



January 5, 2009

## University of Michigan, Israeli scientists work together on projects

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Scientists at the University of Michigan are joining with their counterparts at several Israeli universities in the hopes of winning funding to work together on research into human disease.

Called the U-M/Israel Partnership for Scientific Research, the joint effort grew out of personal connections between researchers at U-M and Israel.

The Life Sciences Institute, the laboratory facility at U-M dedicated to basic scientific research, has hosted an exchange of Israeli scientists, and U-M scientists have gone to Israel to pursue their own research interests.

A committee of U-M and Israeli leaders will award grants to the most promising research projects developed by teams consisting of both U-M and Israeli scientists.

Fifty teams applied for funding to pursue work on heart disease, cancer genetics, stem cell biology, deafness and tissue engineering. About \$450,000 in private donations has been raised so far.

Israeli scientists could benefit from access to the specialized equipment at U-M that is not available in Israel.

U-M scientists could benefit with access to the Israeli scientists' knowledge and the country's research climate.

Israeli scientists, for instance, are leaders in human embryonic stem cell research. Such research was tightly limited in Michigan before the passage in November of a state constitutional amendment that allows the creation of new lines of embryonic stem cells here under certain conditions.