Professor Yftah Tal-Gan
2020 Early Career Lectureship Recipient

Associate Professor

University of Nevada, Reno

Tal-Gan Group Website

Past recipients of the Early Career Lectureship

Professor Yftah Tal-Gan received his B.S. from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He then worked on his M.S. and Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, in the groups of Professor Chaim Gilon and Professor Alexander Levitzki. His doctoral dissertation was on the development of new peptide-based inhibitors of Protein Kinase B (PKB/Akt) as potential drugs for Cancer. Upon completion of his Ph.D. work, Yftah joined the laboratory of Professor Helen Blackwell at the University of Wisconsin-Madison as a Postdoctoral Research Associate working on the development of peptide-based tools and materials to study quorum sensing in Staphylococcus aureus. In 2014 Yftah joined the Chemistry Department at the University of Nevada, Reno as an Assistant Professor in Chemical Biology and as of July 1, 2020, he was promoted to the Associate Professor rank.

Since joining the University of Nevada, Reno, Yftah has established a chemical biology research program with the overarching goal of developing and utilizing peptide-based probes to study bacterial communication pathways and their role in bacterial pathogenesis and inter-species competition. This research program is multidisciplinary and spans from organic synthesis and analytical characterization to biological screening, structural determination of biomacromolecules, and molecular microbiology. Current projects in the lab are funded by two National Institutes of Health (NIH) and one National Science Foundation (NSF) grants, and resulted in 26 papers from the lab.

Tal-Gan will be featured at this summer's 27th American Peptide Symposium.

In his talk, Yftah intends to discuss his group's work focused on deciphering communication pathways in streptococci through the development and utilization of peptide-based tools that mimic the native signaling peptides that drive group behavior phenotypes.

We hope you will attend the symposium and help us celebrate his important contributions to the field of peptide science.