

March 2, 2020

Dear CellFit friends and followers,

As a result of the Coronavirus threat, with great regret, after a full year of intensive preparations, we were forced to cancel a well prepared annual CellFit workshop in Jerusalem, 3-6 of March 2020. Furthermore, we organized two very relevant satellite workshops on imaging and microfluidics with world renowned experts that were open to the CellFit participants. The latter was also supported by the private sector. All of these, and a planned walking tour in the history and symbolism immersed old Jerusalem had to be canceled due to the Coronavirus threats.

This is a result of a warning that was issued by the Israeli Ministry of Health not to convene international conferences in Israel. We were not the only “victims” of this warning. As a result of this The Weizmann institute of science, the Hebrew University, the Technion Institute of Technology and the Ben Gurion University of the Negev canceled all their international gatherings in Israel and, in fact, made a recommendation to their staff to refrain from traveling abroad until the coronavirus threat is contained. We had no choice but to abide by this request. At these very difficult moments CellFit management, and Tiziana in particular, gave us all the moral support that we so much needed.

We are now looking at ways to introduce this well-prepared workshop to another activity within CellFit. We are open to any idea should you have one.

With best wishes for a Corona-less year to all of you,

The local organizing committee,

Yael Heifetz (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, IL)

Amos Tandler (National Center for Mariculture, IL)

Sharon Schlesinger (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, IL)