



Edmond J. Safra Center
for Bioinformatics
Tel Aviv University

Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

CENTER for
COMPUTATIONAL
BIOLOGY

The Koret Berkeley Tel Aviv University Initiative in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics (KBTI) Announcing the awardees of joint research grants from the fourth annual call

The KBT Initiative issues annual calls for Joint Research Grants in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, to enable collaborations between researchers at the Center for Computational Biology at UC Berkeley and the Edmond J. Safra Center for Bioinformatics at TAU.

Each proposal submitted to the fourth annual call was reviewed by at least five UCB and TAU researchers. Recommendations were made by this year's grant committee of Steven Brenner (UCB) and Adi Stern (TAU), and final decisions were made by the KBTI Steering Committee.

We are excited to announce the grant awardees:

Full grants awardees:

Priya Moorjani (Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, UCB)

Viviane Slon (Faculty of Medicine, TAU)

Research title: *"Reconstructing our evolutionary past using sediment DNA: Best practices and Applications"*

Yun Song (Departments of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences, UCB)

Tamir Tuller (Faculty of Engineering, TAU)

Research title: *"Improving prediction of missense and silent variant effect by leveraging protein language models and biophysical modeling"*

Wayne Getz (Department Environmental Science Policy & Management, UCB)

Orr Spiegel (School of Zoology, TAU)

Sivan Toledo (School of Computer Science, TAU)

Research title: *"Computational tools for processing, analyzing and modeling high-resolution animal movement data"*

Seed grant awardees:

Nilah Ioannidis (Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences, UCB)

Noam Shomron (Faculty of Medicine, TAU)

Research title: *"Deep learning methods for clinical variant interpretation"*

The total sum awarded to new grants this year is \$340,000, with a similar amount expected in the second year for the full grants.

An additional sum of \$192,000 is awarded to continuing full grants from last year (see here).

To date, the KBTI has awarded over \$2,000,000 in collaborative grant funds.

Congratulations to the awardees!

Thanks to the applicants and reviewers. The fifth call for KBTI grants is expected in Fall 2022.

KBTI PIs: Steven Brenner (UCB) and Ron Shamir (TAU)

The KBTI advances breakthroughs in biomedical and information technologies by fostering research collaborations between UCB and TAU researchers. The collaborations develop computational tools that integrate patient genetic, genomic and other data for advancing basic biology as well as precision medicine. In addition to joint research grants, KBTI supports travel grants, workshops and a joint summer program. This year KBTI has two sessions within the HUGO Human Genome Meeting in Tel Aviv.

KBTI is generously funded by the Koret Foundation.