



November 20, 2014

To: **Faculty Members and Department Heads**

From: Prof. Gadi Schuster, VP for Academic Affairs

Dear All,

RE: Social Activities & Initiatives for Postdoctoral Fellows

As part of our efforts to increase the number of postdoctoral students from abroad at the Technion, we have considerably increased the number of social activities and services offered to international postdocs and expanded existing ones, to help postdocs get settled comfortably and integrate into the wider

Technion community. Some of the additions include assistance with finding adequate housing. These activities are coordinated by the staff of the Technion International and the Office for Academic Affairs. A Postdoc Social Guide has been appointed to assist international postdocs with their acclimation, including housing issues. Our Postdoc Social Guide is Mr. Alex Lerner and he can be contacted at: lernal.x@gmail.com.

An official welcome event for international postdocs will take place at the movie theater located at the Student Center on November 26, 2014, at 17:30. The event will open with a welcome note by the Technion President, followed by an eye-opening lecture by Prof. Uri Alon from the Weizmann Institute on the topic of "The Subjective and Emotional Side of Doing Science." The first postdoc trip, a day tour of Israel's northern sites, was a tremendous success, as was the interactive "Relocation" workshop. Additional social events will be held throughout the year.

Furthermore, an agreement has been reached with ASAT to offer postdoctoral fellows collective membership to the student association. All fellows will receive a student ID card that will entitle them to many benefits afforded to regular Technion students, including free use of the Technion pool.

We believe that these activities and services will enhance our efforts to significantly increase the number of postdoctoral students at the Technion.

Sincerely,

Gadi Schuster

Prof. Gadi Schuster