

Weizmann Institute of Science Timeline and Milestones

April 3, 1934

The Daniel Sieff Research Institute

In 1934, [Dr. Chaim Weizmann](#) established the Daniel Sieff Research Institute in Rehovot and served as its President following a contribution by Israel and Rebecca Sieff to commemorate their son. As Weizmann pursued his research in the lab, the Institute attracted first-rate scientists from around the world.

1936

Weizmann House

Built in 1936, the [Weizmann House](#) was the private residence of Dr. Chaim Weizmann (1874-1952) and his wife Dr. Vera Weizmann (1881-1966). Designed by Erich Mendelsohn (1887-1953), the Weizmann House was his first project in the Land of Israel.

November 27, 1949

Weizmann Institute of Science

In 1949, on Dr. Chaim Weizmann's 75th birthday, and with the blessing of the Sieff family, the Sieff Institute was renamed the Weizmann Institute of Science. The new Institute consisted of departments of mathematics, physics, chemistry and life sciences.

November 2, 1952

Dr. Chaim Weizmann's Funeral

Dr. Chaim Weizmann passed away on November 2, 1952, at the age of 78. In accordance with his wishes, he was buried on the estate of his home in Rehovot.

January 1, 1954

WEIZAC - The First Electronic Computer in Israel

WEIZAC, one of the world's earliest electronic computers was designed and built at the Weizmann Institute. On December 5, 2006, WEIZAC was recognized by the IEEE as a milestone in the history of electrical engineering and computing, and the team who built it was awarded the "WEIZAC Medal."

October 6, 1956

Development of Amniocentesis

Weizmann Institute's Prof. Leo Sachs and his colleagues published a scientific paper that led to the [development of amniocentesis](#).

1957

Proving the Existence of Gluons

A group of Weizmann Institute scientists participate in research [proving the existence of gluons](#) - the particles responsible for the strongest force in nature: the force which holds the nucleus of the atom together.

October 27, 1958

The Feinberg Graduate School

[The Feinberg Graduate School](#) – the educational arm of the Weizmann Institute of Science – was founded in 1958. It awards MSc and PhD degrees and trains students for senior positions in academia, research, industry, education and administration.

1959

The First Technology Transfer Company in Israel

[Yeda Research and Development Company Ltd.](#), which promotes the industrial applications stemming from Weizmann Institute inventions, was founded in 1959. Although the focus of the Weizmann Institute is on basic research, it is no mistake that the first technology transfer company in the country was founded at the Weizmann Institute.

November 1, 1972

PERACH Tutoring Project

["PERACH"](#) (Hebrew for "Flower" as well as the acronym of "Tutoring Project"), currently administered by the Davidson Institute of Science Education, was initiated in 1972 by a handful of students from the Weizmann Institute of Science, who tutored children in need. Since then it has expanded enormously, both in scale and in the scope of its activities. Today, approximately 15% of all students in Israel's institutes of higher education and tens of thousands of children take part in the project each year. In 2008, on the occasion of Israel's 60th anniversary, PERACH was awarded the Israel Prize for its ongoing contribution to the state and to society.

1983

Cloning of the p53 Tumor Suppressor Gene

One of the most important tumor suppressor genes, p53, was [cloned](#) by a Weizmann Institute scientist, Prof. Moshe Oren. Defective copies of this gene are found in more than half of all human cancers.

1993

Original Method for Bone Marrow Transplantation

The first leukemia patient was successfully treated in Italy using a [method developed by Prof. Yair Reisner](#) for bone marrow transplants from mismatched donors.

1993

Discovering the Molecular Structure of AChE

Profs Joel Sussman and Israel Silman discovered the molecular 3-D structure of the enzyme acetylcholinesterase (AChE), which breaks down acetylcholine, a substance involved in Alzheimer's disease.

