Aufzien Family Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Parkinson's Disease Awardees of the Scientific Prize

We are pleased to announce the recipients of this year's prestigious awards from the Aufzien Family Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Parkinson's Disease.

Please join us in congratulating **Prof. Daniel Offen** and **Dr. Inbal Maidan** for their outstanding contributions to Parkinson's disease research and patient care.

Established Scientist Prize
Prof. Daniel Offen

Department of Human Genetics and Biochemistry, Gray Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences; Felsenstein Medical Research Center at Rabin Medical Center, Tel Aviv University

Prof. Offen is a leading expert in molecular and cellular neuroscience, renowned for his pioneering work in Parkinson's disease research. His groundbreaking discoveries have identified critical mechanisms by which oxidative stress and apoptosis contribute to dopaminergic neuron degeneration. By pinpointing key neuroprotective proteins, he has unveiled novel therapeutic targets essential for neuronal preservation. Prof. Offen has also advanced the use of mesenchymal stem cells and stem-cell-derived exosomes in preclinical models, demonstrating their potential to replace damaged neurons, mitigate neuroinflammation, and restore motor function. His innovations have resulted in multiple patents and the founding of biotech companies, helping translate research into promising clinical therapies to protect and regenerate brain cells affected by Parkinson's disease.

Junior Scientist Prize
Dr. Inbal Maidan

Laboratory for Early Markers of Neurodegeneration (LEMON), Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center

Dr. Maidan is a senior researcher in the Laboratory for Early Markers of Neurodegeneration and Director of the Brain Electrophysiology and Epilepsy Lab at the Neurology Institute. Her research focuses on uncovering neural mechanisms underlying motor and cognitive dysfunction in Parkinson's disease, utilizing advanced electrophysiological techniques such as EEG, TMS, and real-time neural recordings. She is pioneering methods to identify neural signatures during real-time ambulation, guiding personalized therapeutic strategies. Dr. Maidan's work has directly contributed to new interventions that improve cognitive and motor functions, daily life, and overall quality of life for patients. Her internationally recognized research continues to shape the future of precision therapies for Parkinson's disease.