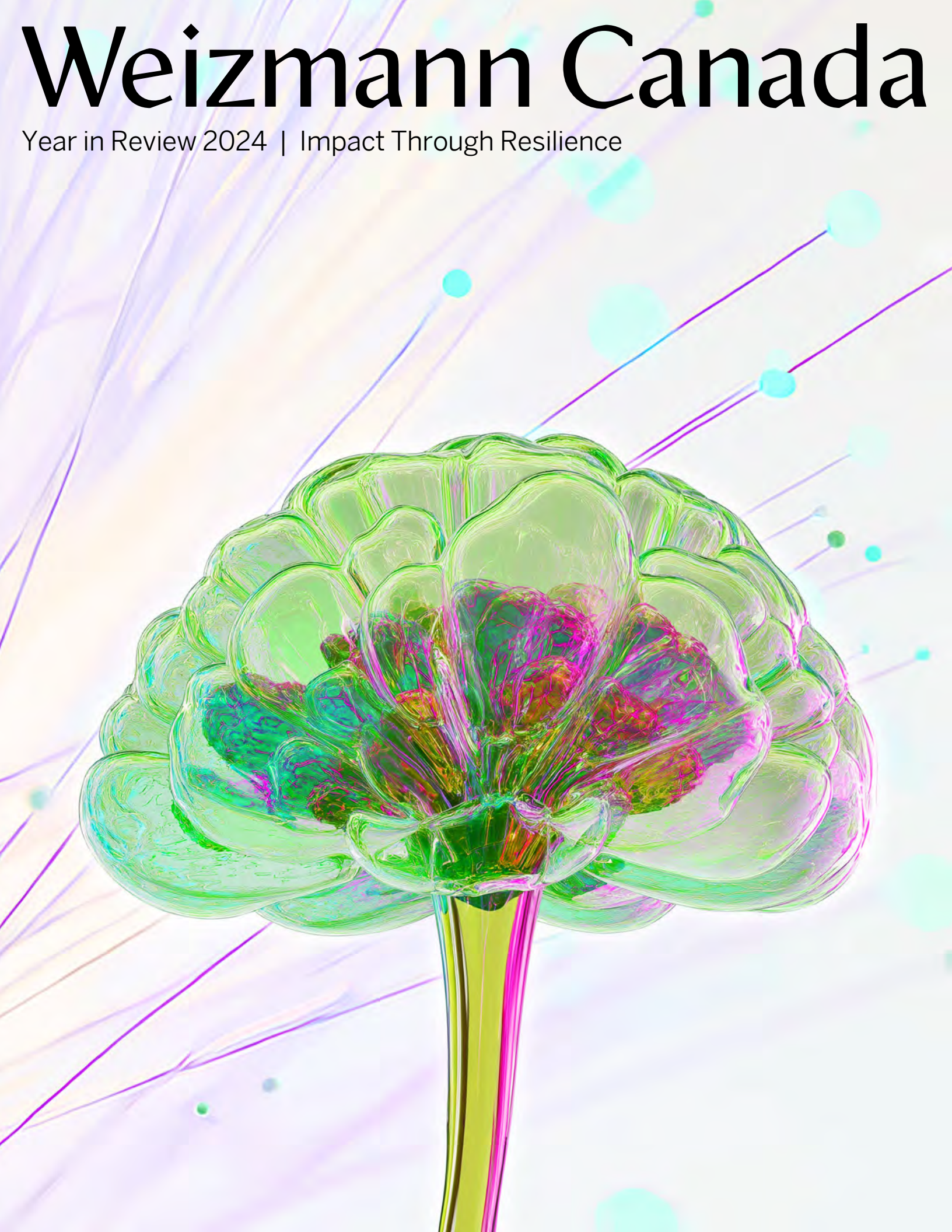
Weizmann Canada

Year in Review 2024 | Impact Through Resilience



Clore Garden of Science

Last year saw the reopening of the Weizmann Institute's iconic Clore Garden of Science: 14,200 square metres of reimagined indoor and outdoor space for hands-on exploration.

Reflecting the vision of the Davidson Institute of Science Education, the Clore Garden blends art and nature to promote scientific literacy and nurture a love of science. It welcomed more than 30,000 visitors of all ages in July and August 2024 alone, redefining how the public engages with science.

Photo credit: Sarit Goffen

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"As Weizmann Canada celebrates 60 years, we reaffirm that ethos. Our proactive mindset and clarity of vision has allowed discovery and innovation to flourish, even as the world around us felt precarious."

Letter From the Weizmann Canada CEO & Board of Directors' Chair

Resilience is a powerful human quality; at Weizmann, it is woven into our DNA. It stems from our values and core mission, which ground us in science, curiosity, and collaboration for the benefit of people everywhere.

As Weizmann Canada celebrates 60 years, we reaffirm that ethos. Our proactive mindset and clarity of vision has allowed discovery and innovation to flourish, even as the world around us felt precarious.

Resilience is also rooted in community, in our generous Weizmann family and in those who are part of a globe-spanning alliance of science champions.

Across all our supporters—multi-generational families, volunteers, and science enthusiasts from coast to coast to coast—there is a shared understanding that philanthropy is not only about giving. It is also—and more fundamentally—about investing in hope for a better world through science, knowing that it will benefit generations to come.

We don't have to look far to be inspired. Among many examples of generosity in 2024, we are grateful for the philanthropic leadership shown by Laurent and Nathalie Amar, Danielle Bitton and Raphy Benbaron, and everyone else who supported the ABC Canadian Quantum Foundry. We are so excited about the breakthroughs they will help bring to life.

With your generosity and belief in the power of science, Weizmann Canada and the Weizmann Institute of Science will remain strong and focused on bold and boundless exploration to shape the future of humanity.

Susan Stern
CEO

Dr. Arthur Slutsky
Chair, National Board of Directors

Welcoming Our New National Board Chair

In 2024, Dr. Arthur Slutsky, a scientist, engineer, and pulmonary and critical care doctor at Toronto's Unity Health, was appointed as Weizmann Canada's Board Chair. He assumed the mantle from Jeffrey Cohen, who held the role for eight years. A board member since 2017, Art is excited to build on Jeffrey's work and impact.

