

Israel Cidon joins Cornell Tech as Director of the Joan & Irwin Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute

NEW YORK (August 22, 2023) – Cornell Tech announced today that Prof. Israel Cidon – entrepreneur, renowned leader in network engineering and former faculty member and Dean at the Andrew and Erna Viterbi Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Technion–Israel Institute of Technology – joins Cornell Tech as director of the Joan & Irwin Jacobs Technion-Cornell institute. Cidon will succeed Ron Brachman whose appointment began in 2016.

The Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute at Cornell Tech pushes the boundaries of academia at Cornell Tech, with dual-degree programs in Health Tech, Connective Media, and Urban Tech. Since its founding, the Jacobs Institute has incubated 42 new startup companies, which have filed almost 50 patent applications and secured more than \$200 million in private funding. More than 80% of these companies are still operating and, in aggregate, they employ well over 200 employees in New York City.

As the new Director, Cidon will lead the Jacobs Institute’s strategic vision as it continues to grow its interdisciplinary, translational research focused on grand challenges in the digital realm; its innovative dual-degree programs; and its commitment to inclusive entrepreneurship.

“Professor Cidon has led groundbreaking research, co-founded several successful start-ups and developed 65 U.S. patents covering aspects of data networks including mobility, packet switching, security, Internet, and beyond,” said **Cornell Tech Dean and Vice Provost Greg Morrisett**. “His extensive expertise, start-up and industrial research experience – including at VMWare, one of Silicon Valley’s leading companies – will be fundamental to advancing the Jacobs Institute’s mission of offering a global perspective on research, education, technology transfer, commercialization and entrepreneurship.”

"Professor Israel Cidon is an esteemed computer networking researcher with extensive management experience at the Technion," said **Technion President Professor Uri Sivan**. "As Dean he led the Andrew and Erna Viterbi Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering to significant achievements. Professor Cidon has a rich and successful background in entrepreneurship, and he maintains close relationships with the industry. I am confident that he will contribute significantly to strengthening the collaborations between Technion and Cornell University and advancing research and development at the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute."

“The Jacobs Institute represents the academic partnership between Cornell University and the Technion–Israel Institute of Technology at Cornell Tech,” said **Israel Cidon, Head of the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute**. “It’s a privilege to succeed Ron Brachman as director of the Jacobs Institute and build upon Ron’s leadership, furthering the institute’s innovative approach to research and industry partnership.”

Cidon comes to the Institute from VMware Research, where for over six years he served as Vice President and Researcher working on high-performance, world-wide networks that bridged IoT, data centers, public clouds and more, enabling and optimizing geo-distributed

modern applications. Prior to his time at VMware, he worked as a faculty member at The Technion–Israel Institute of Technology, published over 180 peer reviewed papers and served as Dean of Electrical and Computer Engineering from 2006 to 2010. Cidon has cofounded a number of technology companies, including Micronet Ltd., an early mobile data entry pioneer; Actona Technology, which introduced the basic technology for WAN optimization; Viola Networks, a network quality of service testing and diagnosis; and Sookasa, an organizational SaaS security platform.

About Cornell Tech

Cornell Tech is Cornell University's groundbreaking campus for technology research and education on Roosevelt Island in New York City. Our faculty, students and industry partners work together in an ultra-collaborative environment, pushing inquiry further and developing meaningful technologies for a digital society. Founded in partnership with the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and the City of New York, Cornell Tech achieves global reach and local impact, extending Cornell University's long history of leading innovation in computer science and engineering.

About Technion – Israel Institute of Technology

The [Technion - Israel Institute of Technology](#) celebrates its first centennial this year. The impact of the Technion on Israel's economy, society and defense is unmatched. It has long leveraged boundary-crossing collaborations to advance breakthrough research and technologies that impacted the world. Now, with a presence in three countries, the Technion prepares the next generation of global innovators. Technion people, ideas and inventions made immeasurable contributions to the world, innovating in fields from cancer research and sustainable energy to communication theory, quantum technologies, nanotechnology, and computer science.

To Israel Cidon's photo [click here](#)

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For further details: Technion Spokesperson Doron Shaham – 050-3109088