**Award ceremony for the Adelis Prize for Brain Research, awarded to Dr. Yaniv Ziv of the Weizmann Institute of Science**

**16 June 2019**

Esteemed President of TECHNION, Professor Peretz LAVIE

Esteemed President of the Board of Governors of TECHNION, Larry JACKIER

Members of the Board of Governors

Master of Ceremonies, esteemed Professor Na’ama Brenner

Representative of the jury members for the ADELIS Prize, esteemed Professor Jackie Schiller

Esteemed Chief Executive of TECHNION France, Muriel TOUATY

Esteemed Scientific Advisor to the ADELIS Foundation, Dov BARAK

Esteemed trustees of the ADELIS Foundation

Dr. Yaniv Ziv, our esteemed 2019 ADELIS Prize winner

Dear ALL,

We are delighted to be gathered here again at the Technion for the award ceremony of the 2019 Adelis Prize for Brain Research, which has been awarded this year to Dr. Yaniv Ziv of the Weizmann Institute of Science.

We are looking forward to hearing him speak in detail, in a short while, about his research work on “the stability and dynamics of neural codes for long-term memory”.

But before going on to say a few words, I would like to acknowledge our esteemed President, Albert Deloro and his wife Claude Deloro, who were unfortunately unable to travel to attend the ceremony this year. Our thoughts are with them.

As I usually do at these ceremonies, I’m going to speak to you about André Deloro zal and the legacy he left us: **“The Adelis Foundation”**. ADELIS stands for André DELORO ISRAEL.

For we may only continue to carry out our duty to communicate his philanthropic vision by continuing to tell his story. Indeed, in order to know where we are going, we must always remind ourselves of where we have come from.

I met André Deloro zal when I was working for the Rothschild bank, where I managed and administered his heritage for 25 years.

Having worked alongside one another all those years on his own business affairs, we eventually developed the strategy for the boldest project of his life: the creation of the Adelis Foundation.

André Deloro zal had very specific ideas about the goals of his Foundation and a real philanthropic strategy for the activity he wished to be carried out.

**His ultimate objective was to strengthen the state of Israel, which was so dear to him, through science, for the sake of our country’s security and the well-being of humanity.**

Unfortunately, André Deloro zal is no longer with us today. Myself and the other members of the Board of Directors **have a duty to continue working in the same direction, for the benefit of the Jewish People and the State of Israel.**

**André Deloro zal was convinced of the excellence of the scientific and medical research of Israel and its ability to innovate.**

André hoped that Israel would retain its legitimacy in the eyes of the United Nations. He thought that it was **and is our duty** to provide young generations with an excellent education, particularly in the scientific domain, as this is crucial to Israel’s security and survival.

The future of Israel depends solely on its youth; it is the youth of today who will build the world of tomorrow.

It is therefore essential to encourage young people to study, to continue to ask questions, to be curious and imaginative.

It is essential to enable students to study here in Israel in our Institutions, which are internationally renowned today.

It is essential to enable them to study with the best teachers and professors; this is a key priority for expanding the circles of excellence that Israel needs.

With this in mind, the ADELIS Foundation decided 5 years ago to award the Adelis Prize for Brain Research, intended to encourage excellence among young researchers.

The distinguished members of the jury, who I thank for their work and the time they have given, have selected Dr. Yaniv Ziv of the Weizmann Institute of Science from among other brilliant candidates.

I would like to congratulate Dr. Yaniv Ziv, on behalf of the President of the ADELIS Foundation and all the members of the Board of Directors, for this Prize that recognizes and encourages his continued research work.

The human brain is one of the most incredible and complex things that could possibly exist, and although the brain is an organ that is essential to life, it still remains a great mystery to scientists.

With his team, Dr. Ziv aims to identify the mechanisms and dynamics of the information encoding that underlies long-term memory.

The question of the organization of memory in the brain has concerned generations of thinkers, psychologists and psychoanalysts; and an understanding of these mechanisms has become a major goal for the international scientific community.

To deviate a little from the scientific context, I would like to share some thoughts with you about the question of the relationship between memory and identity:

**How is memory linked to the concept of identity?**

**Do I know who I am thanks to memory?**

**If my memory becomes impaired, does this mean that I will tend towards losing my identity?**

The legend goes that Napoleon Bonaparte was walking through the streets of Paris on the day of Tisha B’Av, when he came by a synagogue. Alarmed by the weeping and wailing sounds coming out of the place, he asked one of his men:

“What’s happening here? Why are these men crying?” His second in command explained that these Jewish people were mourning the destruction of their Temple.

Napoleon then inquired: “When did this tragedy occur?” “About 1,800 years ago” came the reply. And straightaway the emperor exclaimed: A people that can grieve the loss of their Temple for so long certainly deserve to return to their homeland and see their Temple rebuilt.”

**This brief story reminds us of the major role that memory plays in History and in the Jewish tradition, as a factor of identity.**

Esteemed Dr. Ziv, your research is of great importance, both for the implications of what it communicates and for the reflection it inspires.

As the Jewish people, we are duty bound to remember and to question ourselves about the forces which hamper our memory and identity.

To finish, we must make a joint effort in order to expand Israel’s circles of excellence, as you are already doing in all the research laboratories of the country, so that the Light continues to come out of Sion.

**Am Israël Hai.**