

The Scientific Council's Activities 2025

Teamwork - Members of the Scientific Council

TA / ICHILOV: RUTH ASHERY-PADAN, ANAT LOEWENSTEIN, NAFTALI SAVION, YOSEF SHILOH, ARIE SOLOMON, BARAK ADIEL,
MICHAELA GOLDSTEIN, DINAH ZUR, NOAM SHOMRON

KAPLAN: AYALA POLAK

TECHNION / RAMBAM / BNAI ZION / CARMEL: BENJAMIN MILLER, HANA GARZOZI, ORNA GEYER, NITZA GOLDENBERG-
COHEN, OREN TOMKINS-NETZER, RINA LEIBU, IDO PERLMAN, TAMAR BEN YOSEF

RABIN: DOV WEINBERGER, RUTH SIGAL, SHIRI SOUDRY, DANNY GAATON

MEIR: EHUD ASSIA

HADASSAH / HU: ITAY CHOWERS, EYAL BANIN, JACOB PE'ER, RON OFRI, DROR SHARON

SHEBA: MICHAEL BELKIN, IFAT SHER, SHLOMO MELAMED, YGAL ROTENSTRAICH, HANI VERBIN

SOROKA / BGU: TOVA LIFSHITZ, TUVIA HOREV, ELIE BEIT-YANNAI, SHIMON BEN-SHABAT

HASHARON: IRIT ROSENBLAT

PORIA: MODI NAFTALI

BARZILAI: SHMUEL LEVERTOVSKY

MAAYAN: YARON LANG

BAR ILAN: URI POLAT, YOSSI MANDEL

Activity Topics

- COMPLETION OF TWO PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE ASSOCIATION'S RESEARCH GRANTS: PROF. SAMER KHATIB, DR. YAMIT COHEN-TAYAR
- A NEW CALL FOR TWO RESEARCH GRANTS WILL BE RELEASED SOON
- A PREVENTION PROJECT FOR DOMINANT DISEASES MANAGED BY PROF. TUVIA HOREV
- SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS BY CONSORTIUM MEMBERS

COMPLETION OF TWO RESEARCH GRANTS SPONSORED BY THE ASSOCIATION

- 100,000 NIS PER GRANT

- In the research track, a paper submitted from Beilinson Hospital by **Yamit Cohen-Tayer, Irit Bachar, and Eldema Shes-Chen** was selected on the subject: **Proteomic and epi-transcriptomic signatures as biomarkers for corneal limbal stem cell deficiency**
- In the clinical track, a paper submitted from Hadassah Hospital by **Samer Khatib, Ofra Benny, and Itay Chowers** was selected on the subject: **Development of a combination therapy for simultaneous multidimensional treatment of retinal vascular diseases**

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIROT ASSOCIATION
CALL FOR TWO GRANTS OF NIS 100,000 PER GRANT

Committee Chairs: Prof. Ido Perlman and Prof. Samer Khatib

Submission date of research proposals: August 1, 2026

Start date of research funding: 1.10.2026

The winners of the research grants will be announced at the 20th anniversary conference of the Lirot association on September 7, 2026.

Steering Committee on the Prevention of Dominant Diseases

- TUVIA HOREV – PROJECT INITIATOR
- MICHAL MAKAROV – GENETIC COUNSELOR
- YOSSEI SAIDOV – SOCIAL ACTIVIST
- SHIRI SOUDRY – OPHTHALMOLOGIST
- DROR SHARON AND NADINE HOLLANDER – LIROT ASSOCIATION
- SAPIR SHALOM – MEDICAL STUDENT
- THE INFORMATION VIDEO WAS TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH AND FORWARDED TO THE FFB
- A DISCUSSION WAS HELD WITH "DOR YESHARIM"
- THE PROJECT WAS PRESENTED IN A 5-MINUTE LECTURE BY PROF. HOREV AT THE ISVER CONFERENCE
- MEETINGS WERE HELD WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CLALIT AND MACCABI HEALTH FUNDS TO PROMOTE THE PROJECT, AND MEETINGS ARE PLANNED WITH MEMBERS OF THE ADDITIONAL HEALTH PLANS