Chief among Art's aims are stewarding more collaborations between Weizmann and Canadian researchers and leveraging the knowledge and experience of fellow board members in leading initiatives about which they are passionate.

For Art—who in June 2025 was inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame—it is about helping people understand the importance of basic science. "Weizmann has an impact on humanity by helping us to understand how the world works," he said. "From the brain to clean energy to the farthest galaxies, it is basic research that will provide innovative discoveries that can be translated to improve the world."

Mrs. Myra and Dr. Arthur Slutsky during their first visit to the Weizmann Institute in 2017.

At Our Core

Mission

Weizmann Canada is a community of people who promote science for the future of humanity, raising awareness and generating support for the outstanding research being done at the Weizmann Institute of Science.

Vision

A better world one question at a time

Values

Joy of Science
Hope in Action
Curiosity
Collaboration
Respect

History

Established in 1934 by Dr. Chaim Weizmann, in 2024 the Weizmann Institute of Science celebrated its 90th anniversary as one of the world's leading multidisciplinary basic research institutions in the natural and exact sciences.

Weizmann Canada is marking 60 years of partnership with philanthropic Canadians, a testament to the power of collaboration in advancing scientific discovery at the Institute. Founded in 1964, it now operates chapters in four provinces.

Weizmann Canada 2024

85 corporations & organizations supported science for the benefit of humanity

$20.8 million in donations received

83 cents of every dollar (or more) raised directly supports science

48 projects and programs supported at the Institute

$2.9 million Cdn and **$1** million US in new pledges

18 in-person & **7** online events

1,277 event attendees

Weizmann Institute of Science 2024

#5 in European Research Council (ERC) grant approvals based on total grants awarded by the ERC since 2007

#10 in Leiden Ranking of research quality and impact

1,439 studies published in scientific journals

988 collaborations initiated with institutions outside of Israel

406,000 times Weizmann-affiliated articles published from January 2023 to September 2024 have been cited

126 total centres and institutes

106 patents awarded

2,621 total staff

Top 10 Canadian Trending Topics

Weizmann Canada's most popular stories about basic science discoveries from the Institute in 2024, based on your website views

1

Ants acting as a group are smarter than humans and ace a cooperation challenge

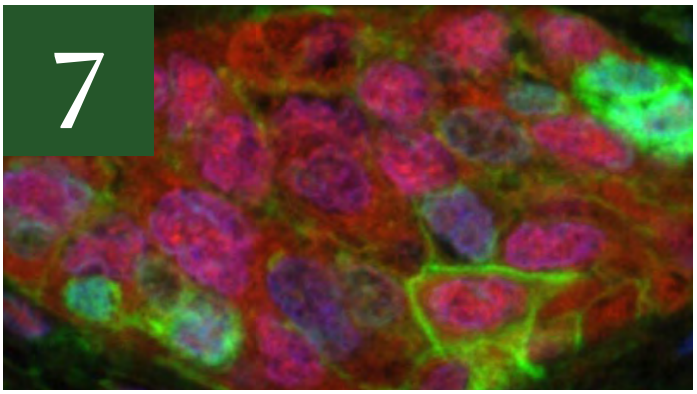
4

Aided by **artificial intelligence**, a method for tracking the effects of psychedelics on zebrafish may lead to improved therapies for depression and other mood disorders

5

Weizmann-developed Copaxone, a blockbuster **drug to treat multiple sclerosis**, could also help the heart recover after an attack

7

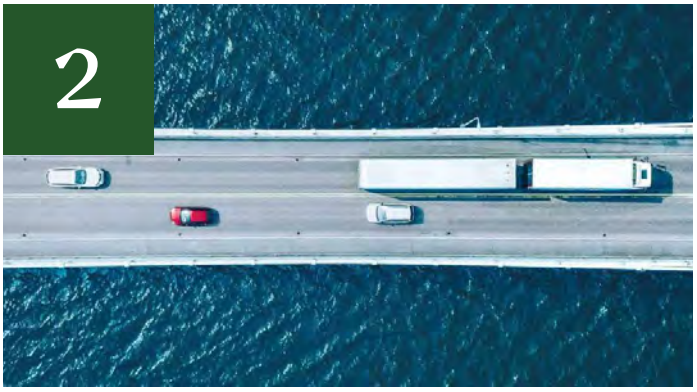


Scientists find **immunotherapy** can be used to rid the body of aging cells, clearing a path for new treatments for cancer, age-related diseases, and chronic inflammation

8

A new **composite plastic** that degrades easily using bacteria is cheap, edible, and strong and might help battle the global plastic-waste crisis

2



Antibody treatment blocks the building of molecular "bridges," thereby boosting the immune system and inhibiting progression of aggressive breast cancer, with implications for personalized medicine

3

A **novel MRI method** using altered glucose could make it easier to detect pancreatic cancer sooner by "lighting up" tumours

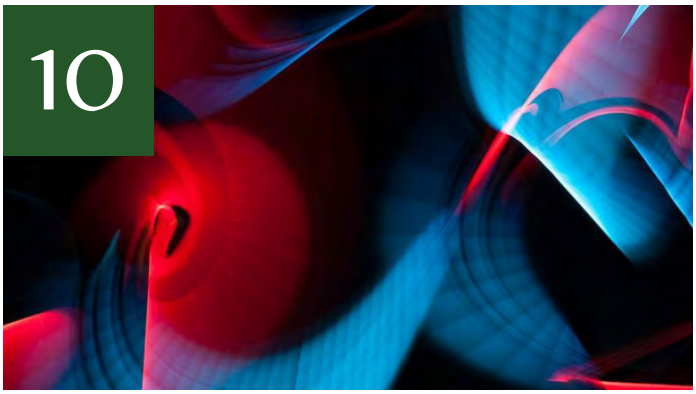
6

First evidence that human activity, like human-made emissions of greenhouse gases, is behind the weakening of **storm tracks**, which can lead to extreme heat events

9

Researchers develop a new way to track the **giant viruses** that infect tiny algae and can harm our oceans, atmosphere, and earth

10



A surprising discovery: **Colliding photons** create vortices and may improve data processing in quantum computing

Spotlight on Women Trailblazers

Reimagining video with AI

Dr. Tali Dekel's research with Google led to the development of Lumiere, a text-to-video model designed to portray realistic, diverse, and coherent motion in video. The model generates 80 frames per video sequence lasting about three seconds, resulting in high-quality and consistent videos with no gaps between frames. With just a short text prompt or reference photo, the model can produce or edit videos with natural, convincing movement. "My goal is to enhance the way that we see the world, to give us more creativity and even a new kind of interaction with the visual data," she said.

