

Project Management

Having an opportunity to report about my achievements, I would like, first, to express my grateful thoughts.

On my return to Israel, I received a personal office and adequate space for my *own lab*. My host institution, and especially, Prof. Nir Giladi – the head of the Neurology department and Prof. Talma Hendler – the head of the Functional Brain Imaging Center were very cooperative and helpful for me at my very first steps in the career. The Imaging Center has very good and advanced equipment. They provided me with the subsidized rates for using of the scanner and allowed me free access to all other equipments. Both departments have a friendly atmosphere that makes available a fruitful cooperation between them. I have been accepted very nice in both units, and I am involved currently in several on-going projects.

As a Senior Researcher at the TASMCM, I received the needed seed funds from the institution. Currently I am fully involved in the academic, technical and administrative support necessary for the project implementation and management.

Administrative management: The fund is administered by Division for Research and Development of the TASMCM in the same way that research grants and start-up funds are generally administered.

Scientific Management: Funding this project facilitated the setup of my cognitive and neuroimaging (fMRI) studies, providing me with the ability to quickly begin an advanced research on some of the most complex and important questions in neuroscience. The fellowship was very helpful in purchasing lab equipment (e.g. computers, software) needed to run the laboratory. More so, the fellowship provided me with enough support (payment to research assistants, students, payment to subjects, etc.) to work independently on my research and launch several fMRI studies. Currently, there are three students in the lab – 2 PhD students, a MSc student, and a research assistant. A post-doc fellow has completed her training period in August 2016. As a token of commitment to my career development, in August 2014 I was awarded a Senior Lecturer affiliation with the Tel Aviv University.

Additional grants: Although the financial support of this grant made a crucial contribution to my ability to conduct productive research in the short reintegration period, we have applied for financial support to other grant foundations. A list of funded applications is provided below:

YEAR	FOUNDATION	TITLE	SUM	P.I.
2013-2015	Ministry of Science, Technology and Space	Levi Eshkol Scholarship for Postdoctoral Fellow	\$25,000/year; 3 years	Yulia Lerner
2014-2015	Gassner Fund for Medical		\$18,500; 2 years	Yulia Lerner

	Research			
2016	BeyondVerbal		\$6,500; 1 year	Yulia Lerner
2016-2018	The National Institute for Psychobiology in Israel	Young Investigator Research Grant	\$15,000/year; 2 years	Yulia Lerner

Pending grant: an application to the Fund of Research Projects at the TAU Faculty of Medicine is currently at the advanced level of evaluation.

Scientific collaborations since the establishment of the lab:

- First of all, the fellowship provided me with enough funding to establish a very important for me collaboration with my previous supervisor, Prof. Uri Hasson at the Princeton University. He is one of the pioneers in the studying of the brain responses to natural real life events. During this period, I have shortly visited his lab, and we launched a collaborative project aimed to study how the neural responses are affected by temporal scaling the real life stimuli (for example, variations in speech rate). Depending on financial possibilities during upcoming years, we are planning to work together in the future. I am confident that this collaboration will be highly productive for both sides and allow us to carry out cutting-edge scientific experiments. (*The paper was accepted for publication in J Neurophysiol, 2014*).
- Another established collaboration is with Prof. David Heeger, Prof. Morwaread Farbood, and Prof. Gary Marcus from the New York University. We investigated the neural mechanism underlying the processing of non-verbal auditory information (e.g., music). Specifically, we characterized the time scale of music processing at different stages of stimulus perception. (*The paper was accepted for publication in Front Neurosci, 2015*).
- In collaboration with Dr. Yulia Golland from the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya, (Israel) we investigate neural processes underlying interpersonal emotional transmissions (see Project V above; the paper is at final stages of preparation).

Finally, I wish to thank the Marie Curie CIG for sponsoring these exciting projects over the past 4 years. The grant made my transition period and integration into the local system smoother, helped me to obtain a stable promising position and establish my own laboratory.