



WEIZMANN CANADA

Science for the Benefit of Humanity

We are so grateful to Miles and Kelly Nadal for their involvement and support!

The Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel is one of the world's leading multidisciplinary institutes of basic scientific research.

In 2011, Weizmann Canada held a major gala in Toronto at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) and Miles Nadal was the presenting sponsor. This Gala enabled us to raise significant funds and celebrate the establishment of nine labs as part of the Canadian Center for Excellence as well as several student scholarships.

In addition to this generous donation, Miles and Kelly gave another major gift to establish The **Miles and Kelly Nadal and Family Laboratory** which is home to the visionary research activities of Professor Jeffrey Gerst and his team from the Department of Molecular Genetics. The lab was inaugurated at the International Board Meetings on campus in November of 2011.

Prof. Gerst investigates two key questions involving proteins: How do they reach their specific locations within cells? And what diseases are related to abnormalities in this process? By studying the mechanisms that underlie protein localization, Prof. Gerst and his team are better able to understand how alterations in protein localization lead to diseases such as Alzheimer's, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Batten disease, and other neurodegenerative disorders, as well as metabolic and systemic diseases.

Through research in the **Miles and Kelly Nadal and Family Laboratory**, Prof. Gerst and his team have identified a number of new genes and cellular pathways that are critical to RNA targeting, a crucial step in the manufacture of proteins and to the positioning of proteins at appropriate locations within the cell. It is a long-term goal within the lab to succeed in finding a treatment for Batten disease, a juvenile neurodegenerative disorder.

Miles visited the lab in 2012 and met with Prof. Gerst as well as the post-doctoral fellow, research associate, and Ph.D students who work in the lab. Support from the Nadal family has provided Prof. Gerst with the opportunity to pursue innovative and ground-breaking research, which will lead to advancements and discoveries that will make a global impact. We look forward to the continued progress from the **Miles and Kelly Nadal and Family Laboratory**.

With gratitude,

Susan Stern

National Executive Director and CEO

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