



Northwestern  
University

**Michael H. Schill**  
President

April 5, 2024

Dear colleagues,

I am thrilled that the 2024 Northwestern University-Tel Aviv University workshop in engineering is taking place on Northwestern's campus. The partnership between Tel Aviv University (TAU) and Northwestern is deeply valued by our community, and the scholarship and exchange of ideas that emerge from this relationship have the potential to make a tremendous impact far beyond our campuses.

What is particularly exciting for me as Northwestern's president is that the objectives of the workshop align with two of our major institutional priorities: to extend and improve the quality of human life by advancing the biosciences, and to lead in decarbonization, renewable energy and sustainability, tackling the existential threat posed by climate change through research and innovation.

The 22 speakers from TAU and 21 from Northwestern gathering at this workshop will address these priorities from every angle, diving into topics such as water treatment, soft materials, mini robots, regenerative medicine, optical materials, metallic alloys, green energy and more.

Most compelling is the promise of new knowledge that goes hand in hand with the meeting of great minds. All of us in academia strive to make a difference. But we realize that operating in a vacuum will never get us there. In order to make significant progress, we must work together. And that is where the true power of the workshop lies.

I congratulate all of the esteemed scientists who are participating in this, the fifth year of collective learning, sharing and discovery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael H. Schill".

Michael H. Schill, President  
Professor of Law  
Professor of Finance & Real Estate  
Northwestern University

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the upcoming NU-TAU workshop in engineering that marks the fifth in our ongoing series. As President of Tel Aviv University, I am excited to witness the evolution of this partnership, which has grown and flourished since its inception in February 2015.

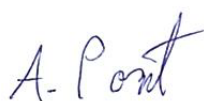
The significance of this workshop series is great. It has been instrumental in fostering an array of academic achievements, ranging from co-authored high-impact publications to successful grant acquisitions from BSF and BSF-NSF. Moreover, it has led to an exchange of students and faculty that has enriched academic life on both campuses.

With 22 confirmed speakers from TAU and 21 from NU, this year's workshop promises to broaden the scope of our collaboration. The workshop will encompass an extensive range of topics, including water treatment, soft materials, mini robots, regenerative medicine, thin films, optical materials, materials characterization, metallic alloys, and green energy.

I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the warm support shown by NU engineering faculty in the wake of the horrific events of October 7<sup>th</sup>. We are deeply grateful for these expressions of kindness and solidarity.

I am confident that this workshop will serve as a catalyst for further innovation and collaboration between our institutions. I extend my warmest wishes for a productive and inspiring conference.

Sincerely,



Prof. Ariel Porat

May 2024

Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Northwestern for the fifth Tel Aviv University-Northwestern University workshop, which centers around the theme “Advanced Materials for the Future: Processing, Characterization and Applications.”

With more than 40 conferees from both institutions, this is the largest gathering since the program started in 2015. I am thrilled with the success of this conference, which is a testament to the incredible researchers who work tirelessly to advance their fields for the betterment of our world.

The fruits of this partnership are many, including the securing of Binational Science Foundation and National Science Foundation grants as well as informal scientific interactions that have led to impactful articles in the archival literature.

The workshops are endowed by Lester Crown, who himself studied chemical engineering at Northwestern’s McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science. He has since become a well-known industrialist, philanthropist and a Northwestern Life Trustee. Lester will turn 98 on June 7, 2024, just a few weeks after this terrific event.

I want to reiterate how proud we are to host this inspiring group of scholars on our Evanston campus. I look forward to learning more about the innovations that will be addressed and advanced by this invaluable collaboration, and I wish you all a productive conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen Hagerty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kathleen Hagerty  
Provost and Professor

April 7, 2024

April 7, 2024

Dear Participants,

I'm excited to express my strong support for the continued collaboration between Tel Aviv University and Northwestern University.

