

Nava Swersky Sofer

Nava Swersky Sofer, an entrepreneur, venture capitalist, senior executive, innovation & technology commercialization expert with over 20 years of international experience, is recognized as a leader in the fields of innovation, venture capital and technology transfer and is a frequently-invited speaker on these topics. In addition to private company boards and international consulting, she is currently President & Founding Board Member of the Toronto-based International Commercialization Alliance; Founder & Co-Chairperson of NanoIsrael, the international nanotechnology conference & exhibition, an adviser to the Israeli government on innovation and international R&D collaborations and an adviser to the United Nations' World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on innovation. She is the Israeli delegate to OECD's Business & Industry Advisory Council (BIAC) nanotechnology committee and development/innovation network, a board member of Rome-based INSME, the International Network of Small & Medium-Sized Enterprises, with over 100 members from 45 countries and of the Brussels-based Knowledge Economy Network. She is a member of the Board of Governors and of the 11-person Executive Committee of the Ruppin Academic Centre, one of Israel's leading colleges, and is often quoted on Israeli innovation models, including in the best-selling book "Start-Up Nation".

From 2005-2009 she was President & CEO of Yissum, the technology commercialization company of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, which carries out 1/3 of academic research in Israel. Ms Swersky Sofer is credited with establishing the company as a global leader in technology transfer, increasing revenues by 75% to \$60 million and growing the pipeline by 50% while signing 1,200 collaborative agreements. Prior to Yissum she spent 15 years as a partner at leading venture capital firms in California and Israel – Sanderling Ventures, Concord Ventures and Columbine, and as a Vice President at Ciba (now Novartis) at the head office in Basel, Switzerland and in the US.

Ms Swersky Sofer served on the boards of X Technologies (sold to Guidant), Optonol (sold to Alcon), Dynavax (NASDAQ: DVAX), Novagali Pharma S.A. (floated on Euronext, then sold to Santen), BioCancell and Proteologics (both traded on TASE), among others. As active chairperson of Aderis pharmaceuticals, she took the company from a \$6 million dollar valuation to over \$120 million, leading its corporate and business development, including multiple deals. Aderis was sold to Schwarz Pharma, now part of UCB. She was also an advisory member of Toronto-based DRI Capital, the \$1 billion healthcare investment company. Selected past public boards include BioJerusalem, the Israel Technology Transfer Organisation ITTN, an advisor to the Israeli Government's \$50 million biotechnology consortium and a member of the ILSI-Biomed steering committee. From 2008-2013 she served as a management board member and vice chairperson of the Center of Excellence for Commercialization of Research (Canada), the \$25 million initiative funded by the Canadian federal government. Ms Swersky Sofer has also advised the International Finance Corporation (IFC), part of the World Bank Group, on technology transfer and commercialization.

Ms Swersky Sofer holds a law degree from the Tel Aviv University, an MBA from IMD International in Lausanne, Switzerland and diplomas from the Sorbonne (Paris), the Goethe Institute (Munich) and the Instituto Trentino (Italy). She is a member of the Israel Bar Association, the youngest ever to have been admitted and a retired Captain in the Israel Defence Forces.

Selected Recent Speaking Engagements

- Invited speaker, IE Business School Venture Day, Madrid, May 2014
- Keynote speaker, South Tyrol Business Forum, Austria/Italy, April 2014 <http://www.swz.it/de/ausgaben/20633-fehler-muessen-erlaubt-sein.html>
- Co-Chair, NanoIsrael 2014, March 2014 <http://israel21c.org/technology/israels-big-niche-in-nanotech/>
- Keynote speaker, Web Economy Festival, Italy, March 2014
- Keynote speaker, NanoSpain, Madrid, March 2014
- Invited speaker, Danish Technical University; Danish Confederation of Industry, Feb 2014 <http://www.business.dk/vaekst/venture-ekspert-kommerialisering-handler-om-kultur>
- Invited speaker with Nobel laureate Dan Shechtman, Israel-Slovenia Innovation Summit, Ljubljana, Feb 2014
- Invited speaker, Swiss Healthcare Licensing Group Conference, Switzerland, February 2014
- Invited lecturer, Rusnano series of lectures on technology commercialization, Moscow, December 2013
- Keynote speaker, Guadalajara International Book Fair + academic programme, Mexico, December 2013
- Keynote speaker, Alberta Innovates conference, Canada, October 2013
- Invited speaker, National Nanotechnology Institute of Canada, Edmonton, October 2013
- Member organizing committee & speaker, 'Entrepreneurship and Business Education in Emerging Economies' international conference, Kazakhstan, October 2013
- Invited speaker, AIPPI-Israel Conference, November 2013
- Invited speaker, Israel Country Presentation, Venice, October 2013
- Invited speaker, Bled Strategic Forum, Slovenia, September 2013
- International Expert, UN WIPO Innovation Division, Geneva, June 2013
- Invited speaker, Ambrosetti Technology Forum, Italy, May 2013
- Keynote speaker, 9th annual meeting of International Network of Small & Medium-Sized Enterprises (INSME), Turkey, May 2013
- Keynote speaker, Spain-Israel Innovation Summit, Spain, April 2013
- Plenary talk, Wall Street Journal Asia conference "Unleashing Innovation", Singapore, Feb 2013 <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323384604578325923254882416.html?mod=itp>
- Sole lecturer, half-day seminar for Italian CEOs on 'Organize to Innovate', Ambrosetti, Rome, March 2013
- Speaker & session chair, International Commercialization Forum, Toronto, March 2013
- International expert, United Nations WIPO Innovation Section, Geneva, Nov 2012
- Invited plenary speaker, Nanotech Italy, Venice, Nov 2012
- Private meeting with HE Prime Minister of Russia DA Medvedev to advise on 'How to make Russia more innovative'. Participants included Sir Richard Branson of Virgin, Ericsson CEO and five others, Nov 2012
- Invited speaker at Open Innovations Forum, Moscow, Oct/Nov 2012
- Quebec delegation: Research Quebec, Montreal mayor, universities, investors and companies, Sep 2012
- Guest lecturer, International Academy of Business, Almaty, Kazakhstan: 8-hour course on innovation and technology commercialization to the heads of the national research institutes of Kazakhstan, Aug 2012
- Invited speaker, Ambrosetti Technology Forum, Italy June 2012
- Oxford University and University College London - talks re innovation clusters, lessons from Israel and other jurisdictions, June 2012
- Invited speaker, International Commercialization Forum, Toronto, March 2012
- Co-Chair, NanoIsrael 2012, March 2012. Over 1,000 participants from 36 countries. Opened conference, presented special award to Israeli President Shimon Peres, presented prizes to winning companies & projects.
- Invited speaker, annual meeting of Canada's federal Network of Centres of Excellence, Dec 2011