

2017 Honorary Doctorate Recipients

Prof. Ruth Arnon

A world renowned biochemist with a specialty in immunology, a Professor at the Weizmann Institute of Science and a 2001 Israel Prize recipient. She has made significant contributions in the fields of vaccine development, cancer research and to the study of parasitic diseases. She was one of the developers of Copaxone®, a drug which treats Multiple Sclerosis. She was elected as the President of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities in 2010 and served in this position until 2015. She also served as Vice President of the Weizmann Institute, as President of the European Federation of Immunological Societies (EFIS), and as Secretary-General of the International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS).

Sandor (Sandy) Frankel

An attorney by trade who has been engaged in philanthropic activity for many years in his role as Trustee of the *Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust*. As one of four trustees, Mr. Frankel has decided to direct some of the Helmsley Charitable Trust funds towards to entities working within the State of Israel and in doing so has made it possible for institutions of higher learning and research within Israel to benefit from these funds and using them for developing groundbreaking research and significantly impacting people's lives. At the University of Haifa, this marvelous gift was directed into the development of Marine research under the auspices of the Mediterranean Sea Research Center of Israel let by the University.

Prof. Hossam Haick

A Technion- Israel Institute of Technology Professor in the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and the head of the Laboratory for Nanomaterial Based Devices. He is responsible for the development of the artificially intelligent nanoarray technology to detect diseases non-invasively. For his work he has received many accolades amongst which are the Marie Curie Excellence Grant, the ERC and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Award. His scientific work is a combination of groundbreaking research and applied research which aims to turn scientific idea into viable products.

Prof. Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett

A world renowned scholar of performance and Jewish studies and a museum professional who has made significant contributions to the research of the culture, folklore and heritage of East European Jewry. Her interdisciplinary groundbreaking body of work has marked new paths in traditional research areas such as anthropology, folklore, and Jewish studies. Her research has significantly contributed to the vibrant theoretical discussion prevalent in the last decades in the field of culture and heritage research.

Sonja Lahnstein-Kandel

In her role as President of the German Friends Association of the University of Haifa she is instrumental in bringing major gifts to the University of Haifa from private donors as well as German Foundations such as Zeit Stiftung, the Robert Bosch Stiftung, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), DIPP and more. She is an enthusiastic advocate of the State of Israel and devotes much of her time to nurturing and promoting minorities, specifically Arab women. Under her leadership, the German Friends of the University of Haifa have diligently supported the University of Haifa flagship Jewish –Arab Community Leadership Program as well as the Werner-Otto Scholarship Program supporting Arab women who chose to pursue a graduate degree.

Keren Or Leibovitch

An Israeli Champion Paralympic swimmer. She is a three-time world champion, a five-time European champion, a holder of three world records (for the 100-meter and 200-meter backstroke and the 100-meter freestyle), and a seven-time Paralympic medal winner (4 of which are gold medals). She is a dedicated advocate to raising public awareness for disabled sports and providing support to disabled athletes. She has received much national recognition and lit one of the ceremonial torches during the 2004 Independence Day ceremony.

Prof. Deborah Lipstadt

An American Historian, currently a Professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies at Emory University. She served as a consultant to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, serving two terms. She was also appointed by the US Secretary of State as a consultant to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) and the government consultant on state response to Holocaust denials. She is a leader in the fight against the phenomenon of Holocaust denial.

Dr. Harvey Scher

Dr. Scher is a renowned researcher in the fields of physics and geophysics. He is an accomplished physicist and groundbreaking theorist based in the United States and at the Weizmann Institute of Science. He is a world leader in physics and geophysics, providing deep insights and far-reaching, scholarly contributions through publications, mentoring, teaching and participation in workshops.

Prof. Klaus Martin Schwab

An engineer and economist by profession, he is the founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum which he founded in 1971. The World Economic Forum mission is its commitment to improving the state of the world by engaging business, political, academic, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional, and industry agendas. The Forum is best known for its annual meeting at the end of January in Davos where some 2,500 top business leaders, international political leaders, economists, medical professionals and journalists come together to discuss the most pressing issues facing the world. Under Prof. Schwab's leadership the Forum has become one of the most important and influential international organizations in the world.

Daniel B. Shapiro

A Jewish American diplomat who has served as the American ambassador to Israel between 2011 and January 2017. Prior to his appointment as ambassador he served

as a member of the US National Security Council where he was Senior Director for Middle East and North Africa. He is an expert on the Middle East and most of his adult life was dedicated to deepening the relationship between Israel and the US. He has played a significant role in the promotion of American aid to Israel and thus has contributed to Israel's security.