



Edmond J. Safra Center
for Bioinformatics
Tel Aviv University

**The 20th Retreat of the Edmond J. Safra Center for Bioinformatics
May 6-7, 2026, Ye'arim Hotel**

PROGRAM

Wednesday (6/5/26):

08:00-8:15 *Gathering in gate no. 2 (Beit Ha'tfutzot). Buses depart at 8:30 sharp.*

10:00-10:30 *Arrival at Ye'arim hotel, coffee, name-tag distribution, and gathering in the lecture hall*

11:15-11:50 **Opening: Elhanan Borenstein**

11:50-12:30 **Zohar Yakhini**, School of Computer Science, Head of Machine Learning and Data Science Program, Reichman University, **Keynote talk**: A journey through synthesis and computational biology

12:30-12:45 **Ella Baumer** (Pupko lab): Adaptive deep reinforcement learning for phylogenetic tree reconstruction

12:45-14:00 *Lunch*

14:00-14:20 **David Amar**: Computational challenges in the research of the molecular biology of exercise

14:20-14:35 **Nadav Ben Nun** (Ram lab): Inferring a collective posterior distribution from highly variable experimental replicates

14:35-15:00 Flash talks by undergraduate students: **Shira Einy** (Shamir & Sharan labs), **Altar Horowitz** & **Ella Kaplan Grisaro** (Tuller lab)

15:00-15:30 **Poster 1st lightning session** (posters **1-28**)

15:30-17:00 **Poster 1st session** (posters **1-28**) *and coffee break*

17:00-19:00 *Break (room-key distribution)*

19:00-20:00 *Dinner*

20:00 *Social activity*



Edmond J. Safra Center
for Bioinformatics
Tel Aviv University

Thursday (7/5/26):

07:00-09:00 *Breakfast and checkout*

09:00-09:20 **Regev Schweiger**: Decoding genetic variation: From mechanisms to evolution

09:20-09:35 **Rachel Brandes-Leibovitz** (Gat-Viks lab): Clinically guided autoencoder for identifying multi-disease patterns

09:35-09:50 **Irena Girshovitz** (Gilad-Bachrach lab): Context-aware unit tests for EHR datasets: Because even your data needs debugging

09:50-11:15 **Mixer**: Challenges in research and studies

11:15-11:45 **Poster 2nd lightning session** (posters **29-55**)

11:45-13:15 **Poster 2nd session** (posters **29-55**) *and coffee break*

13:15-14:15 *Lunch*

14:15-14:35 **Miri Danan-Gotthold**: Early neurodevelopment at the single cell resolution

14:35-15:15 **Moran Yassour**, Faculty of Medicine and School of Computer Science, Head of Computer Science and Computational Biology program, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, **Keynote talk**: The infant gut microbiome - From computational tools to the bench and back

15:15-15:30 *Coffee break*

15:30-16:00 **Closing remarks** (announcement of best poster prize)

16:00-16:15 *Organization and bus departure to TAU*