

# Asper Foundation, TAU Launch Innovative Clean Water Project

*Gift enhances partnership between Tel Aviv University and one of Canada's largest foundations*

**TEL AVIV, WINNIPEG, AND TORONTO, CANADA** – Tel Aviv University (TAU) together with the Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University (CFTAU) today announced a \$407,000 gift from The Asper Foundation, one of Canada's largest private foundations. The funds will bolster the work of TAU's Water Energy (WE) Lab to further develop technology that produces safe drinking water in the developing world.

Headed by Prof. Hadas Mamane of TAU's Fleischman Faculty of Engineering, the Lab is among numerous research teams devising solutions to address global water scarcity. Her Lab has developed a patented technology that uses LED lighting and solar energy to disinfect water. The laptop-sized device—called SoLED—operates without any chemicals or electricity to kill 99.9% of bacteria and viruses from water, making it cheaper and easier to use than existing solutions in remote areas.

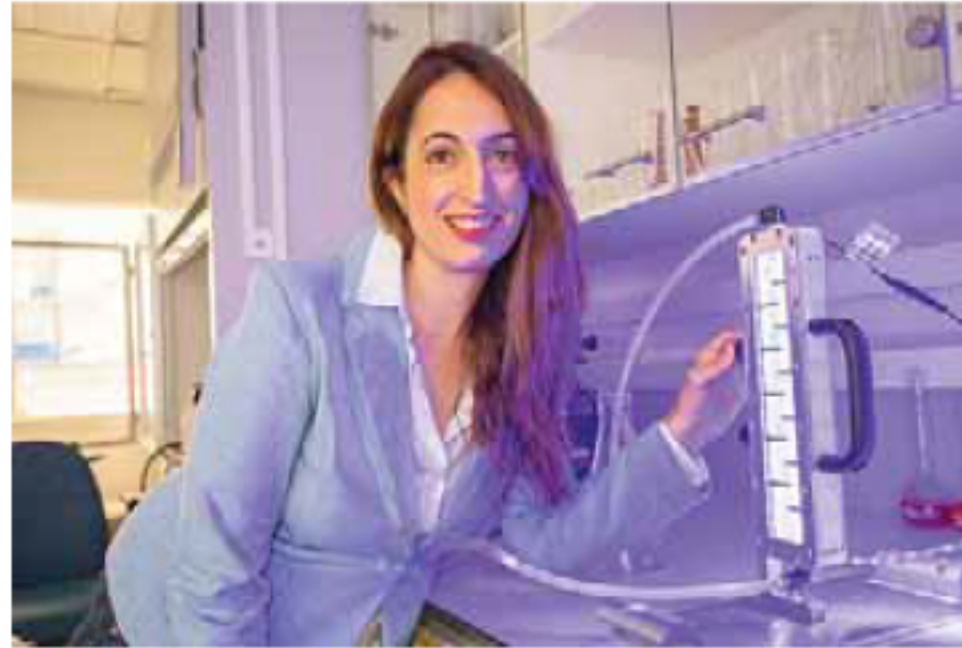
At least 2 billion people around the world use water from contaminated sources. Furthermore, unsafe water is linked to the deaths of an estimated 800 children each day. The issue predominantly affects people in the developing world, where access to clean water resources is often unaffordable or inaccessible. More so, as the impact of climate change increases, water scarcity will affect nearly half the world's population by 2025, according to expert estimates.

The support of The Asper Foundation, a leading force in Jewish and general philanthropy in Israel and Canada, will enable Prof. Mamane and her team to further expand the capabilities of the technology and field-test the device. Their ultimate goal is to produce a scalable version that could be manufactured for mass distribution.

The gift enhances the existing partnership of philanthropic support and collaboration between the Asper Family, based in Winnipeg, and the University.

**Gail Asper, President and Trustee of The Asper Foundation, said:** “My late parents, Israel and Babs, would be incredibly proud of this endeavor which will make such a positive impact on people's lives. The research at Prof. Mamane's Water-Energy Lab and at Tel Aviv University aligns with our Foundation's commitment to supporting entrepreneurial spirit and to creating a better world. We are excited to embark on this journey to advance innovative ideas and change lives.”

**Tel Aviv University President Prof. Ariel Porat said:** “As Israel's largest research university, TAU places great importance on creating solutions to global challenges to the environment and society. We are thrilled to welcome The Asper Foundation as a partner and look forward to working with its team.”



**Prof. Hadas Mamane  
head of Tel Aviv University's  
Water Energy (WE) lab**

**Prof. Hadas Mamane, Head of the Water-Energy Lab at TAU, said:** “My team and I are delighted and honored by The Asper Foundation's support. This gift will accelerate our efforts to provide underserved populations with access to clean water—a basic human right and an endeavor that stands to save thousands of lives.”

**Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University Executive Director Stephen Adler said:** “CFTAU is proud to be a link between the great Canadian family and Israel's leading research university. We look forward to seeing the fruits of this research and identifying ways to maximize its impact in Israel, Canada and around the world. We thank The Asper Family Foundation and the Asper Family for their continued support and friendship.”

###

## About The Asper Foundation

Israel Asper, O.C., O.M., Q.C., L.L.D. (1932 – 2003) and Babs Asper (1933 – 2011) believed that philanthropy is a driving force behind positive change in people's quality of life. For this reason, they formed The Asper Foundation in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada in 1983 to build upon their and the Asper family's philanthropic objectives. The Asper Foundation, a Winnipeg-based philanthropic organization, develops major projects and provides general support to the Jewish Community while also supporting the broader community in areas of culture, education, community development, and human rights on a local, national and international scale.

## About Tel Aviv University

Tel Aviv University (TAU) is Israel's largest and most comprehensive institution of higher learning. TAU is home to over 30,000 students studying in nine faculties and over 125 schools and departments across the spectrum of sciences, humanities and the arts. Located in Israel's economic, technological, and cultural capital, TAU is ranked among the world's top academic institutions for excellence and innovation.

## About Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University

Canadian Friends of the Tel Aviv University (CFTAU) provides direct funding support for the educational and research goals of Tel Aviv University. As part of a global network of Friends Associations, CFTAU facilitates academic and research partnerships between Canada and Israel as well as establishing scholarships, supporting research, cultivating student and faculty exchanges, and recruiting Canadian students to participate in the TAU International Program.