

## **Eighteen New Nursing Rooms Opened at the Technion**

**A new era at the Technion: 18 new nursing and lactation rooms were recently opened on campus ahead of the new academic year. Mothers also have access to a digital map that shows where the rooms are located all over campus.**

The Technion has been transforming itself in the last few decades and, as a result of substantial efforts, the percentage of female undergraduate students has consistently increased. This year, half of all new undergraduate students are women. The share of women pursuing advanced degrees is also on the rise.

A comprehensive study among female students and alumnae, led by Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion Professor Adi Salzberg, revealed the need to establish a nursing and lactation room in every academic faculty. As a result of the survey, the University charted the exact requirements, set uniform standards for nursing rooms on campus, and purchased suitable furniture and equipment for each faculty, as well as for Student House and the Ulman Building, where all first-year students have classes.

The project was headed by Liza Shamaliiov Zaretski, who manages the Facebook groups “Women Students at the Technion” and “Moms at the Technion.” She explains that, “in December 2022, I checked the nursing room situation on campus. Since many students return to the University after maternity leave, and combine research with being a mom, I decided to take up the gauntlet and ensure that they would have nursing rooms that are close, accessible, and equipped – a room to nurse and to pump milk during the first few months after childbirth, which would make it easier to return to the University without having to give up nursing.”

All of the nursing rooms at the Technion are air conditioned and equipped with a nursing chair, a diaper changing station, a special refrigerator to store breast milk, and a work area that includes a computer table and chair. There is either a kitchenette next to or a sink inside each room for washing the pumping equipment.

“The welcome growth in the number of women studying at the Technion means that it is all the more important to provide the new mothers among them with suitable and respectful conditions for nursing or pumping milk in every department and faculty where they study or work,” says Prof. Adi Salzberg. “Maneuvering between family life and work or studies is often difficult and challenging – even more so for nursing mothers. The new nursing rooms are another way to help these women feel at home at the Technion. I would like to thank all those who worked on this important project and made it a success: deans and administrative heads; Deputy Director General of Operations Zahava Laniado; Efrat Barkai-Goral, who is charged with diversity, equality, and inclusion; and Liza Shamaliiov Zaretski, who led the project with great dedication.”

[Click here](#) for the digital map of nursing rooms on campus

[Click here](#) for photos.

Captions:

1. Doctoral student Keren Or Greenberg in the Ulman Building's new nursing room
2. Katya Brodetzky, a graduate of the Taub Faculty of Computer Science, in the Faculty's new nursing room
3. Liza Shamaliiov Zaretski, who headed the project.

Photo credit: Sharon Tzur, Technion Spokesperson's Office