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June 2008



Dear Friend of Israel and the Weizmann Institute of Science,

The true spirit of Israel shines brightly at the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, Israel, where 2,600 scientists, technicians, and graduate students collaborate to help solve many of humanity's greatest challenges. From helping to end world hunger to finding cures for diseases, their passion for discovery and inspired basic research is Weizmann's gift to Israel and, in turn, Israel's gift to the world.

This year we have two remarkable reasons to celebrate: It is both Israel's 60th anniversary and the 60th anniversary of the official naming of the Weizmann Institute of Science.

The State of Israel and the Institute are powerfully and inextricably connected. Over the years, the Institute's success has been Israel's success. At its deepest level, our extraordinary research community epitomizes the timeless Jewish imperative of *tikkun olam:* repairing our world.

Garlic-powered cancer treatments.

A lubricant that makes cars dramatically more fuel-efficient.

Sensors that can detect tiny amounts of a biological weapon or airborne toxins.

Crops that grow in extreme conditions to help alleviate world hunger.

These are but a few of the remarkable breakthroughs that have helped fuel 60 years of economic growth in Israel, and have established Weizmann as a worldwide leader – and global hub – of scientific genius. One of Israel's most treasured assets – and a source of great national pride – the Institute is on par with such world-renowned institutes as the Max Planck Society (Germany), Rockefeller University (United States), and the Pasteur Institute (France).

You, too, should be extremely proud of the Institute and of your role in contributing to its success.

I want to thank you personally for your interest and support.

In the few short months that I have been executive vice president and chief executive officer of the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science, I have become more and more impressed by this extraordinary community of stellar scientists working so intensely – and effectively – to make our world a better place.

Having been involved with the Jewish community for more than three decades, I always knew that the Weizmann Institute was a place where talented scientists did brilliant work. The more I learn, the more I have come to admire how well its guiding mission – Science for the Benefit of Humanity – is being realized. The benefits of Weizmann research transcend any borders or ethnic boundaries. There is a purity to this mission. All of the research is designed to improve the quality of life for all of us, and ultimately, to save lives.

There is something else, just as impressive, that distinguishes Weizmann's approach to basic research. Yes, there is the illustrious roster of prominent, world-class scientists, but equally as important, these men and women also are world-class human beings.

(over, please)



I have met many of Weizmann's scientists, and I am deeply moved by their warmth and humanity ... professional advancement is not their sole objective. These are kindhearted people who truly are committed to the quest of making this world a better place.

For example, *Prof. Ehud Shapiro*, who is a respected expert in the fields of computer sciences, applied mathematics, and biological chemistry.

His multidisciplinary team created the world's smallest biological computing device. About a trillion of these devices can fit in a drop of water, yet this amazing "nano-doctor" was programmed successfully, in test tube experiments, to identify changes in the balance of molecules that indicate the presence of certain cancers, to diagnose the type of cancer, and to react by producing a drug molecule to fight the cancer cells.

Its invention points to the day when microbe-sized computers will be used to diagnose and/or treat a wide range of diseases. (You can read more about Prof. Shapiro and his work in the enclosed insert.)

And like so many Weizmann breakthroughs, this discovery hinges on leading-edge contributions from more than one department – in this case, computer sciences and biochemistry.

Prof. Shapiro, like almost every Weizmann researcher I've met, does not isolate himself in his laboratory. He is a vibrant member of a collaborative community driven by curiosity, where scientists communicate with and help one another. They reach beyond their own disciplines to share ideas that will improve and further each other's research. Whether they are working formally or simply socializing in the cafeteria, their innovative thinking is encouraged throughout the campus, and has been the catalyst for many of Weizmann's achievements.

The world needs our research. We need your support.

Every day, I feel privileged to work on behalf of an institution that serves all humanity and has improved the quality of life in Israel, for us in the United States, and for millions of people around the globe.

As a supporter, I know you stand with me in your dedication to Israel and the Weizmann Institute of Science.

Please take a moment right now to make the most generous gift you can. It's a great way to help Israel and the Weizmann Institute continue to flourish from strength to strength – for another 60 years – and well beyond. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marshall S. Levin

Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer

American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science

P.S.: As a valued member of the Weizmann family, I urge you to include a visit to the Institute when you are in Israel. In the meantime, to learn more about some of the leading-edge research your support makes possible, please visit our website, www.weizmann-usa.org. You also may make your donation online.