THE FUTURE IS NOW: INNOVATIONS IN AI AND BIG DATA FOR HEALTHSPAN AND LONGEVITY
Scientific Symposium and Award Ceremony
Tuesday, February 9, 2021
9 - 11am Pacific / 12 - 2pm Eastern / 7 - 9pm Israel

honoring
SAMI SAGOL

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

PANEL
Artificial Intelligence and Aging Research
featuring
- Nir Barzilai, MD - Scientific Director, AFAR
- Morgan Levine, PhD - Yale School of Medicine
- Amos Tanay, PhD - Weizmann Institute of Science

CONVERSATION
Innovations and Interventions
featuring
- Bracken P. Darrell - President and CEO, Logitech
- David A. Sinclair, PhD, AO - Harvard Medical School

PRESENTATION
Inaugural Sagol Network GerOmic Award for Junior Faculty Recipient
Oscar Vivas, PhD
University of Washington

plus surprise MUSICAL GUEST!
The Future is Now: Innovations in AI and Big Data for Healthspan and Longevity
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PROGRAM

Welcome
Stephanie Lederman, AFAR Executive Director

Surprise Musical Guest

Remarks
Nir Barzilai, MD, AFAR Scientific Director

Panel on GerOomics
Morgan Levine, PhD, Yale School of Medicine
Amos Tanay, PhD, Weizmann Institute

Conversation on Innovations and Interventions
Bracken P. Darrell, President and CEO, Logitech
David Sinclair, PhD, AO, AFAR Board Member, Harvard School of Medicine

Introduction of the AFAR / Sagol Network GerOmic Award for Junior Faculty
Steven N. Austad, PhD, AFAR Senior Scientific Director

Presentation by AFAR/Sagol Awardee
Oscar Vivas, PhD, University of Washington

Presentation of AFAR Award of Distinction to Sami Sagol
Nir Barzilai, MD, AFAR Scientific Director

Closing
Stephanie Lederman, AFAR Executive Director
We are so glad you can join us for The Future is Now: Innovations in AI and Big Data for Healthspan and Longevity, a scientific symposium and award ceremony honoring esteemed Board Member and global geroscience philanthropist Sami Sagol.

Worldwide, innovations in GerOomics have been advanced through the vision of Sami Sagol and the Sagol Network. AFAR is pleased to present Mr. Sagol our AFAR Award of Distinction and launch a new Sagol Network GerOmic Award for Junior Faculty. Through our grant programs and scientific meetings, AFAR is committed to supporting and convening the brightest talent whose research will help us all live healthier, longer.

Enjoy today’s program and stay tuned for more events as AFAR commemorates our 40th anniversary in 2021.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Lederman, AFAR Executive Director
About our Presenters in order of appearance

Nir Barzilai, MD, is the Scientific Director of AFAR, as well as a multiple AFAR grantee, and 2010 Irving S. Wright Award of Distinction recipient. At the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, he is a Professor in the Department of Endocrinology Medicine and the Department of Genetics and the Ingeborg and the Ira Leon Rennert Chair of Aging Research. Dr. Barzilai is the founding director of the Institute for Aging Research and the Director of the Nathan Shock Center for Excellence in the Basic Biology of Aging, funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He is also the director of the Glenn Center of Excellence in the Biology of Human Aging. He is a chaired professor of medicine and of genetics and a member of the Diabetes Research Center and the divisions of endocrinology and geriatrics. Dr. Barzilai's interests focus on several basic mechanisms in the biology of aging, including the biological effects of nutrients on extending life and the genetic determinants of life span. His team discovered many longevity genes in humans, and they further characterized the phenotype and genotype of humans with exceptional longevity through NIH awards. He is leading the TAME (Targeting Aging with Metformin) Trial, a multi-center study to prove the concept that multi morbidities of aging can be delayed in humans and change the FDA indications to allow for next generation interventions. He is a founder of CohBar Inc. (now public company) and Medical Advisor for Life Biosciences and a founding member of the Academy for Lifespan and Healthspan. Dr. Barzilai has published more than 270 peer-reviewed papers, reviews and chapters in textbooks. He has been featured in major papers, TV programs, and documentaries (TEDx and TEDMED) and has been consulting or presented the promise for targeting aging at The Singapore Prime Minister Office, several International Banks, The Vatican, Pepsico, and Milkin Institute. His book, Age Later: Health Span, Life Span, and the New Science of Longevity, was published by St. Martin’s Press in June of 2020.

