



EDMOND J. SAFRA
PHILANTHROPIC FOUNDATION

Press Release

Mrs. Lily Safra, President of the Edmond J. Safra Foundation, To Announce
Major New Medical Research Initiative During Israel Visit

Geneva, May 31st, 2009. Mrs. Lily Safra, President of the Edmond J. Safra Foundation, established by her husband Mr. Edmond J. Safra, will visit Israel this week, highlighting the Foundation's ongoing commitment to supporting charitable organizations across the world.

During the visit, The Edmond J. Safra Foundation and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem will announce the establishment of the Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences, a \$130 million project – the most ambitious initiative of its kind in Israel's history and one of the most important in the world. It will be financed jointly by the Edmond J. Safra Foundation and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Such donations illustrate the Edmond J. Safra Foundation's extraordinary commitment to assisting organizations around the world in the areas of Education; Science and Medicine; Religion; and Humanitarian Assistance, Culture and Social Welfare.

“The Edmond J. Safra Foundation's projects in Israel form one part of our activities that span over fifty countries,” says Mrs. Safra. “Our commitment to supporting our partners in Israel, as in other countries, remains the same, especially during these hard times, when so many foundations are being forced to reduce the scope of their work. My inspiration has always been my husband Edmond, who considered philanthropy to be a duty and devoted his legacy to helping the less fortunate now and for generations to come.”

It is estimated that, among its grants worldwide, the Edmond J. Safra Foundation will invest over \$30 million in Israeli non-profit organizations in 2009 alone. During the last ten years, the Foundation has provided over \$250 million in assistance to educational, medical, scientific, cultural, and community projects in Israel. In the summer of 2007, in commemoration of what would have been Mr. Safra's 75th birthday, the Foundation made special donations of \$180,000 to each of 75 organizations in Israel, totaling \$13.5 million, in addition to its regular grant making program.



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Mrs. Safra also will inaugurate the Edmond J. Safra Center for the Study of Learning Disabilities at Haifa University. The Foundation recently made a supplementary grant to this Center for an educational enrichment program benefiting the Arab community in Israel. This additional donation supplements a previous grant made to Haifa University as part of the Foundation's \$31 million program addressing the 'brain drain' problem affecting Israeli universities.

During her stay in Israel, Mrs. Safra also will visit the Edmond and Lily Safra Children's Hospital, Tel Hashomer.

These and other programs supported by the Edmond J. Safra Foundation are detailed below.

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Notes to Editor:

The following provides further background on:

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- **The Edmond J. Safra Program for Faculty Excellence in Israel**
- **Biography of Mr. Edmond J. Safra**
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About The Edmond J. Safra Foundation

Edmond J. Safra, one of the 20th century's most accomplished bankers and a dedicated philanthropist, established a major philanthropic foundation to ensure that needy individuals and organizations would continue to receive his assistance and encouragement for many years to come. Following his passing in 1999, and now under the chairmanship of his beloved wife Lily, the Edmond J. Safra Foundation draws continuing inspiration from its founder's life and values. Under Mrs. Safra's leadership, the Foundation has assisted hundreds of organizations in over 50 countries around the world, and its work encompasses four areas: Education; Science and Medicine; Religion; and Humanitarian Assistance, Culture and Social Welfare.

Further information on the Edmond J. Safra Program for Faculty Excellence in Israel

The Edmond J. Safra Foundation has been a long-time supporter of Israeli higher education generally, in addition to special projects at individual universities. Its recent initiative – the Edmond J. Safra Program for Faculty Excellence – was designed to address the “brain drain” phenomenon: the loss of Israeli-trained academics to institutions abroad. With their government-funded budgets repeatedly cut and tuition rates frozen, Israeli universities were increasingly unable to offer Israeli scientists the conditions – both in terms of salary and, more importantly, infrastructure and research funding – that were available elsewhere, notably in the United States.

The Foundation asked Israeli universities to identify a promising and high-priority area in their institutions that could, within five to seven years, with the addition of a certain amount of funding for new faculty and faculty support, become truly world-class and internationally competitive.

Six Israeli universities participate in the \$31 million Edmond J. Safra Faculty Excellence Program: The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv University, The Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, Bar-Ilan University, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, and the University of Haifa.



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Biography of Mr. Edmond J. Safra

Mr. Edmond J. Safra was one of the most accomplished bankers of the 20th century, having established an unparalleled reputation for financial acumen and trust. Born in Beirut to a family that had started in banking at the time of the Ottoman Empire, he built a business that spanned more than thirty countries across the globe.

Edmond Safra was Founder and Honorary Chairman of the Republic New York Corporation and Republic National Bank of New York and was Chairman of its European private banking subsidiary, Safra Republic Holdings S.A.

