Noam Harel