Morgan Levine, PhD is a ladder-rank Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology at the Yale School of Medicine and a member of both the Yale Combined Program in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, and the Yale Center for Research on Aging. Her work relies on an interdisciplinary approach, integrating theories and methods from statistical genetics, computational biology, and mathematical demography to develop biomarkers of aging for humans and animal models using high-dimensional omics data. As PI or co-Investigator on multiple NIH-, Foundation-, and University-funded projects, she has extensive experience using systems-level and machine learning approaches to track epigenetic, transcriptomic, and proteomic changes with aging and incorporate this information to develop measures of risk stratification for major chronic diseases, such as cancer and Alzheimer's disease. Her work also involves development of systems-level outcome measures of aging, aimed at facilitating evaluation for geroprotective interventions. A number of the existing biological aging measures she has developed are being applied in both basic and observational research.
Amos Tanay, PhD is an Associate Professor and Kimmel Investigator in the department of Computer Science and the department of Biological Regulation at the Weizmann Institute. Amos’ background is in Mathematics, and he spent several years in the Israeli start-up industry before coming back to Tel-Aviv University and completing his PhD in Computational Biology. He did postdoctoral training at Rockefeller University and later established his own research group at Weizmann. The Tanay group is combining computational and experimental work to study genomic and epigenomic regulation at multiple scales, from the nucleotide level and up to the physical conformations of entire chromosomes. By developing quantitative, high-resolution experiments, the group explores how heterogeneous populations of single cells within tissues acquire, memorize, and later modify their functional states.

Bracken P. Darrell is President and Chief Executive Officer of Logitech. In this role, he is responsible for Logitech’s strategy for growth and profitability, for the vision for the brand as well as for the company’s operations. Mr. Darrell joined Logitech as president in April 2012, and assumed the role of chief executive officer in January 2013. Mr. Darrell brings to Logitech more than twenty years of experience in business management and brand management in successful global consumer companies, including Whirlpool, Procter & Gamble and General Electric. His broad executive management experience has spanned manufacturing, supply chain, product innovation, consumer services and marketing – targeting customers in mature and emerging markets. He has led growth and reinvention for iconic brands such as Old Spice, Gillette, Braun, Kitchen-Aid and Whirlpool. Prior to joining Logitech, Mr. Darrell was executive vice president of Whirlpool Corporation and president of Whirlpool EMEA, where he guided the company through the economic downturn of 2008. Previously, Mr. Darrell was with Procter & Gamble, most recently as the president of Braun, the home appliance business. In addition to a total of twelve years with Procter & Gamble – in executive management positions as well as earlier years in brand management – Mr. Darrell served with General Electric Company for five years, most recently as the general manager of Consumer Home Service. Mr. Darrell began his career with Arthur Anderson and then PepsiCo. Bracken Darrell holds an M.B.A. degree from Harvard Business School and a B.A. degree in English from Hendrix College in Arkansas.

David Sinclair PhD, AO, is an AFAR Board Member, 2019 Irving S. Wright of Distinction Award recipient, and 2000 Glenn Foundation for Medical Research and AFAR Grants for Junior Faculty recipient. He is a tenured professor in the Department of Genetics at Harvard Medical School and co-director of the Paul F. Glenn Center for the Biological Mechanisms of Aging. Dr. Sinclair is regarded as one of the world’s leading researchers on aging and age-associated diseases, with key contributions to understanding why we age and how to slow and even reverse the process. He has co-founded multiple biotechnology and
Steven N. Austad, PhD is the co-principal investigator of the National Institute on Aging’s Nathan Shock Centers of Excellence in the Basic Biology of Aging Coordinating Center, and a distinguished professor and department chair in the Department of Biology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. His current research interests include figuring out why organisms age at different rates, particularly in especially long-lived organisms such as quahog clams and hydra. He is also interested in studying indicators of animal healthspan as well as the effects of rapamycin on mouse healthspan. He is the author of more than 190 scientific articles and more than 100 newspaper columns on science. He was prominently featured in the National Geographic special, “Breakthroughs: the Age of Aging” directed by Ron Howard as well as the PBS special, “Incredible Aging: Adding Life to Your Years.” On behalf of AFAR, he writes a bimonthly column for PBS Next Avenue. His book Why We Age: What Science Is Discovering About the Body’s Journey Through Life, has been translated into eight languages. Learn more at www.stevenaustad.com. Follow him on Twitter @StevenAustad.

Oscar Vivas, PhD, is the 2020 recipient of the Sagol Network GerOmic Award for Junior Faculty. He is a Junior Faculty in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at the University of Washington. His research aims to understand how aging alters the autonomic nervous system and attempts to find answers to the following questions: Is aging a perturbation factor for which the autonomic nervous system can respond? When does aging become a stressor for which the autonomic nervous system cannot compensate? What are the cellular and molecular properties of the autonomic neurons altered by aging? Dr. Vivas’ research team uses electrophysiology, high-resolution microscopy, and molecular biology to address these questions. He trained as a Postdoctoral Scholar in the laboratories of Dr. Bertil Hille and Dr. Eamonn Dickson. His scientific contributions include the understanding of the regulation of ion channels by toxins, receptors, growth factors, and phosphoinositides in health and disease.
Born in Turkey, Sami Sagol immigrated to Israel as a young boy. In the 1980s, he was awarded management responsibility over Keter Plastics, a small Israeli company founded by his father. Under his leadership, the Keter Group became a world leader in the development, production and marketing of home improvement consumer products with an annual turnover reaching the billion-dollar mark. In 2016 the Sagol family sold its majority stake at Keter Group.

