Ramat Gan, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2017

Prof. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ University

Dear Prof. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Institute for Higher Torah Studies and the Israel Institute, are overjoyed to announce a novel initiative, the first interreligious colloquium on the topic of "Computing Morality" on the burgeoning issue of AI and 'Big Data'. We are privileged to invite you to take part in the founding colloquium and will be honored by your participation. This conference will be held at Bar-Ilan University, located in Ramat-Gan, Israel, March 11th-15th, 2018.

In recent years a foundational shift has occurred in basic science as well as in technology, effecting all walks of life and research. This trend is sometimes called "Big Data" – denoting the use of an overwhelming amount of data to achieve results that bypass the traditional notions of causality and explanation. Law-like behavior is now more often considered heuristic, rather than analytical or objective in nature. Utilizing Big Data tools such as Deep Learning and the current applications of neural networks, is becoming progressively more attractive for industry and government, as it subsumes the search for mechanisms and causal frameworks.

The practical benefits of this mode of science and technology are appreciable and undeniable – lives are being saved, and automated systems are being developed to minimize casualties (i.e. Mobileye). On the other hand, should we accept actions that are dictated by algorithmic results beyond the scope of our intellect, eliminating moral agency and the divine spark of intelligence.

This dilemma concerns not only academic, intellectual and social issues, but it touches upon the basic concept of volition and responsibility that are at the core of Faith.

You are receiving this invitation in light of your work as a leading scholar in \_\_\_\_\_ and your expressed commitment to a life of meaning and faith. We welcome you to contribute to a discussion on current challenges we are all facing. Already joining the conference are Nobel Laureate Professor Robert J. Aumann (Center for the Study of Rationality, Hebrew University), Prof. Joseph Jacobson (MIT CBA) and Prof Michael Kara-Ivanov (Mobileye R&D leader). Your involvement will significantly enhance this discussion and its impact and relevance.

The ramifications of this topic on every walk of life and intellectual endeavor, necessitate the participation of notable leaders in the various scientific fields. Most notably, there special relevance for those guided by faith and who see the physical world not merely as a collection of facts, but as a field of meaningful action – imbued with purpose and responsibility.

This unique workshop -- conducted in one of the most multi-cultural and challenging universities and countries in the world -- is an opportunity to build international bridges among leaders and scholars who share these same concerns and commitment to a life of Faith.

We very much hope you will join us next spring! We are pleased to provide Business Class airfare and appropriate hotel accommodations for participants as well as covering all direct expenses related to colloquium activities. Spouses are invited to participate, although flight fare will be at the attendant's expense.

**In order to facilitate work on the conference, please inform us of your interest by: May 15th, 2017.**

You are invited to send confirmations and any questions to Dr. Israel Belfer, coordinator of The Bar-Ilan Colloquium at: [Israel.Belfer@biu.ac.il](mailto:Israel.Belfer@biu.ac.il) and Elyssa Ilana Shemen [elyssa-eilana.kanet1@biu.ac.il](mailto:elyssa-eilana.kanet1@biu.ac.il)

We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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| Professor Daniel Sperber, President, Institute of Advanced Torah Studies, Bar-Ilan-University | Prof |
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| Rav Shabtai Rappaport, Head of the Beit Midrash at the Institute of Advanced Torah Studies, Bar-Ilan-University |  |