This collaboration has been a major source of satisfaction for TAU and the upcoming joint conference on material science and engineering that planned for May 20-23, 2024 is particularly exciting. I am confident that the upcoming event will be just as successful as its predecessors in fostering valuable relationships and advancing research.

I want to thank you for initiating these activities and organizing them. Such endeavors always play a key role in promoting science.

Best wishes,



Mark Shtaif

Rector

**Eric J. Perreault, PhD**

Vice President for Research  
Professor, Biomedical Engineering  
Professor, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
Northwestern University  
633 Clark Street, Room 2509  
Evanston, IL 60208

**Northwestern** | RESEARCH

Dear faculty participants,

As you gather in Evanston for the fifth iteration of the Northwestern University—Tel Aviv University Workshop, I am grateful for our institutions' continued collaboration.

This workshop series, a unique platform for international cooperation and academic excellence, has grown in scope and impact since its inception in 2015. This year's workshop, the largest to date with over 40 participants, is a testament to the vibrant and growing interest in our collaborative endeavors. It also underscores the strength of the scientific program focused on the exploration of advanced materials and their promise to drive future pioneering discovery and innovation. These accomplishments reflect the dedication and hard work of our esteemed faculty members.

This forum, a testament to the power of philanthropy, was made possible thanks to a generous endowment from Lester Crown, a distinguished alumnus of Northwestern's McCormick School of Engineering and a great supporter of our institutions. As we mark his upcoming 98th birthday, we are reminded of the lasting impact that one person's vision and philanthropy can have on fostering scientific inquiry and collaboration. Lester Crown's commitment to education and research excellence has not only enabled these workshops to continue perpetually but has also served as a bridge between Northwestern and Tel Aviv University faculty, facilitating groundbreaking research in engineering and the sciences.

As you embark on this week's discussions and explorations, honor Lester Crown's legacy by redoubling our dedication to pursuing knowledge and innovation. The NU-TAU workshops are more than just a series of meetings; they are a tangible sign of international collaboration, a catalyst for high-impact research, and a celebration of the shared commitment to advancing science for the betterment of humanity.

I look forward to the insights from your discussions and further strengthening the bond between Northwestern and Tel Aviv University.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EJP', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Eric J. Perreault  
Vice President for Research  
Northwestern University

April 2024

Dear conference participants,

I am pleased to extend my support for the 5<sup>th</sup> NU-TAU workshop, "Advanced Materials for the Future: Processing, Characterization and Applications," on May 20th. This workshop, which brings together esteemed speakers from Northwestern University and Tel Aviv University, students, and postdocs, promises to be a pivotal event in fostering collaboration and advancing research in materials science.

The NU-TAU workshop series has been instrumental in strengthening the ties between our institutions since its inception in February 2015. The previous workshops have facilitated valuable scientific exchanges and paved the way for collaborative endeavors, as evidenced by the numerous joint scientific articles and successful grant applications, including those from the Binational Science Foundation (BSF) and the National Science Foundation.

As we continue to navigate the frontiers of materials science, collaborations such as the NU-TAU workshop will propel innovation and drive progress. I have no doubt that this fifth workshop will further enrich our scientific community, foster meaningful interactions, and catalyze new avenues of innovative research.

I wish you a successful and productive workshop and look forward to the valuable insights and outcomes that will emerge from this gathering/

I wish all of you a pleasant and stimulating workshop.

Sincerely,  
Prof. Dan Peer



# Northwestern

WEINBERG COLLEGE  
OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Office of the Dean

Northwestern University  
Judd A. and Marjorie Weinberg College  
of Arts and Sciences  
Office of the Dean  
1918 Sheridan Road  
Evanston, Illinois 60208

April 2024

Dear Attendees:

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the fifth Northwestern-Tel Aviv University joint workshop, *Advanced Materials for the Future: Processing, Characterization and Applications*.

As dean of Weinberg College, it is my honor to oversee nearly 700 faculty whose work traverses the breadth of disciplines in the arts and sciences. While there are ways that scholarship may differ, I am struck by those values that draw us together, notably our pursuit of better understanding and our drive to share our creative discoveries. The collaborations spurred within such a vibrant interdisciplinary community are essential to the advancement of knowledge.

