

May 8, 2025

Dear Tel Aviv University community – faculty, staff, students, Governors, and Friends of the TAU in Israel and worldwide,

Today, a special event took place at the University: the naming of the Faculty of Medical & Health Sciences, as well as of the School of Medicine and School of Medical Sciences, after the Gray family. The Gray Foundation has made a major gift of \$125 million to the University for the development and advancement of the Faculty. This is the largest donation ever received by Tel Aviv University and one of the largest ever made to an academic institution in Israel.

About half a year ago, I met for the first time in New York with Jon Gray, President of Blackstone, and presented him with Tel Aviv University and its needs. It did not take long for Jon and his wife, Mindy, to visit the University, be impressed by our Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences, and decide to support it.

The Gray family's generous gift will enable us to make a true "quantum leap" in both medical education and research. It will allow us to increase the number of medical students, including those from minority groups in Israel; bolster the high-quality research taking place at the University in medicine and related fields; and deepen our collaborations with 18 affiliated hospitals. Since our Faculty of Medical & Health Sciences is the largest of its kind in Israel, the Gray family's contribution will directly strengthen the national healthcare system and advance biomedical research throughout the country.

Mindy and Jon Gray's philanthropic efforts did not begin today. Through their family foundation, they provide access to education and health services for underprivileged children in New York, thereby promoting equal opportunities. They are also active in advancing research, treatment and prevention of breast and ovarian cancer associated with genetic mutations. Mindy and Jon are not only generous individuals, they are also humble, compassionate, and captivating in their personal charm. Their love for the State of Israel and the Jewish people is what motivates their support of the University, and their aim is to help Israeli society heal in the aftermath of the October 7th tragedy.

I would like to recognize the exceptional teamwork that brought this donation to fruition. I extend thanks to Professor Karen Avraham, Dean of the Gray Faculty of Medical & Health Sciences, to the Faculty's leadership and heads of schools, and to the faculty members and students who met with the Grays and made a great impression on them. Thanks to my deputy, Amos Elad, and to the University's CEO, Gady Frank, and their dedicated teams. Thanks to Julie Lipsett-Singer from American Friends of Tel Aviv University; to Danny Gillerman, a TAU Governor; and to Yifat Oron, President of the Israeli Friends of TAU, for their support and guidance. A special thank-you goes to the President of Israel, Mr. Isaac Herzog, and to his wife, Mrs. Michal Herzog – both alumni of the University – for honoring us with their presence at today's inauguration ceremony and for their unwavering support of the University and Israeli academia as a whole.

Since October 7th, we have all swung between hope and despair. Today is a day of hope. The Grays' decision to support us with such generosity moves us deeply. I believe that their act, which expresses great confidence in Tel Aviv University, will inspire other philanthropists in Israel and around the

world to support Israeli academia – recognizing it as an essential pillar of the State of Israel and a cornerstone of its continued survival and prosperity.

Today, we gained precious partners – the Gray family – we are profoundly grateful for the trust they have placed in us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Porat".

Prof. Ariel Porat

President of Tel Aviv University