Dr. Tali Dekel, a world leader in artificial intelligence at Weizmann and a Google researcher, created a text-to-video model that can make convincing renderings like this one.

Prof. Rivka Dikstein's lab has found two small molecules that can cross the blood-brain barrier and slow the progression of Huntington's disease in mice.

Hope for Huntington's

Prof. Rivka Dikstein's team has discovered two small molecules that can cross the blood-brain barrier in mice, slowing and even reversing the effects of Huntington's disease, which has no cure. The team's painstaking basic research whittled 17 potentially effective molecules to the final two, which reduced the levels of a defective protein that causes Huntington's disease and delayed the disease's progress. "While other experimental treatments require repeated brain or spinal surgery, these molecules, delivered orally or by means of an injection, could pave the way for an effective and safe treatment of Huntington's disease," she said.

Engineering the nervous system

Researchers from the University of Michigan and Weizmann have developed the first complete central nervous system, from brain to spinal cord, on a chip. Using stem cells and a special chip, they guided the growth of organoids—miniature, simplified organs—that mimic how the nervous system forms in the embryo. "We saw perfect order along the entire length of the central nervous system, just as it appears in the early embryonic stage," Prof. Orly Reiner, one of the study's co-authors, said. She is already using the chip to study how genetic diseases affect brain development.

Weizmann's Alfredo-Isaac Ponce-Arias and Prof. Orly Reiner were part of the team that created the first full central nervous system on a chip.

Bonus content:
How do stem cells form human neural tube-like structures in real time?

Watch here

Mapping the Universe, One Discovery at a Time

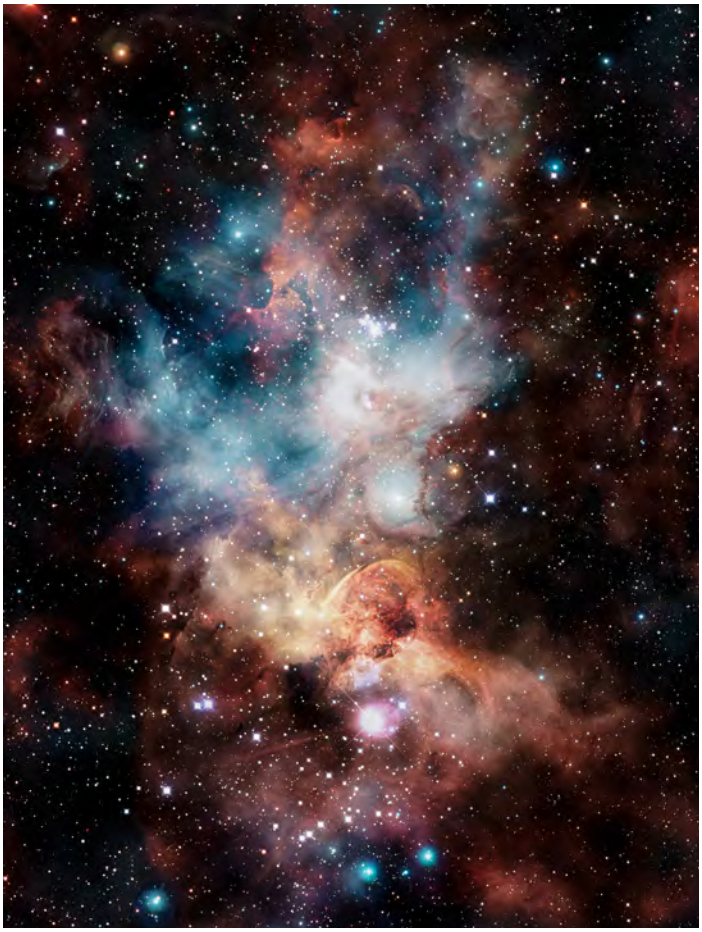
Weizmann scientists are capturing stellar explosions and building telescopes to see deeper into space than ever before

From *Star Wars* to *Interstellar*, our fascination with space has always been about more than stars and planets. Against a backdrop of the vast unknown, it's about understanding where we come from and where we might go. At the Weizmann Institute of Science, that quest isn't science fiction. It's science at the edge of the possible.

Through its Frontiers of the Universe flagship, Weizmann researchers are unlocking the deepest mysteries of space and time. Combining strengths in astrophysics, particle physics, and space mission design, scientists are probing everything from black holes to the building blocks of matter. Their research explores some of the most profound questions in science: How did the universe begin? Of what is it made? Could life exist beyond Earth?

Last year, in a landmark *Nature* study, Weizmann Institute's Prof. Avishay Gal-Yam and PhD students Ido Irani and Erez Zimmerman captured the most detailed observations of a supernova to date. A supernova is a powerful explosion marking the end of a star's life. When a star collapses, it disperses elements essential for life. Using a global network of telescopes, the team tracked the event, which happened 20 million years ago, in real time from its earliest moments. Their findings offer new insight into how these explosions unfold and deepen our understanding of the cosmos and our origins.

Other world-class projects are poised to reshape space science. Weizmann scientists are the main architects of ULTRASAT, Israel's first Earth-orbiting space telescope. ULTRASAT will alert ground-based telescopes to critical deep space events and



generate a discovery rate 300 times greater than that of today's most advanced instruments. It will offer new clues about how black holes form and which stars might host life-supporting planets. Part of a globe-spanning group, ULTRASAT is set to launch with NASA in 2027—boldly going where no Israeli space telescope has gone before.

