Congratulations to all our students who presented posters and talks in the 18th Retreat of the Edmond J. Safra Center for Bioinformatics that took place on May 22-23 2024 in Ye’arim, Ma’ale Ha’chamisha. The posters reflect the scientific excellence, creativity, depth and breadth of the bioinformatics community at Tel Aviv University. To acknowledge the work done by the students, the retreat’s participants (students and PIs) reviewed the posters in each session and voted for the best ones.

We are happy to announce the awardees:

**Poster session I – 22/5/2024**

- **First place (1,000 NIS prize): Tal Bamberger** (Borenstein lab, Medicine)  
  “Phenotype-driven embedding of microbiome multi-omic data for characterizing disease progression”.

- **Second place: Edan Gabay** (Burstein lab, Life Sciences)  
  “NLP-Based detection of genetic editing in bacteria”.

- **Third place: Maya Metzger** (Borenstein lab, Computer Science)  
  “BLINCHESS - A novel league-based approach for studying differential abundance in microbiome data”.

**Poster session II – 23/5/2024**

- **First place (1,000 NIS prize): Adi Ben Zvi & Yael Maoz** (Stern lab, Life Sciences)  
  “Digging in big sequencing data of SARS-CoV-2: Identifying infection patterns”.

- **Second place: Shiri Baum** (Borenstein lab, Computer Science)  
  “Taxonomy-guided feature selection for microbiome cross-sectional data”.

- **Third place: Thomy Margalit** (Shamir lab, Computer Science)  
  “Fungi populations differ across races in many tumor types”.

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**Congratulations!!**  
**We are very proud of your achievements!**

The Retreat Committee