November 7, 1996

A.M. Turing Award 1996

Weizmann Institute of Science's Mathematician, the late [Prof. Amir Pnueli, received the 1996 A.M. Turing Award](#) - the world's most prestigious prize in computer science – for “seminal work introducing temporal logic into computing science and for outstanding contributions to program and system verification.” He is one of three members of the Weizmann Institute to receive the prestigious award; the others are Profs. [Adi Shamir \(2002\)](#) and [Shafi Goldwasser \(2013\)](#).

January 6, 1997

Israel's First Ethical (Original) Drug For Multiple Sclerosis

Copaxone, a drug for multiple sclerosis [developed at the Weizmann Institute](#), was [approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#).

1999

The Davidson Institute of Science Education

[The Davidson Institute of Science Education](#) – the educational arm of the Weizmann Institute of Science – was established in 1999. The Davidson Institute specializes in the field of mathematics, natural science and technology education, exploiting knowledge and experience gained from implementing a wide variety of programs in areas such as teachers' training, science programs for school classes, unconventional programs for teens at risk and teens with low academic achievements and popular science programs for the general public.

2002

A.M. Turing Award 2002

[Prof. Adi Shamir](#), a computer scientist at the Weizmann Institute of Science, is recipient of the 2002 A.M. Turing Award, in recognition of his contributions to cryptography. He is one of three members of the Weizmann Institute to receive the prestigious award; the others are the late [Prof. Amir Pnueli \(1996\)](#) and [Prof. Shafi Goldwasser \(2013\)](#).

June 23, 2003

Non-Invasive Method for the Detection of Breast and Prostate Cancer

[3TP, a non-invasive, MRI-based diagnostic method](#) developed by the Weizmann Institute's Prof. Hadassa Degani, received FDA clearance for use in the detection of breast and prostate cancer.

July 19, 2006

Positioning of Nucleosomes Discovered

Prof. Eran Segal revealed that the [positioning of the nucleosomes](#) – spheres of DNA strung like beads along the length of the chromosomes – is encoded in the genes themselves. This discovery may help in designing gene therapies.

March 19, 2008

“Evolution” in a Test Tube

A team of Weizmann scientists headed by Prof. Dan Tawfik succeeded in [designing artificial enzymes that undergo “evolution” in a test tube](#), improving their reaction rates a million-fold.

April 17, 2008

“Quasiparticles”

A team of Weizmann physicists headed by Prof. Moty Heiblum demonstrated, for the first time, [the existence of “quasiparticles” with one-quarter the charge of an electron](#). This finding could be a step toward creating exotic types of quantum computers.

April 3, 2009

Green Chemical Reactions

A technique invented in 2009 by Prof. David Milstein and his group [splits water into oxygen and hydrogen using light](#). In 2012, [Milstein was awarded the Israel Prize for chemistry and physics](#) for his work on catalysts that effect efficient, low-waste, green chemical reactions.

December 10, 2009

Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2009

Weizmann Institute researcher [Prof. Ada Yonath was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry](#) for her work on deciphering the structure of the ribosome, the cell’s protein factory. The achievement helps, among other things, to clarify the exact mode of action of antibiotic drugs and may facilitate the development of improved antibiotics.

2013

A.M. Turing Award 2013

[Prof. Shafi Goldwasser is awarded an A.M. Turing Award](#) for “transformative work that laid the complexity-theoretic foundations for the science of [cryptography](#).” She is the third member of the Weizmann Institute to receive the prestigious award; the others are the late [Prof. Amir Pnueli \(1996\)](#) and [Prof. Adi Shamir \(2002\)](#).

July 10, 2014

The First “Photonic Router”

Dr. Barak Dayan [demonstrates the first “photonic router,”](#) in which one photon controls the direction of another. This switching mechanism could, in the future, form the basis of quantum computing technology.

November 11, 2014 **Nancy and Stephen Grand Israel National Center for Personalized Medicine**

A facility for personalized medicine to advance research in biomedicine, from basic research to drug design – [the Nancy and Stephen Grand Israel National Center for Personalized Medicine](#) – opens on the Weizmann Institute campus.