Weizmann is also a partner in the Giant Magellan Telescope under construction in Chile. Once built in 2029, it will be the most powerful ground-based telescope. It will deliver images 10 times sharper than those of the Hubble Space Telescope, allowing astronomers to peer billions of lightyears into the universe.

Whether charting distant explosions, launching satellites, or building next-generation telescopes, these efforts bring us closer to answering questions that have sparked human curiosity for millennia. In mapping the cosmos, Weizmann scientists are also mapping what it means to explore, imagine, and, ultimately, understand.

Powering Brain Science: Team Grants Fuel Canada–Israel Research Partnerships

Scientists from McGill, Calgary, CAMH, and Weizmann unite to advance brain health backed by visionary donor support

In October 2024, Brain Canada, Weizmann Canada, and the Weizmann Institute of Science announced the recipients of the Brain Canada & Weizmann Institute of Science Team Grants, a pioneering initiative designed to accelerate brain science. Teams from McGill University, the University of Calgary, and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), in partnership with the Institute, were awarded the prestigious grants for their research on neurodegeneration, neuroprotection, and the effects of chronic stress.

Prof. Minh Dang Nguyen from the University of Calgary and Prof. Eran Elinav from Weizmann have partnered to decipher the links between gut bacteria and the brain in neurodegeneration, in particular amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), and if improving the health of the microbiome can clear waste in the brain more effectively and in doing so slow progression of ALS.

Prof. Nahum Sonenberg from McGill University and Prof. Ido Amit from Weizmann have teamed up to see if they can harness mRNA translation to increase the brain-protection potential of immune cells called microglia in diseases like Alzheimer's disease. Importantly, they will be studying male and female mouse models to ensure any findings are meaningful for men and women.

Prof. Etay Hay from CAMH and Prof. Ilan Lampl from Weizmann have joined forces for a project investigating if they can use optogenetics to stimulate certain brain cells thought to play a role in depression, which could pave the way for more precise treatments. They, too, will be studying male and female mouse models to ensure results are applicable to both.

The program aims to push the boundaries of neuroscience by supporting ambitious, high-impact projects that tackle pressing challenges in brain health and for which it would otherwise be difficult to secure funding.

By fostering global partnerships between leading researchers in Canada and Israel, these grants facilitate the exchange of expertise and resources to speed discovery. This joint enterprise not only will deepen our understanding of the brain; it will also transform global health care by harnessing the collective power of innovation to benefit people beyond any one country's borders.

Made possible by the Canada Brain Research Fund, a collaboration between the Government of Canada, Weizmann Canada, and Brain Canada, the team grants would not have been possible without the pivotal support of Dr. Daniel C. Andreae and the Larry and Judy Tanenbaum Family Foundation.

Safes, Science, and Solidarity: Canadian Students Compete in Global Physics Tournament

From Montreal to the virtual world stage, high school students proved that not even conflict can contain curiosity, teamwork, and the thrill of scientific discovery

The annual physics tournament is a highlight of Weizmann Canada's year, and 2024 was no exception. In this international competition for high school students run by the Weizmann Institute, teams from all over the world compete in their countries to build a safe that only their team can open—and to crack other teams' safes. The semi-finalists usually travel to Israel for the final competition.

This past year, despite the challenges imposed by the ongoing war, students and organizers rallied and held a hybrid in-person and virtual competition. On March 12, seven teams of grade 11 and 12 students competed in Montreal in the Canadian semi-finals. They were tasked with designing, building, and operating a locking mechanism for a safe that is based on the principles of physics. Mentors and teachers guided students along the way.

Taking Canada's top prize was a team from Herzliah High School. On April 9, instead of heading to the Weizmann Rehovot campus for the final competition as would typically happen, the winning team competed virtually against teams from around the world. Tying for first were a team from Nova Gorica in Slovenia and a team from Leyada high school in Israel. A team from the Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education secured second place, with the Schwartz/Reisman Center team from Israel taking bronze. Congratulations to all!

A Life-Changing Summer of Science

Canadian students joined researchers in Israel, diving into lab projects, meeting a Nobel laureate, and discovering where their curiosity could take them

The opportunity to spend a month exploring their passion for science at the Weizmann Institute was life-altering for Montreal Dawson College students Ayala Zak and Ari Polterovich. In a letter written to the donors who made it possible, Ayala expressed her gratitude. "Your generosity has not only helped me make a pivotal decision about my future, but it has also granted me experiences I never would have imagined possible," she said, adding that she gained knowledge and built lifelong friendships during her time at the Institute.

Canadian students Ayala Zak and Ari Polterovich joined their peers from around the world for Weizmann's Dr. Bessie F. Lawrence International Summer Science Institute in Rehovot, Israel, in July 2024. A highlight was meeting Nobel Laureate Prof. Ada Yonath, seated.

Each July, participants of the Dr. Bessie F. Lawrence International Summer Science Institute arrive on campus and join a science team. Paired with mentors, they dive into sophisticated research projects in state-of-the-art settings. The highlight is the chance to work with and learn from world-class scientists. Ayala worked with PhD student Ariel Tennenhouse exploring monoclonal antibody therapy, which uses lab-made proteins to help the immune system find and attack harmful cells, which has shown promise to fight cancer and other diseases.

A highlight of Ayala's internship was the "remarkable and beautiful experience" of meeting Prof. Ada Yonath, who in 2009 won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry. "To converse with someone of her stature was truly extraordinary. It was her courage, humour, and her unwavering commitment to her own curiosity that left the deepest impression on me," Ayala said.

Ayala fell in love with the campus and the people. Expressing appreciation for the opportunity to participate, she said her dream is to become a Weizmann student one day.

Human rights leader Mandana Dayani, actor Sara Foster, and Dr. Liat Ben-David, CEO of the Davidson Institute of Science Education, talk about resilience and education's transformative power at the Wonderful Women event in September 2024.