In 1999, Mr. Safra sold all of his holdings in Republic New York Corporation and Safra Republic Holdings to London-based HSBC. A victim of arson at his home in Monaco, he died on 3 December 1999 and is buried in Geneva.

Throughout his career, Mr. Safra was also an extraordinary philanthropist. Rarely taking personal credit, he supported tens of thousands of students, underwrote medical research, built and restored schools and synagogues, endowed professorships, and contributed to countless humanitarian, religious, educational, and cultural causes worldwide.

He made major contributions to the national, cultural, and religious life of the State of Israel – including building Safra Square, where the offices of the mayor and city administration of Jerusalem are located; donating to the Israel Museum Einstein's 1912 manuscript of the Special Theory of Relativity; and building the Children's Hospital at Tel Hashomer.

In 1998, he was named *Doctor Philosophiae Honoris Causa* at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for his achievements in the world of finance, his commitment and support for Jewish and humanitarian causes, and his contribution to higher educational opportunities in Israel.

Recognized worldwide for his philanthropy, Mr. Safra was named *Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* and *Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur* by the French government; *Commandeur de l'Ordre de Mérite* by the Grand Duke of Luxembourg; and *Commandeur de l'Ordre de Rio Branco* by the government of Brazil.

Mr. Safra created a major philanthropic foundation to ensure that needy individuals and organizations would continue to receive assistance and encouragement for many years to come. Following his passing in 1999, and under the chairmanship of his beloved wife Lily, the Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation draws continuing inspiration from its founder's life and values.



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Biography of Mrs. Lily Safra

Mrs. Lily Safra shared her commitment to caring for the less fortunate with her husband, Mr. Edmond J. Safra, one of the twentieth century's most accomplished bankers and founder of the Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation. Since 1999 she has chaired this Foundation, which supports projects related to education, science and medicine, religion, culture, and humanitarian relief in over 50 countries.

She has initiated many educational projects in memory of her husband, including endowing the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University. A long and distinguished relationship with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem led to the naming of the Edmond J. Safra Campus. In an impoverished area of northern Brazil, she founded the Alfredo J. Monteverde School, which teaches science and technology to 1,000 children.

Mrs. Safra is Honorary Chairman of the International Sephardic Education Foundation (ISEF), which she established with her husband in 1977. ISEF is the largest non-profit organization promoting higher education for gifted Israelis from disadvantaged backgrounds. Since its founding, over 16,000 scholarships have been granted, including support for more than 1,000 MA and PhD students.

Both personally and through the Foundation, she supports research into cancer, HIV/AIDS, and neurodegenerative diseases, particularly Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, at dozens of hospitals and universities worldwide. Her awareness of the distress experienced by the families of those battling illnesses led her to construct the Family Lodge for patients and their families at the National Institutes of Health near Washington, DC. She and her husband built a cutting-edge children's hospital in Tel Hashomer, outside of Tel Aviv, which annually treats thousands of children from across the region. She is a member of the Board of the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research and of the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health.

Mrs. Safra is a Trustee of New York's Museum of Jewish Heritage and the Somerset House Arts Fund in London, as well as a member of the Chairman's Council of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). She is a member of the Director's Circle of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem and is an Honorary Governor of the International Board of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.



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Mrs. Safra has also taken a lead role in humanitarian causes including building homes for orphaned children in Romania; constructing the Jordan River Valley Camp for children with cancer in Israel; helping to establish the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village in Rwanda; providing welfare services for the elderly in Odessa; and assisting the Red Cross with its relief efforts after natural disasters around the world. She is a Co-Founder of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, dedicated to the sustainable and equitable management of natural resources.

Mrs. Safra holds honorary doctorates from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv University, Brandeis University, and Imperial College London, and is an Honorary Fellow of King's College London and the Courtauld Institute of Art. She is a *Commandeur* of France's *Ordre des Arts et des Lettres*, and she was named *Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur* by President Jacques Chirac in 2005.



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EDMOND J. SAFRA FOUNDATION: SELECTED ACTIVITIES

Organizations/Projects to be visited by Mrs. Safra on this trip

1. Edmond J. Safra Center for the Study of Learning Disabilities, University of Haifa: Educational Enrichment Program for the Arab Community in Israel

The University of Haifa, a national and international leader in the study of learning disabilities, was awarded a major grant to establish this Center, as well as a further donation for a program to improve opportunities for children in the Arab community.

There are currently no individual diagnostic normative tools to assess learning disabilities in the Arabic language, and there is a severe shortage of trained personnel in this area. Undiagnosed learning disabilities and failure to address these special needs constitute one of the main reasons behind the high drop-out rate in the Arab community in Israel.

