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Weizmann Institute of Science Announces Visiting Scientist Agreement with Pfizer Inc.

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The Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, and Yeda Research and Development Co., Ltd., its commercial arm, announced this week that they have entered a multi-year arrangement with Pfizer Inc. The arrangement will entail collaboration at the newly established National Drug Discovery Institute (DDI) in the Nancy and Stephen Grand Israel National Center for Personalized Medicine (G-INCPM), which is part of the Weizmann Institute and located on its campus. Pfizer will be supporting the G-INCPM by placing a Pfizer medicinal chemist (rotating on a yearly basis) at the Institute to assist with advancing target selection and high-throughput screening, as well as leading development campaigns for programs that enter the DDI. If projects of mutual interest -- those that hold promise in addressing unmet medical needs -- are identified, Pfizer and Yeda will evaluate the potential for research and development agreements.

“We are very pleased to collaborate with Pfizer, and to work side-by-side with its scientists in our new national center, to build a world-class discovery and medicinal chemistry organization,” said Dr. Berta Strulovici, Head of the G-INCPM. “We welcome Pfizer’s commitment to scientific discovery, and we are excited to host Pfizer scientists on campus and to broaden the potential impact of our joint efforts and common aim to discover new medicines that may benefit patients around the world.”

Amir Naiberg, CEO of Yeda, added: “We are pleased to announce this collaboration with Pfizer. Pfizer’s presence in the Weizmann Institute campus will give Pfizer potential access to Israeli innovation and allow Israeli scientists at the Weizmann Institute to enjoy direct access to the drug development expertise of Pfizer medicinal chemists.”

“This is an exciting partnership for Pfizer,” said Mikael Dolsten, President of Pfizer Global Research. “We have interacted with the Weizmann Institute for many years and have confidence in their scientific vision and expertise. We anticipate that this arrangement could potentially result in meaningful discoveries in the coming years. We look forward to working with many Israeli scientists and to seeing the outcomes of this effort.”

About Weizmann Institute
The Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, is one of the world's top-ranking multidisciplinary research institutions. Noted for its wide-ranging exploration of the natural and exact sciences, the Institute is home to 2,700 scientists, students, technicians and supporting staff. Institute research efforts include the search for new ways of fighting disease and hunger, examining leading questions in mathematics and computer science, probing the physics of matter and the universe, creating novel materials and developing new strategies for protecting the environment.

Weizmann Institute news releases are posted on the World Wide Web at http://wis-wander.weizmann.ac.il/, and are also available at http://www.eurekalert.org