Celebrating the Power of Women, Science, and Education

Weizmann Canada's Wonderful Women event honoured Marvelle Koffler's legacy and raised support for the Davidson Institute, which brings science education to more than 70,000 people annually

In September 2024, in Toronto, Ont., Weizmann Canada hosted Wonderful Women, an event focusing on "The Healing Power of Science." The evening fostered discussion of the role of science in rebuilding Israel in the aftermath of October 7, 2023. Speakers, including Dr. Liat Ben-David, CEO of the Davidson Institute of Science Education; actor Sara Foster; and human rights leader Mandana Dayani shared their insights on resilience, leadership, and the transformative power of education in times of crisis.

The event honoured the legacy of the late Marvelle Koffler, who founded the Weizmann Canada Women for Science Committee. Koffler's children, Tiana, Theo, and Tom Koffler, presented the inaugural Marvelle Koffler Award for Women of Distinction to Francie Klein to recognize her many years of dedication to Weizmann and leadership with Wonderful Women events. Proceeds supported the Davidson Institute, the education arm of the Weizmann Institute.

Immediately after October 7, Davidson teams went to the hardest-hit communities and have since provided education programs to more than 9,000 displaced students in 60 evacuation centres across Israel.

The evening highlighted the importance of empowering women in science and ensuring vital educational work continues, even in the face of adversity.

Science Without Borders: Weizmann Researchers Visit Canada

Every year, scientists from the Weizmann Institute travel to Canada for conferences, research partnerships, and meetings and events with supporters and science enthusiasts. They share their latest findings and give behind-the-scenes glimpses into what is new on campus—and what is on the horizon. Here, a round-up of some of those trips, including one with Canadian connections south of the border.

From cells to solutions: Prof. Ido Amit shares advances in immunology and AI-driven therapies

Prof. Ido Amit was the first Weizmann scientist to visit Canada in January. He travelled to Calgary and Vancouver and met with community members, supporters of his research, and Canadian scientists. Prof. Amit, a pioneer in the fields of single-cell genomics and clinical big-data analytics, discussed how his research addresses basic questions in immunology.

In Calgary, at an event hosted by Calgary Chapter President Darlene Switzer-Foster, Perry Feldman, and Ronald and Helmi Switzer, Prof. Amit talked about his recent advances in cancer therapy. He shared how his work with leading biopharmacology companies is driving innovation in immunotherapy for autoimmune disorders, progressive brain diseases, and cancer, and how he integrates artificial intelligence into his studies.

In January 2024, Prof. Ido Amit (right), a leader in clinical big-data analytics and single-cell genomics, engaged Ronald and Helmi Switzer and others in a thought-provoking discussion on the immune system's role in disease.

Prof. Alon Chen discusses stress research and resilience in Florida

The President of the Weizmann Institute of Science, Prof. Alon Chen, visited Palm Beach, Fla., in February 2024, bringing with him the message that the important work of the Institute is continuing apace, despite the impact of the war. Hosted at an elegant gathering by the Reitman family, Prof. Chen, a neuroscientist, talked about the science of stress and resilience. He explained how men and women respond to stress differently and how understanding these differences could lead to personalized treatments. He also shared how the Institute has supported its community during these challenging times. The event was generously sponsored by The Cyril & Dorothy, Joel & Jill Reitman Family Foundation, whose support made the insightful discussion possible.

In February 2024, Prof. Alon Chen engaged supporters in Florida with a talk on stress, resilience, and mental health research. Left to right: Richard Reitman; Dorothy Reitman; Susan Stern, CEO, Weizmann Canada; Jill Reitman; Prof. Chen; and Joel Reitman.

Brain scientist brings breakthrough brain tech to Vancouver

Weizmann Institute neuroscientist Prof. Ofer Yizhar travelled to Vancouver in February 2024. Among his stops were events to share the latest news on his pioneering optogenetics research—a technique in which light is shone on parts of the brain to allow precise control of its activity. This technology has implications for the study and treatment of many brain-related disorders, including autism, schizophrenia, mood and anxiety disorders, and epilepsy. A new startup company has recently licensed the technology and is doing preclinical studies to translate the technology into clinical applications. Many thanks to event hosts Colliers Canada, the University of British Columbia, and Daphne and Dan Gelbart for their partnership.

In February 2024, Weizmann neuroscientist Prof. Ofer Yizhar captivated Vancouver guests with his work to develop technology to study the brain. Left to right: Dan Gelbart; Daphne Gelbart; Prof. Yizhar; Beth Freeman, Director of Philanthropy (Western Canada), Weizmann Canada; and Weizmann Canada CEO Susan Stern.

In May 2024, Prof. Alon Chen, President of the Weizmann Institute of Science, visited supporters in Vancouver and Toronto. Left to right: Weizmann Canada CEO Susan Stern, Dr. Naomi Azrieli, and Prof. Chen in Toronto.

A cross-Canada spring tour

It was a busy spring for the President of the Weizmann Institute, Prof. Alon Chen, who is also a brain scientist and was featured as a speaker at the Canadian Association of Neuroscience's conference in Vancouver. While on the west coast, he met with Weizmann friends and science enthusiasts, then travelled to Toronto and Montreal to meet with Weizmann supporters there. He discussed the Institute's partnership with Brain Canada that is advancing global innovation by fostering Canada-Israel research projects. Prof. Chen also expanded on his studies into stress and delivered news from campus and updates on the Institute's flagship priorities.

Clean, precise, transformative: ABC Canadian Quantum Foundry project celebrated in Montreal and Toronto

In February 2024, Dr. Ora Simcha Bitton, head of the ABC Canadian Quantum Foundry, joined Montreal supporters for a reception celebrating the final stages of construction of the facility at the Weizmann Institute. Left to right: Raphy Benbaron, Danielle Bitton, Dr. Bitton, Nathalie Amar, Laurent Amar, and Weizmann Canada CEO Susan Stern.

Dr. Ora Bitton, staff scientist at the Weizmann Institute, was in Montreal and Toronto in May 2024 to celebrate the final stages of construction of the ABC Canadian Quantum Foundry, which she heads. Part of the Tom and Mary Beck Center for Advanced and Intelligent Materials, the foundry has been a national funding priority for Weizmann Canada.