The Foundation therefore initiated a program to develop normative individual diagnostic tools for Arab children with learning disabilities and to train educators to work with them. The program comprises an MA program for Arab educators in learning disabilities for about 25 students annually; the development of diagnostic tests in Arabic; the development of a computerized intervention program for the enhancement of reading skills; workshops to train 400 Arab teachers in administering the diagnostic tests and the intervention program; and a field outreach program to reach rural communities.

2. The Edmond and Lily Safra Children's Hospital (and the Edmond J. Safra Congenital Heart Center), Tel Hashomer

Since its establishment in 2002, the Edmond and Lily Safra Children's Hospital has become known as the best such facility in Israel. In 2008, the Edmond J. Safra International Congenital Heart Center was inaugurated on a newly built floor of the hospital.

The Hospital has 235-beds and receives 8,000 annual inpatient admissions as well as 60,000 annual visits to its emergency room and ambulatory services. It welcomes patients from across the Middle East region.

The Edmond and Lily Safra Children's Hospital's corridors, play rooms, and cinema all help to relieve the emotional pain associated with hospitalization. The Hospital's unique "Laughing Room" is a fully-enclosed fantasy center complete with multimedia special effects.



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3. Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Founded in 1925, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is the oldest university in Israel. Mr. and Mrs. Safra and the Edmond J. Safra Foundation have had a long and distinguished relationship with the University. Mr. and Mrs. Safra are both recipients of honorary doctorates from the University (in 1998 and 2005 respectively).

In 1999, Mr. Safra made a donation of \$30 million to Hebrew University, which was the largest gift ever received by the University. In recognition of this support, the University's Givat Ram campus was named in his memory. The Edmond J. Safra Campus includes all of the University's science faculties (mathematics, computer science, physics, chemistry, engineering, etc.) as well as the Jewish National and University Library.

The Foundation has continued to support the University on a range of projects, particularly in the area of neuroscience, donating over \$1 million to the University's Interdisciplinary Center for Neural Computation (ICNC), the largest computational neuroscience academic and research program in the world.

In addition, the Hebrew University was awarded a significant grant under the Foundation's Edmond J. Safra Program for Faculty Excellence, helping the University to attract and retain world-class faculty members.

The Hebrew University recently established the Edmond J. Safra Distinguished Professorship and named Professor Howard Cedar, the head of its Department of Developmental Biology and Cancer Research at the Faculty of Medicine, as the first holder of this prestigious post.



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Other selected projects/organizations

A Window to Tomorrow – A Computer for Every Child, Israel

Since 2001, the Foundation has made donations totaling in the millions of dollars to provide ‘computer scholarships’ for disadvantaged children: providing them with computers, a subsidized internet connection, 60 hours of training at a local computer center, and mentoring at home. The participants’ immediate families also receive computer instruction. In 2008 alone, the organization distributed 6,000 scholarships with a total value of \$6.5 million.

Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village, Rwanda

The Foundation supported the Village’s construction, which includes a home for 500 orphaned children; a high school to prepare them for the future; and a medical clinic to ensure their health and well-being. It is based on the Yemin Orde Youth Village (Israel) model, which was developed to deal with children orphaned by the Holocaust.

Children of Chernobyl (Israel)

Children of Chernobyl rescues children affected by the Chernobyl catastrophe, bringing them to a new life in Israel where they receive ongoing medical care and a high-quality education while living together in a supportive environment. Since its inception, about 2,600 children have been evacuated. Mrs. Safra and the Foundation have been generous supporters of Children of Chernobyl for many years, contributing millions of dollars towards the organization’s activities.

Edmond and Lily Safra International Institute of Neuroscience, Natal (Brazil)

Mrs. Safra and the Foundation provided multi-million dollar donations for the establishment and operations of a state-of-the-art neuroscience center, a school teaching science and technology to 1,000 disadvantaged children in the region (the Alfredo J. Monteverde School), and a women’s health clinic.

Edmond J. Safra Community Center and Park (Ashdod, Israel)

The Foundation has supported the city’s urban development and in 2004 made a significant grant towards the construction of a community center and park; both of which are named in Mr. Safra’s memory.



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Hôpital de la Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris – Institut du Cerveau et la Moelle Epinière

This Institute for the Brain and Spinal Cord, of which the Foundation was one of the first supporters, will create a new template for public-private partnership in scientific research. It will become a major European center for research and medical treatment – about 19,000 meters squared over 7 floors, 2,000 meters squared of lab space.

Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein, São Paulo

The Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein in São Paulo is considered to be amongst the best medical institutions in South America. The Foundation currently supports three ongoing Parkinson's disease research projects at the Hospital.

Institut Claude Pompidou, Nice

The Institute is due to open in 2010 and aims to become the focal point for the region's efforts on Alzheimer's disease. The Foundation has been an early supporter of this project.

