# In Search of Israeli Partnerships

**Boca Raton, Fla. (Oct. 31, 2018)** – Building on the success of numerous existing FAU collaborations with Israeli institutions, Anton Post, Ph.D., associate vice president for corporate and international relations, recently spearheaded two weeks of consecutive meetings in Israel. In mid-October, Randy D. Blakely, Ph.D., executive director of the FAU Brain Institute, shared his neuroscience research expertise by delivering five lectures in four days. The following week, Post and Jason Hallstrom, Ph.D., director of the Institute for Sensing and Embedded Network Systems Engineering, explored economic development opportunities with engineering and technology leaders.



*From left: Anton Post, Nahum Shimkin, Dean of the Electrical Engineering Department at the Technion in Haifa, and Jason Hallstrom.*

During the first half of the trip, Blakely and Post visited the leadership and faculty of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Center for Brain Sciences to develop stronger research and education ties. Blakely lectured at the university's science and medical campuses; the Gonda Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center at Bar Ilan University in Tel Aviv; the Sagol School of Neuroscience at the University of Tel Aviv; and the Weizmann Institute of Science outside Tel Aviv. In addition, Post and Blakely discussed current and future research support mechanisms with leadership of the Israel Binational Science Foundation.

Hallstrom and Post met with representatives of academy, industry, government and foundations that support U.S.-Israel collaboration. Their search for prospective partners took them to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the Technion Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa and the Agricultural Research Organization at the Volcani Center outside of Tel Aviv. Hallstrom delivered a total of three seminars on I-SENSE accomplishments and met with faculty.

The trio looks forward to following up on the most promising connections that emerged from their visit. Blakely was impressed with both the research and collegial nature of faculty and students across the various institutions he visited, and their strong interest in collaborative program development. Hallstrom came away optimistic about a number of opportunities in sensor development in agriculture and elsewhere.

"The two visits have greatly enhanced FAU's visibility in Israel," Post said. "There is great potential for long lasting partnerships between FAU and Israeli academic institutions and companies."

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