Slated to open in 2025, its clean rooms are 100 times cleaner than a hospital operating room. The foundry's unique environment is critical for advancing nanotechnology and nanoscience projects by enabling the fabrication of any resource or piece of equipment a researcher needs.

A Montreal event hosted by Danielle Bitton, one of four lead donors on the project, alongside husband Raphy Benbaron, and other lead donors Laurent and Nathalie Amar, sparked curiosity about the innovation that lies ahead in areas like targeted drug delivery, flexible electronics, more efficient batteries, and biodegradable plastics, among others.

Why I Give

"The more I learned about Weizmann, the more I grew to understand the tremendous impact it has on the betterment of the world and humanity."

Stan Magidson
National and International Board Member

Quantum leader Roee Ozeri tours Canada with a message of discovery

Quantum computing is top of mind for Prof. Roee Ozeri, a world-renowned physicist who, along with his team, built Israel's first quantum computer at a time when there were only about 30 globally. In May 2024, Prof. Ozeri travelled across Canada meeting fellow science enthusiasts to talk about the problems quantum computing will help solve one day, like climate change and food insecurity. He shared an update on the even larger quantum computer he is now building.

He also wore his other hat, that of Vice President for Development and Communications at the Weizmann Institute. At stops in Montreal, Toronto, Calgary, and Vancouver, he shared why Weizmann, with its curiosity-driven science, is a powerhouse of innovation that consistently ranks in the top 10 research institutes worldwide.

In May 2024, Weizmann Institute's Prof. Roee Ozeri toured Canada to talk about the potential of quantum computing. In Toronto, he joined Hymie Mida (left) after Hymie announced his support of Prof. Ozeri by establishing the Chaim Mida Professorial Chair in Physics.

In October 2024, Dr. Sagi Ben-Ami, who studies the physics of space at the Weizmann Institute, shared insights into the search for biomarkers of life on other planets with guests at an intimate dinner in Toronto.

Searching for life beyond earth: Space scientist visits Toronto

Dr. Sagi Ben-Ami, an astrophysicist at the Weizmann Institute, visited Toronto in October 2024 to give a presentation on the possibility of life beyond our solar system. Dr. Ben-Ami is developing instruments and strategies to help detect bio-signatures, which are substances that provide evidence of life on Earth-like planets. He shared why he thinks such life likely exists at an event graciously hosted by Anthony and Laura Beck.

He also talked about some of the components in the Frontiers of the Universe flagship priority, including the Large Array Survey Telescope, or LAST, a cost-effective telescope being built that will help detect planets outside our solar system. Dr. Ben-Ami's work, part of the Frontiers of the Universe flagship priority, is pivotal in enhancing our understanding of life's potential in the universe.

Bonus content:
Dr. Sagi Ben-David Ami talks about the motivation behind his research.

Watch here

Seeing Science Up Close: Highlights From a Year of Tailored Campus Tours

Visiting the Weizmann Institute of Science campus offers an unparalleled way to see science in action. Guests enjoy a personal visit tailored to their interests, including campus sites, research projects, and labs. In addition to organizing bespoke tours, every year Weizmann Canada celebrates the generosity of supporters through inscriptions on the International Plaza Donor Wall. Here, some highlights of last year's encounters.

Celebrating giving: International Plaza Donor Wall dedication

How wonderful it was to be able to gather again in November 2024 for the annual general meeting of the International Board, especially after the challenges we faced last year when the war in Israel prevented us from coming together.

The inability to meet in person last time only underscored the importance of our shared mission and made this year's annual celebration of new inscriptions on the International Plaza Donor Wall more poignant.

President of the Weizmann Institute of Science Prof. Alon Chen and Dr. Adrian Langleben (right) in November 2024 at the annual celebration of new inscriptions on the Plaza Donor Wall in Rehovot, Israel.

Members of the Weizmann Canada community that were newly inscribed are as follows:

Benefactors

Dr. Joseph Lebovic and Dr. Wolf Lebovic Charitable Foundation
Toronto

Supporters

Liddy Beck and Steve Gottesman & Family
Toronto

Langleben Family
Montreal

Susan & John Rose
Toronto

Sigmund & Linda Soudack & Family
Toronto

Friends

Dr. Myriam Dahan & Ronald Reuben
Montreal

Ilana & Anton Rabie
Toronto

Natalie Michaud & Joseph Ribkoff
Montreal

Isaac & Sophie Waldman
Vancouver

From Canada to campus: Visitors enjoy personalized experiences

Yannai Segal visited the Institute's campus in February 2024.

While on a trip to Israel in February 2024, energy professional Yannai Segal visited the Institute. He met with Canadian scientist Dr. Brian Berkowitz from the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences and enjoyed a lively conversation about Canadian sports. They soon moved on to science, speaking about mutual interests and the impact of Oct. 7, 2023, on the Weizmann community.

Upon his arrival at the campus in April, Seymour Prince said his immediate feeling was happiness to be back at the Weizmann Institute, "a world-class research institution." On April 30, Seymour enjoyed visiting with Canadian researcher Dr. Remi Casier, among others, and took note of the Institute's history and architecture. "It was exciting seeing the current building construction on the Weizmann campus," he said.

Seymour Prince visited the Weizmann Institute campus in April 2024.

Wendy Posluns and Lewis Mitz visited the Institute's campus on May 20, 2024, with Weizmann Canada CEO Susan Stern (right).

On May 20, Wendy Posluns, National Board Member, and husband Lewis Mitz visited the Institute. Interested in AI, the couple met with Dr. Ariel Afek, who studies protein-DNA interactions, in his lab for an in-depth conversation about his research. Wendy also explored her Weizmann family history, seeing for the first time her father's and uncles' names inscribed on the International Plaza Donor Wall.

Stephen Bear visited the Institute's campus in September 2024.

