Professor Rivka Carmi, President of Ben Gurion University University of the Negev, is the first woman president of an Israeli university. Her contributions have created a major impact in academia and in the fields of medicine and genetics.

Professor Carmi has adopted the vision of settlement in the Negev inherited from Ben Gurion's legacy, as well as the embracing of Zionist values and academic excellence among her students.

Born in Israel, Rivka Carmi is a graduate of the Hebrew University Hadassah Medical School. She completed a residency in pediatrics, a fellowship in neonatology at the Soroka University Medical Center and an additional two-year fellowship in medical genetics at Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard University Medical School.

Professor Carmi served as Director of the Genetics Institute at the Soroka University Medical Center and held several important academic administrative positions in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, where she is the incumbent of the Kreitman Foundation Chair in Pediatric Genetics. In 2000, she was elected Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at BGU, serving in that role for five years. Between 2002 and 2005, she also served as the Chairperson of the Israeli Association of Medical Deans.

Professor Carmi is known for her contributions in medical research, focusing mainly on characterizing genetic diseases of the Negev Arab-Bedouin population. Author of more than 120 publications, she has succeeded in identifying 12 new genes and 3 new syndromes, one of which is known as the Carmi Syndrome.

Professor Carmi is prominent in her support of the Bedouin community, both medically to help prevent hereditary diseases, as well as in social activism, promoting the education of Bedouin women.

Professor Carmi is a member of national, professional and public committees and organizations and is a scientific reviewer for various international journals and funding agencies. She also serves on the editorial board of prestigious international scientific journals.

Noteworthy honors she has received include the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Yated organization for children with Downs Syndrome, the Achievement in Medicine Award by the Municipality of Beer-Sheva, the 2002 Award for Peace from the Canada International Scientific Exchange Program, the 2008 Women of Distinction Award of the Hadassah Women's Zionist Organization of America, and the Award in Excellence from the Israel Ambulatory Pediatric Association.

In recognition of her vision of a better society in Israel, her contributions to medical research and field work, to the development of the Negev and to an academic advancement in Israel, and in appreciation of her social projects that promote the health and welfare of both children and adults in Israel's diverse communities, Prof. Rivka Carmi is hereby named an

Honorary Fellow of the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya

Prof. Uriel Reichman
President
May 26, 2010
Herzliya, Israel