United States – Israel
Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund
קרן דו-לאומית למחקר ולפיתוח חקלאיים של ארצות הברית וישראל
BARD - קמח

September 2020

Prof. Joel Weller
Department of Ruminant Science, Institute of Animal Science
Agricultural Research Organization

Dear Prof. Weller,

It is our deep pleasure to inform you that research conducted by you, together with Profs. Micha Ron at the Agricultural Research Organization, Harris Lewin and Daniel Gianola at University of Illinois, George R. Wiggans and Paul Van Raden at the USDA and Ignacy Misztal at University of Georgia has been recognized for its outstanding scientific achievement and excellence. The research has been selected among the top 3 most successful and economically impactful research projects amongst the 1,330 projects granted by the US-Israel Binational Research and Development fund over the entire 40 years of its existence. Please accept this formal letter of recognition with our warmest congratulations.

As you know, we have recently completed the BARD 40-year research impact assessment. The external review committee that oversaw the evaluation process was deeply impressed by your research approach; the innovation in the use of large numbers of DNA microsatellites for identification of low heritability QTL, the methodology devised to analyze markers for multi-traits rather than single traits and the use of large population screening. The exceptional outcomes were stellar scientific breakthroughs for research and presented a perspective on the future of genomic marker-based selection in cattle breeding selection schemes.

The accomplishments driven from this research reflect the remarkable vision, dedication and persistence of the joint Israel-US teams in pursuing and achieving ambitious scientific goals, that had tremendous value as foundational work for later developed disruptive genomic evaluation methodologies for selection of dairy cattle with improved traits, dominantly, but not limited to, milk yields. In light of the above, we wish to recognize this research for its important scientific and economic impact. **The economic evaluation concluded that the NPV (net present value) of BARD's investment in this research is estimated at $1.135 billion.**

Furthermore, I would like to personally thank you for taking part in the survey and interviews. Your feedback was very much appreciated. The report is available online [BARD 40-year review research impact evaluation report](#) (Full [case study featuring your research)](#). I wish you and your colleagues much success in your further work, and, of course, wishing you all health during these times.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Yoram Kapulnik
Executive Director