MEETING WITH CLALIT HEALTH FUND REPRESENTATIVES

The Clalit Health Fund has decided to adopt the project and will take the following actions:

1. On the health plan's website, the disease page will post up-to-date information about the prevention of inheriting dominant genes.
2. The video we produced will be uploaded to the disease page and they intend to add a Clalit Health Fund logo to it
3. An update will be issued to all ophthalmologists in the health plan regarding the prevention of inheriting dominant genes - this is within the framework of the KMR - promotion of medical information + link to the page and video
4. The nursing staff at the health plan also sought to promote the issue

> [Genes \(Basel\)](#). 2025 Jun 26;16(7):745. doi: 10.3390/genes16070745.

Phenotypic and Genotypic Characterization of 171 Patients with Syndromic Inherited Retinal Diseases Highlights the Importance of Genetic Testing for Accurate Clinical Diagnosis

Sofia Kulyamzin ¹, Rina Leibu ², Hadas Newman ³, Miriam Ehrenberg ^{4, 5},
Nitza Goldenberg-Cohen ^{1, 5}, Shiri Zayit-Soudry ^{5, 7}, Eedy Mezer ^{1, 2}, Ygal Rotenstreich ^{5, 8},
Iris Deitch ⁷, Daan M Panneman ⁹, Dinah Zur ^{3, 5}, Elena Chervinsky ¹⁰, Stavit A Shalev ^{1, 10},
Frans P M Cremers ⁹, Dror Sharon ¹, Susanne Roosing ⁹, Tamar Ben-Yosef ¹

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 40725402 PMCID: [PMC12295353](#) DOI: [10.3390/genes16070745](#)

> [Genet Med](#). 2025 Jun;27(6):101401. doi: 10.1016/j.gim.2025.101401. Epub 2025 Mar 10.

Biallelic null variants in C19orf44 cause a unique late-onset retinal dystrophy phenotype characterized by patchy perifoveal chorioretinal atrophy

Miriam Ehrenberg ¹, Maayan Avraham ², Sandeep Sarma Asodu ³, Abigail R Moye ⁴,
Riccardo Sangermano ⁵, Leah Rizel ², Tahleel Ali-Nasser ², Ifat Sher ⁶, David Gurwitz ⁷,
Katherine R Chao ⁸, Antonio Rivera ³, Andrew R Webster ⁹, Carlo Rivolta ¹⁰, Hadas Newman ¹¹,
Eran Pras ¹², Ygal Rotenstreich ¹³, Eyal Banin ³, Eric A Pierce ⁵, Dinah Zur ¹⁴, Gavin Arno ¹⁵,
Kinga M Bujakowska ⁹, Siying Lin ⁹, Dror Sharon ³, Tamar Ben-Yosef ¹⁶

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 40079362 PMCID: [PMC12284815](#) DOI: [10.1016/j.gim.2025.101401](#)

Multicenter Study > [Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci](#). 2026 Apr 1;67(4):24. doi: 10.1167/iovs.67.4.24.

The Genetic Landscape of Inherited Retinal Diseases in the Israeli Population

Sapir Shalom ^{1, 2}, Libe Gradstein ³, Eran Pras ⁴, Johanna Valensi ¹, Ohad S Birk ^{5, 6, 7},
Anat Blumenfeld ¹, Avital Eilat ¹, Michal Macarov ¹, Tomer Poleg ⁵, Frans P M Cremers ⁸,
Susanne Roosing ⁸, Daan M Panneman ⁸, Nadin Hollander ⁹, Nitza Goldenberg-Cohen ^{10, 11},
Claudia Yahalom ¹, Eyal Banin ¹, Tamar Ben-Yosef ¹¹, Dror Sharon ¹

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 41972860 PMCID: [PMC13089656](#) DOI: [10.1167/iovs.67.4.24](#)