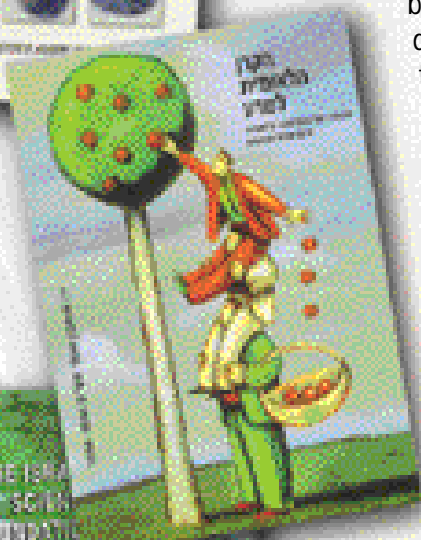
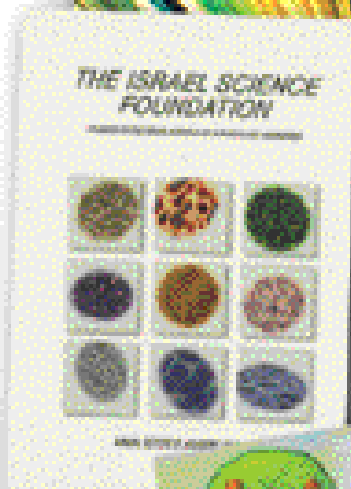


# A Year of Israeli Science in Perspective



This year's annual report of the Israel Science Foundation (ISF), like its predecessors, provides an interesting glimpse of Israel's exciting, rapidly evolving science scene. With an increasing \$37 million academic year 1999 budget (up from \$3.1 million in 1987), 779 active research projects, 113 equipment grants and 12 Centers of Excellence, the ISF is by far the largest source of competitive funds for Israeli basic research.

As ISF Chairman Prof. Paul Singer makes clear in his overview, the ISF's generous recent funding allocation from the Planning and Budgeting Committee (PBC) of the Israel Council for Higher Education has allowed the ISF to do more than boost its project approval rate to 35% (itself an accomplishment). It has allowed the ISF to start new programs, including international workshops and such "Big Science" initiatives as Israel's participation in building and operating the ATLAS detector for the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) experiment at CERN in Geneva. The ISF can now award its flagship interdisciplinary Centers of Excellence up to \$1.5 million, spread over four years, making them competitive with world-class research groups abroad, in their specific target fields.

Leafing through the report's comprehensive listings of grantees and selected research "highlight" articles, provides interesting insight into which research topics are currently being pursued, and in what depth, by Israel's scientific community. Nor is the role of the international donor community neglected. The report faithfully chronicles the pivotal catalytic role played by a timely and farsighted 1988 grant from the U.S.-based C.H. Revson Foundation. The selected researcher profiles which accompany the donor section provide a useful human dimension, often obscured in the more impersonal references to "string-membrane unification" and "glucotoxicity." Israel's future scientific community is under construction here.

Nor is all this activity occurring at the periphery of Israel's national consciousness. Israel's exports and economy are now heavily dependent on its high-tech innovation which, in turn, relies on maintaining a high level of scientific creativity and preparedness – serious business (for business) indeed. As the caption for this year's ISF annual report's evocative cover cautions, "Society wants the fruits of scientific progress, but all such applications ultimately rest on the shoulders of new knowledge acquired through basic research." Even without a demonstrable linear relationship between discovery, innovation and exploitation, the point is well taken.

Complimentary single copies of this year's English report, 112 pages in full color, and a somewhat shorter (86 page), more statistically oriented Hebrew summary, are available upon request directly from the ISF (Fax: 972-2-563-5782 and Web: [www.isf.org.il](http://www.isf.org.il)). Please specify language.



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