The Institute was delighted to host Stephen Bear, who began his visit on Sept. 24 at the Levinson Visitors Center. He was guided through interactive exhibits that explore the world of scientists who uncover the secrets of nature, then toured the campus to see its many striking buildings and dynamic life. Many scientists live on the grounds of the Weizmann Institute, which offers a full suite of support. For example, in 2024, 172 Weizmann kids were in on-campus child care.

How To Give

Weizmann Canada offers a wide range of giving options to match different philanthropic interests and capacities. Whether you're inspired by brain health, personalized medicine, artificial intelligence, environmental sustainability, space exploration, science education, or food security, there are many ways to partner with us in advancing science for the benefit of humanity. With more than 3,000 active projects, you can direct your gift to a specific research area or support science where it's needed most. Our team is always available to help align your interests with meaningful opportunities.

In addition to direct gifts, many donors explore other impactful methods of giving, each offering financial and strategic advantages:

Planned giving

One meaningful way to make a lasting impact is by including a bequest in your will. This could be a specific amount, a percentage of your estate, or assets such as securities or real estate. Your legal advisor can include Weizmann Canada using suggested wording we can provide. If you choose to leave a legacy gift, we encourage you to inform us so we can honour your wishes and recognize your generosity. Legacy donors are invited to join the Vera and Chaim Weizmann Honor Society, and, depending on the gift, may be recognized at the International Plaza on the Institute's campus in Israel, unless anonymity is preferred.

Donor-advised funds

Donor-advised funds (DAFs) are a flexible, efficient, and tax-effective way to support Weizmann Canada. A DAF can typically be opened within days through a financial institution or community foundation and requires little administration compared to a private foundation. Once funded, you receive a tax receipt and can begin recommending grants to registered charities. The assets in your DAF can grow tax-free, amplifying your long-term impact. Donor-advised funds also provide a meaningful way to involve the next generation in philanthropy and help you plan gifts that reflect your values and priorities—at your own pace and on your terms.

Gifts of securities

Donating appreciated securities such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, or flow-through shares is one of the most tax-efficient ways to give. You receive a tax receipt for the fair market value while avoiding capital gains tax on any appreciation. Gifts can be made during your lifetime or through your estate plan, and you have the flexibility to donate all or part of your holdings.

Learn more about ways to make an impact.

Donate here

Other ways to make a difference

Additional options include monthly donations, which provide scientists with steady, predictable funding; tribute gifts to celebrate or honour loved ones; and employer-matching programs, which can double the value of your donation.

No matter how you choose to give, your support powers the kind of breakthrough science that is shaping a better future. Our team is here to help you make a meaningful contribution that resonates with your values. Reach out—we'd be delighted to connect.

Weizmann Canada CEO Susan Stern with Abigail Singer, Dr. Mirta Dumancic, and Caroline Amzallag at a gathering of the Weizmann League in Montreal, June 20, 2024.

Ideas and Impact: Montreal's Young Professionals Unite Around Discovery

The ideas are flowing, said the co-chairs of Montreal's Weizmann League, Caroline Amzallag, who works in the pharmaceutical industry and Abigail Singer, a lawyer specializing in technology. The science-savvy duo is looking forward to continuing to bring young professionals together "to unite everyone around science, something that's so universal, and which sparks interest," Abigail said. In June 2024, the Weizmann League hosted a gathering that highlighted the work of Dr. Mirta Dumancic, a Weizmann Institute alumna and researcher who is studying cancer and radiation therapy. "We just want to spread the awareness," Caroline said. "We want more people, young professionals, to know how Weizmann scientists make incredible discoveries and innovations and improve our everyday lives."

Why I Give

"The concept of Tikkun Olam in Judaism, 'repairing the world,' is among my core values, and the Weizmann Institute's science embodies that idea for me—mending and improving the world for all of humanity. On a practical level, I'd also like other supporters to know that offering a gift of securities, as I did, is an excellent option as it confers multiple tax benefits to the donor."

Harvey Sands
National Board Member

Jeffrey Cohen served Weizmann Canada's National Board of Directors as its Chair for eight years.

Honouring a Champion of Science

Warm congratulations to our 2023 Volunteer of the Year, Jeffrey Cohen, presented at the annual general meeting in February 2024! As a former national board Chair of Weizmann Canada for eight years and a member of the international board, Jeff has had a significant impact on his many Weizmann colleagues and friends. They uniformly describe him as a good listener and leader, who is also warm and has a great sense of humour. During his involvement with the organization, Jeff has been an unwavering supporter and champion of Weizmann science. "He played a leadership role in bringing the organization to a whole new level," Weizmann Canada CEO Susan Stern said. "We are so grateful for your friendship and your commitment to Weizmann science," Alon Chen, the Institute's president said, adding, "Mazal Tov!"

National Board of Directors

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President, Weizmann Institute of Science

Prof. Alon Chen

*Deceased

**Stepped down in February 2024

Volunteer Leadership

The following list includes all members of volunteer leadership who were active at any period during the 2024 calendar year.

Montreal Chapter

President

Danielle Bitton

Members

Nathalie Amar
Sylvie Amar
Patricia Baker
Bobbi Bidochka
Scott Binns
Anne-Marie Boucher
Mala Crampton
Dr. Myriam Dahan
Stewart Harris
Marilyn Krelenbaum
Dahlia Lawee
Vanessa Mueggler
Joanne Nemeroff
Valeria Rosenbloom

Toronto Chapter

President

Francie Klein

Vice-President

Michelle Glied-Goldstein

Members

Michele Atlin
Amalia Berg
Anthony Beck
Marc Diamant
Rebecca Goldfarb
Susan Kellner
Dr. Stuart Klein
John Rose
Susan Rose
Myra Slutsky

Calgary Chapter

President

Darlene Switzer-Foster

Members

Dr. Jonathan Blankenstein
Dr. Brian Hartman
Dr. Eddy Lang
Stan Magidson
Martin Molyneaux
Dr. Emmeline Ruka
Yannai Segal
Jessica Switzer
Joshua Switzer
Deborah Yedlin

Vancouver Chapter

Members

Robert Down
Anja Haman
Robert Nabi
Dr. Moira Stilwell
Dr. Hilary Vallance
Ted Wenner
Sam Znaimer

Weizmann League

Montreal Co-Chairs

Caroline Amzallag
Abigail Singer

Toronto Co-Chairs

Adam Betel
Jonathan Gottesman

Calgary Co-Chair

Jordan Magidson

Why I Give

"Weizmann is a beacon of hope that anyone can support, no matter your background, for the benefit of all humanity."