I am delighted to see this year's workshop is the largest yet, with a number of faculty in our Department of Chemistry participating, including Teri Odom, Nathan Gianneschi, Tobin Marks, Monica Olvera de la Cruz, Ted Sargent, and Sam Stupp.

Events like this do not happen without significant planning. I extend my special thanks to the workshop chairs, Professors David Seidman, Michael Bedzyk, and Ariel Ismach, and the many other faculty and administrators who have led the efforts to organize this workshop.

I hope that you enjoy your time in Evanston and wish you a highly productive workshop.

Best,



Adrian W.B. Randolph  
Dean  
H.W. Rogers Professor of the Humanities  
Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences  
Northwestern University

April 12, 2024

Dear Attendees:

On behalf of Northwestern University's Robert R. McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Northwestern-Tel Aviv University joint workshop. As a materials scientist myself, I am particularly delighted to see this year's theme "Advanced Materials for the Future: Processing, Characterization, and Applications."

After arriving at Northwestern in August, I was delighted to see the strong ties between Northwestern and Tel Aviv University, two centers of excellence. This workshop – the fifth of its kind – is a unique platform to advance our global collaborations, and I am grateful to all who have traveled such long distances to join in our discussions.

Events such as this do not happen without significant planning. I give special thanks to co-chairs Professors David Seidman, Michael Bedzyk, and Ariel Ismach, as well as the many other faculty and staff who have led the efforts to host this workshop.

I also want to thank Lester Crown, whose generous support provides the means to host these workshops. Lester's vision for enhanced collaboration between our institutions has resulted in powerful research innovation, and I am certain that this workshop will further build on our partnership.

I hope that you enjoy your time here at Northwestern and wish you a highly productive and invigorating workshop.

Best regards,



Christopher A. Schuh  
Dean, Robert R. McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science  
John G. Searle Professor of Materials Science and Engineering





The Iby and Aladar Fleischman  
Faculty of Engineering  
Tel Aviv University

הפקולטה להנדסה  
ע"ש איבי ואלדר פליישמן  
אוניברסיטת תל אביב

April 8, 2024

Dear Participants,

I am delighted to welcome you to The Fifth Northwestern University–Tel Aviv University workshop (NU, May 20–23, 2024). I had the privilege of co-chairing the first three workshops with Prof. David Seidman.

This workshop follows the First (TAU, 2015), [Second](#) (NU, 2016), [Third](#) (NU, 2018), and [Fourth](#) (TAU, 2022) workshops. This workshop series initiative was part of a white paper suggesting collaborations between the departments of materials science and engineering of both institutes, which was drafted during my sabbatical in Prof. Seidman's group at NU (2012-13). The original idea was quickly expanded to additional academic units on both campuses. I am delighted to see the success of this joint workshop series, which has led to a broad spectrum of scientific collaborations between NU and TAU Engineering, including co-authored high-impact publications, joint BSF and BSF-NSF grants, student exchange, and faculty's sabbaticals.

The theme of the 5th joint workshop is "Advanced Materials for the Future: Processing, Characterization, and Applications." I was delighted to learn that this workshop will have the largest attendance so far.

Holding this workshop in the backdrop of the war (which has hopefully ended, or near to an end by the time you read this) reaffirms that our partnership is rooted in mutual values, the support of freedom, democracy, and human rights, even when the fight for these values is difficult. We are extremely grateful for those at Northwestern University who have supported Israel during these challenging times, and look forward to continuing our extremely fruitful collaboration with you.

Sincerely,

Noam Eliaz  
Dean of Engineering  
Founder, Department of Materials Science and  
Engineering

האקדמיה הצעירה הישראלית  
الأكاديمية الشابّة الإسرائيلية  
THE ISRAEL YOUNG ACADEMY