Over the years, the Sagol family translated their philanthropic concern into a way of life, generously investing in promoting research, community & education while also fostering coexistence and the periphery. Among their notable undertakings are the scholarship enterprise for high-school and higher education students, including thousands of scholarships for periphery populations; transforming the Nitzan association into a national organization that addresses learning disabilities; leading Nitzan Horim, which offers an innovative approach to parenting challenges; and Mifalot Education and Society Enterprises. The family also supports a long line of cultural activities and institutions, including the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and the Israeli Opera.

Ultimately, Sagol’s vision has found its expression in ground-breaking activity aimed at making Israel an international hub in Life Sciences for advanced research in the fields of Neuroscience & Longevity. This has become Sami’s life’s mission, setting up the Sagol Network, a network of schools & research centers in leading academic and medical institutions throughout Israel, promoting multidisciplinary projects, laboratories, and technologies. Among these, Sami established the Sagol School of Neuroscience at Tel Aviv University, Joseph Sagol Neuroscience Center at Sheba Medical Centre, Sagol Institute for Longevity Research, Weizmann Institute, The Sagol Center for Neurobiology & Ethology and Emily Sagol Center for Creative Art Therapy at Haifa University, Sagol center for Brain & Mind at the IDC, The Sagol Brain Center at Sourasky (Tel Aviv) Medical Center, The Sagol Program for Computational Healthcare at Hebrew University, Kahn-Sagol-Maccabi Health Data Science Institute and the Sagol Center for Hyperbaric Medicine & Research at Asaf Harofe Medical Center.

Understanding that in order to strengthen Israel’s position, it must have a proper ‘bridge’ to the world, Sami has led the way in extending the Sagol Network’s philanthropic efforts to Ivy league institutions abroad, with the local Jewish communities, scientists, and leaders in mind. Initiatives such as the Sagol MIT-Weizmann Bridge
program, Sagol-Kandel Brain Longevity Initiative at Columbia University and the Sagol Center for Epigenetics of Metabolism and Aging, setting a bridge between Monash University, in Sydney and Tel Aviv, and paving the path for such global reach.

Sami Sagol is granted with Doctor Philosophiae Honoris Causa from Tel-Aviv University, Weizmann Institute, The Technion, Bar Ilan University and the University of Haifa. He was declared as an Honorary Fellow at Bezalel Academy, Shenkar College, Ort Braude, the IDC College and received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Israel’s industry association, The Ramniceanu Prize for Economics at TAU, EY entrepreneur of the year award, and Globes’ Man of the Year Award for 2016. Internationally, Sami was awarded with the French Legion of Honor medal in Paris for his contribution to the French economy and bestowed by the State of Italy with the honorable knight order.

AFAR is honored to present Mr. Sagol with our AFAR Award of Distinction. This award is presented to lay individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to the advancement of aging research.

In 2020, AFAR and the Sagol Network established The Sagol Network GerOmic Award for Junior Faculty to provide up to $100,000 for a one- to two-year award to junior faculty (MDs and PhDs) to conduct aging-related -omics research. The award supports projects in Genomics, epigenomics, proteomics, metabolomics, transcriptomics, and methylomics (and other areas of -omics research) that focus on biological versus chronological aging in animals and humans; Comparative -omics in animals with different life spans; and Omics of aging-related interventions and therapeutics.

Learn more at www.afar.org/grants/sagol-award.
About AFAR

During the last century, innovations in public health and biomedical science have generated a dramatic transformation in how long we can live.

Today, however, the question is not simply how to live longer, but how to live healthier longer.

For nearly four decades, the American Federation for Aging Research has been committed to developing the science of healthy aging, providing more than $184 million to more than 4,200 investigators at premier research institutions nationwide.

AFAR-funded scientists are continually developing insights about how to preserve our vitality as we age. They are finding that modifying basic cellular processes can delay—or even prevent—many chronic diseases, often at the same time.

They’re also finding that it’s never too early and never too late to improve our health. Whether in our 30s, 60s, or 90s, we can reap the benefits of exercise and better nutrition. And novel therapies, such as emerging drugs, hold similar promise to help us avoid disease and enhance our quality of life—at any age.

Thanks to the science AFAR supports, we are making constant progress toward a simple and compelling vision: the ability for all of us to live healthier each and every day of our lives.

www.afar.org / AFARorg on Twitter and Facebook