



The Shmunis School of
Biomedicine and Cancer Research
George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences
Tel Aviv University

THE 2nd SHMUNIS CONFERENCE VIRUSES ACROSS DOMAINS OF LIFE

MAY 19, 2025

**YITZHAK RABIN CENTER,
8 HAIM LEVANON STREET, TEL AVIV**

08:30 – 09:00 Gathering

09:00 – 09:15 Welcome and Greetings

Dan Peer, Vice President for Research and Development, TAU

Abdussalam Azem, Dean, George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences, TAU

Anat Herskovits, Head, The Shmunis School of Biomedicine and Cancer Research, TAU

SESSION 1: KEYNOTE LECTURE

CHAIR: Adi Stern, TAU

09:15 – 10:00 **Raul Andino**, UCSF | keynote lecture
SARS-CoV-2 airway epithelium
replication and variant evolution

10:00 – 10:20 Coffee Break

SESSION 2: VIRUS GENETICS

CHAIR: Dudu Burstein, TAU

10:20 – 10:45 **Debbie Lindell**, Technion
Genes stolen from hosts: The
example of nbIA in a marine
cyanophage

10:45 – 11:05 **Tzachi Hagai**, TAU
The evolution of host-virus
interactions: lessons from viral
mimicry

11:05 – 11:25 **Eran Bacharach**, TAU
Fishful Thinking: From HIV to
Maternal Inheritance—Transcription
Regulation of the Snakehead
Retrovirus

11:25 – 11:50 **Yiska Weisblum**, HUJI
High-throughput screens reveal
novel anti viral proteins targeting
respiratory viruses

11:50 – 13:30 Lunch Break & Poster Session

SESSION 3: VIRUS ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

CHAIR: Marcelo Ehrlich, TAU

13:30 – 13:55 **Assaf Vardi**, WIS
Viral infection in the ocean- A journey across scales

13:55 – 14:15 **Idan Frumkin**, TAU
Harnessing Random-Sequence Genes for Specific
and Broad Anti-Phage Defense in Bacteria

14:15 – 14:35 **Adi Stern**, TAU
Living on the Edge: Rapid Predation by the RNA
Phage MS2 and Parallel Resistance Mechanisms in *E. coli*

14:35 – 14:50 Coffee Break

SESSION 4: VIRUS-HOST INTERACTIONS

CHAIR: Itai Benhar, TAU

14:50 – 15:10 **Uri Gophna**, TAU
Virus-defense interactions in an archaeon

15:10 – 15:30 **Anat Herskovits**, TAU
Coordination of co-habiting phage elements in
Listeria monocytogenes

15:30 – 15:50 **Avigdor Eldar**, TAU
Listening on others - the role of communication in
phage lysis-lysogeny decisions

15:50 – 16:15 **Yael Litvak**, HUJI
A Shiga toxin-encoding prophage interferes with
the induction of co-hosted prophages

16:15 – 16:30 Closing words and rewards

Conference Chairs: Adi Stern • Uri Gophna • Anat Herskovits

Registration Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/QT7wtwwrDY>

Registration



Edmond J. Safra Center
for Bioinformatics
Tel Aviv University

The Ela Kodesz Institute for Research on Cancer
Development and Prevention, Tel Aviv University

S. Daniel Abraham Institute for Molecular Virology