

# ISRAEL ACADEMY ELECTS FIVE NEW MEMBERS

The Israel Academy  
of Sciences and  
Humanities consists of  
**SEVENTY**  
of Israel's most  
distinguished scholars  
and scientists.

**ONE**  
of its primary  
responsibilities,  
as mandated by  
law (1961), is to  
identify and appoint  
outstanding new  
members, who have  
made major intellectual  
contributions to  
humankind.

This summer, the  
Academy admitted

**FIVE**  
new members meeting  
their stringent criteria.

**Professor Adi Shamir** has made major theoretical contributions to the computer sciences and major practical contributions to computer cryptography, the underlying basis of computer security and commerce. The incumbent of the Weizmann Institute's Borman Chair of Applied Mathematics, since 1984, he has received many awards, including the Kennedy Prize, Lubell Prize, Erdos Prize, Baker Prize (IEEE), UAP Prize (France), Pius XI Gold Medal and Kanellakis Prize. He has authored almost 100 scientific papers on zero-knowledge proofs of identity, the Fiat-Shamir identification protocol, visual cryptography, public key encryption schemes and other cutting-edge topics.

**Professor Benjamin Kedar** has made major contributions to world and Jewish history, particularly regarding the Crusader occupation of the Middle East. Born in Nitra, Czechoslovakia in 1938, he emigrated to Israel in 1949. He has been a full Professor at the Hebrew University since 1986. A former Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellow and a member of the Institutes for Advanced Study in Princeton and Jerusalem. He has served as President of the International Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East since 1995. His over twenty books and seventy scholarly articles have significantly advanced our understanding of this tumultuous era.

**Professor Ilan Chet** is internationally known for his contributions to biomass conversion, biological pest control, soil microbiology and environmentally sensitive agriculture. He has served in various senior capacities at the Hebrew University, including: Director of the Warburg Center for Biotechnology, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and, currently, Vice President for R&D. The recipient of the Kadma Prize, A. Z. Cohen Prize, H. C. Burchadt Medal, Ulitzky Prize, Rothschild Prize, Max Plank Research Award, Arima Prize, Wolf Prize, and the Israel Prize for 1996, Professor Chet is the author of over 310 scientific papers and presentations, mostly on plant-pest interactions and control.

**Professor Amiram Grinvald** has made pioneering contributions to neurobiology and brain research. He is currently the Director of both the Grodetsky Center for Higher Brain Function and the Dominic Institute for Brain Research at the Weizmann Institute of Science. His over 100 scientific talks and over 50 scientific papers report his groundbreaking work on the optical imaging of electrical and metabolic activity in single nerve cells and ever larger assemblages in the intact brain. He discovered calcium channels in the growth cones of developing neurons, the pinwheel-like organization of orientation domains in the cortex and spatio-temporal frequency columns, and developed in vivo imaging spectroscopy and the oxygen-delivery hypothesis, among many other contributions.

**Professor Don Handelman** has been a full Professor at the Hebrew University's Department of Sociology and Anthropology since 1981. He is a member of the editorial board of many international journals and of the Israel Anthropological Association (three times). He has conducted groundbreaking field research in Quebec, Nevada, Newfoundland, Israel, Sri Lanka, Andhra Pradesh (India) and the Los Angeles Olympics, exploring how public performances and symbolism both express and affect public identity and consciousness. He has also published widely on social anthropology and social institutions in Israel.



Four of the Israel's Academy's newest members (L to R):  
Professors Amiram Grin vald, Benjamin Kedar, Ilan Chet, Adi Shamir  
(not shown: Professor Don Handelman)