Israel Museum, Jerusalem

Long-time supporters of the Museum, Mr. and Mrs. Safra helped the Museum with a number of key acquisitions. In 1996, Mr. Safra donated Albert Einstein's 1912 manuscript of the Special Theory of Relativity. And earlier, he made a donation to dismantle, transport, and reassemble for exhibition, a synagogue building from Suriname no longer in use, one of the oldest synagogues in the Americas. In recognition of a donation of \$12 million, the Museum has designated its largest new wing as "*The Edmond and Lily Safra Art Wing*".

Keren Shemesh – Youth Business International (YBI) in Israel

Established by the Edmond J. Safra Foundation, Keren Shemesh provides a complete "package" of assistance to qualified young people wishing to start a business, including entrepreneurial counseling, ongoing mentorship from an experienced business leader, business training, and an interest-free loan of up to NIS 90,000. To date, over 400 new businesses have been created across the country.

King's Academy, Jordan

Founded by King Abdullah II in 2007, King's Academy is a coeducational boarding school that aims to create a new generation of leaders in the Middle East. The Foundation supported the school's scholarship fund and its program to integrate state-of-the-art technology into the learning process.



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The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (MJFF)

Mrs. Safra serves on the Board of Directors of the MJFF, and the Foundation has been one of its primary partners, having supported millions of dollars worth of research around the world.

Neuroscience Research and Patient Care in the UK: Imperial College, London and King's College, London

The Foundation currently supports several concurrent Parkinson's Disease research projects at King's College, including a program designed to find effective means of support for family members caring for Parkinson's Disease patients. It also endowed the Edmond J. Safra Chair in Neurobehavioral Pharmacology at Imperial College.

New York University (NYU) Parkinson's and Movement Disorders Center

With lead support from the Foundation, this Center was launched in late 2006 and has quickly developed all three of its focal areas: clinical care, research, and community education/outreach. A unique feature of this Center is its work with patients and their families via a range of programs (fitness classes, creative classes, PD educational series, etc.).

Shoham Arts Center, Shoham (Israel)

In 2008, the Foundation made a substantial grant to support the expansion of the town's cultural center in order to create additional classrooms, a larger events hall, an art gallery, and a coffee shop, as well as to support the renovation of the town's main square, on which the cultural center sits.

Support for Children with Special Needs in Israel: Aleh, Keren Or, and ALUT

Aleh: The Foundation pledged a multi-million dollar grant towards the construction of its largest residential facility, a "village" in the Negev. The village will eventually accommodate 200 young adults as well as 2,000 daycare patients each year. In 2006, the Foundation also made a major contribution towards the construction of a three-floor addition to Aleh's Jerusalem facility.

Keren Or: The Foundation helped Keren Or expand its treatment complex, which will include a state-of-the-art treatment center, auditorium, and hydrotherapy pool.

Alut: The Foundation has provided significant funding for Alut's activities for children and adults with autism and their families, and the organization has named one of its residential communities, in the northern city of Carmiel, in memory of Mr. Safra.



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Ukraine Elderly Welfare (in Dnepropetrovsk and Odessa)

The Center in Odessa provides for the distribution of winter relief supplies, food assistance, emergency and health services, home and day care. It serves approximately 9,000 needy elderly people each year. The Foundation has also supported the creation of a 2,100 square meter community center in Krivroy Rog, a town near Dnepropetrovsk.

Université Joseph Fourier, Grenoble, Institute for Neuroscience, Edmond J. Safra Building

Inaugurated in December 2007, the Institute brought together several INSERM laboratories and research teams that were previously spread out across the hospital and the city, and drew researchers from across France. The Edmond J. Safra Building (6,000 m²) has 4,200 m² of workspace on four floors, housing laboratories for some 200 researchers, offices, animal research facilities and a 78-seat auditorium.

Yad Sarah, Israel

Over the past 30 years, Yad Sarah has become the largest voluntary organization in Israel, providing a wide range of free or nominal cost services for sick, disabled, and elderly people and their families. In addition to its regular annual support, the Foundation recently approved a special multi-million dollar grant for the Medical Equipment Lending Service.

Yad Vashem International School for Holocaust Studies, Jerusalem

The Foundation has sponsored 6 seminars bringing 150 teachers from Eastern Europe, FSU, and South America, to learn about how to teach the Holocaust and “tolerance” in their classrooms. The International School has recently undertaken a large expansion project, and the School will name the Edmond J. Safra Lecture Hall in recognition of the Foundation’s multi-million dollar support of this building project.

Yahad in Unum, Paris – Father Patrick Desbois

With the Foundation’s support, Father Patrick Desbois searches mass graves of Jewish victims of the Nazis in Ukraine, registration of eyewitness to the executions, gather ballistic evidence, and record interviews. This evidence and documentation is then registered, processed, and made available to major Holocaust institutions for research and exhibition purposes.
