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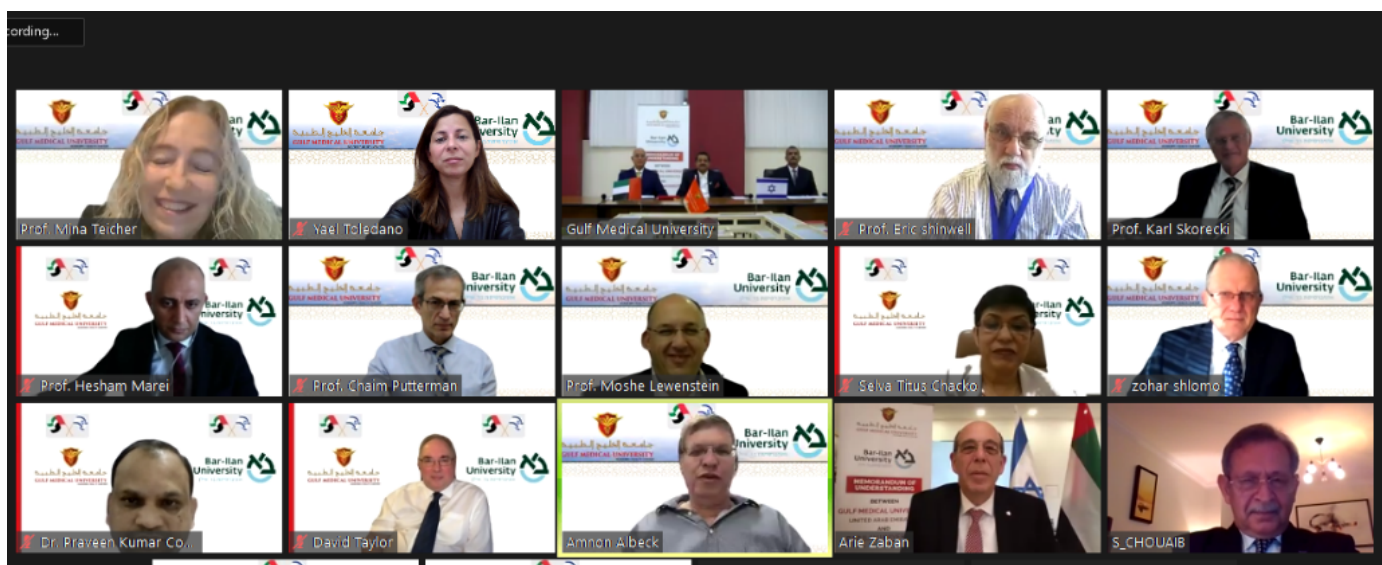
Dear Friends of Bar-Ilan,

It with a sense of deep pride and excitement that I am writing to announce the signing today of an agreement between Bar-Ilan University and the United Arab Emirates' Gulf Medical University for collaborative research and education. The fruits of forward-thinking, strategic efforts between the leadership of our Azrieli Faculty of Medicine and their counterparts at Gulf Medical—one of the leading private medical universities in the Middle East—this agreement underscores the potential of the Abraham Accords to advance multiple fields and industries in both our countries, and of Bar-Ilan to play a key part in the opportunities the Accords present.

The collaboration between our two universities will include the exchange of researchers and students at the graduate and undergraduate levels; joint academic programs in the fields of medical science, medical education, and health-systems administration; and the publication of joint academic studies. Among the possible areas of cooperation are tissue engineering and 3D bioprinting, a specialty of the Azrieli Faculty's Prof. Samer Srouji, who is also head of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and the Musculoskeletal Bioengineering Laboratory in the Galilee Medical Center. Indeed, he and Prof. Hesham Fathi Marei, dean of the College of Dentistry at Gulf Medical University, have already collaborated on a soon-to-be-published study on the effect of COVID-19 on physicians and dentists—heralding a new era of medical studies co-authored by researchers from Israel and the UAE. Our two universities will also focus on population health, an area in which the Azrieli Faculty, which serves the Galilee's diverse and largely disadvantaged communities, has particular expertise.



Undoubtedly today's signing ceremony, attended by members of the management of both universities and by Prof. Karl Skorecki, dean of the Azrieli Medical Faculty, was the culmination of many months of laying important groundwork. At the same time, it is merely the start of our shared efforts to build a bridge across the region through teaching and goal-oriented research. I look forward to updating all of you in the years ahead on the results of this collaboration and the ways it is changing our part of the world, and even the world at large, for the better.



Best regards,

*A. Zaban*

Arie Zaban