Richard Reitman
National Board Member

Overall Operating Results

Weizmann Canada, operating as the Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science, is the Canadian philanthropic arm of the Weizmann Institute of Science. Founded in 1964, it is the Canadian national entity that organizes and coordinates educational programs and raises funds for basic and applied scientific research in Canada and Israel. The organization is a registered charity and public foundation.

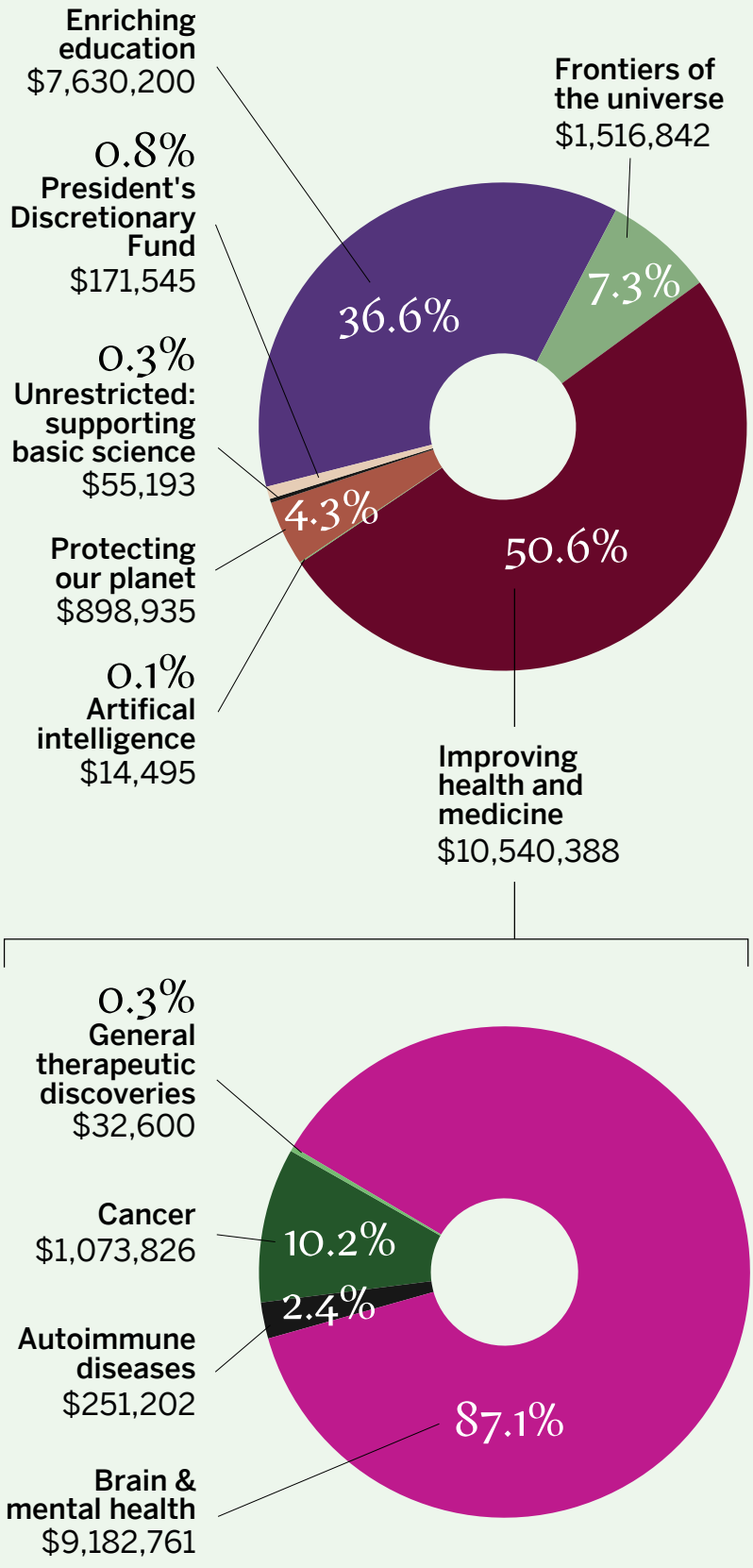
The total revenues for the year ending September 30, 2024 were $21,699,055 (2023: $36,894,348) including donations, investment income, and foreign exchange gain. The total expenditures for Canadian operations were $3,710,126 (2023: $2,983,967).

The figures to the right outline how the funds allocated to the Weizmann Institute of Science and Canadian operational expenses were disseminated.

Financial Position

As of September 30, 2024, Weizmann Canada was in a strong financial position with net assets of $8,953,095 (2023: $12,252,473). Pledges receivable remain strong at $57,056,365 (2023: $71,418,291), bringing total assets for the year to $66,197,894 (2023: $83,727,396).

Area-Specific Allocations to the Weizmann Institute of Science



Fundraising

Philanthropy raised unrestricted and restricted donations of $20,827,599 in fiscal 2023–24. The table below outlines the past five years of donations received.

Fiscal Year	Donations (Cdn $)*
2023 – 24	20,827,599
2022 – 23	36,432,175
2021 – 22	26,285,182
2020 – 21	10,691,277
2019 – 20	23,334,218

*Does not include new pledges

Accountability and Oversight

The audited financial statements of The Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science have been prepared in accordance with the Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations in Part III of the CPA Canada handbook.

The Board of The Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science approves an annual operating budget and receives monthly reports from management. Additionally, the Finance Committee ("Committee") of the Board, composed of volunteers with expertise in finance, accounting, investment, and risk management, meets at least quarterly with management to monitor the external audit and financial performance of the organization.

The audited financial statements of The Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science are available on the Weizmann Canada website at weizmann.ca.

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Weizmann Canada