



AMERICAN  
**TECHNION**  
SOCIETY

## About the Joan & Irwin Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute

**The Joan & Irwin Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute:** The Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute is a uniquely experimental graduate institute housed at the Cornell Tech campus on New York City's Roosevelt Island. A partnership between Cornell University and the Technion, the Jacobs Institute represents a next-generation model for STEM education, designed around industry focused "hubs" that address specific areas of social and economic need. As the embodiment of the Technion and Cornell's winning submission in New York City's competition to create an applied sciences grad school, the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute is boosting the City's tech sector and fostering companies with global impact. By advancing collaboration between academia and industry, the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute is already spinning off startups that will help transform the City into a global tech hub.

**The Cornell Tech Campus:** The overall campus, which houses the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute and numerous Cornell University initiatives, is referred to as "Cornell Tech" because Cornell is responsible for the full legal and financial burden of designing and funding what has been estimated to be a \$2 billion project. (The Technion, a public university in Israel, is unable to legally take this responsibility.) The campus is designed to promote collaboration through its glass-walled indoor spaces and public outdoor spaces, and is one of the most environmentally friendly and energy efficient campuses in the world.

Its buildings currently include:

- Emma and Georgina Bloomberg Center (academic building, established with a \$100 gift from Bloomberg Philanthropies)
- The House (residential tower)
- Tata Innovation Center (innovation space for academia and industry), renamed in recognition of a \$50 million gift from the Mumbai-based Tata Consultancy Services

When fully complete in 2037, the campus will encompass more than two million square feet and will be home to more than 2,000 graduate students and hundreds of faculty and staff.

**A Home for Experimentation:** The Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute is an independent entity, free to test the boundaries of traditional education, and experimenting with novel academic programs and entrepreneurial initiatives. As such, the curriculum is not centered on specific disciplines, but on interdisciplinary "hubs" that are relevant to New York City's key industries. Already operating hubs are **Connective Media**, focused on mobile and interactive media, and **Health Tech**, focused on creating digital solutions for better health care outcomes.

The hubs will change to meet New York City's evolving demands, and to advance the campus' vision of creating pioneering leaders and technologies for the digital age. As such, the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute has just launched **Urban Tech**, a hub that provides students the opportunity to pursue emerging sectors in urban innovation such as transportation, real estate, intelligent buildings and more. The new concentration will allow students to use machine learning, data science, human-computer interaction, and product design to address the

multifaceted challenges of city life, while gaining insight from NYC planners and entrepreneurs. Applications are open for the inaugural class entering in Fall 2020.

**Dual Degree:** The Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute is fully accredited by the State of New York, and its graduates receive dual master's degrees from the Technion and Cornell University. Its inaugural class in 2016 marked the first time an international university granted an accredited degree for studies on U.S. soil.

To date, a total of 220 students have graduated, and entered easily into the job market.

- Of the 2016-2017 Connective Media graduates who sought full-time employment, 100% received offers and accepted roles with tech companies
  - Connective Media alumni have gone on to work at AirBnB, Amazon, Apple, Digg, Google, Facebook, NYTimes and Verizon
  - Of the 2016-2017 Health Tech graduates who sought full-time employment, 100% secured positions in data engineering, product management, software development and more
  - Health Tech alumni have gone to work at companies such as Weight Watchers, FabFitFun, Datalogue and more
- Recent Student Achievements: In the academic year 2017-2018 alone
- In June 2019, Professor Ari Juels, co-director of the Institute for Cryptocurrencies and Contracts at Jacobs, was named the Weill Family Foundation and Joan and Sanford I. Weill Professor — the first endowed chair bestowed on a Technion-affiliated faculty member outside of the Haifa campus
- Assistant Professor Rajalakshmi Nandakumar joined the Jacobs faculty in August 2019. She develops computing technologies across various domains including mobile health, and the Internet of Things
  - Assistant Professor Nicola Dell, in conjunction with the New York City Mayor's Office, created a toolkit to help victims of domestic abuse protect themselves against digital threats

**The Runway Startup Postdoc Program:** Part business school, part research institution and part startup incubator—the Runway Program is geared to students who have mastered their academic disciplines but want to learn how to start a company. Based at the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute, Runway ushers recent PhDs in digital technology fields through a paradigm shift—from an academic mindset to an entrepreneurial outlook, turning research into tech products and services that make a difference in people's lives. Specifically, students transition from academia to business through classes and workshops on entrepreneurship, access to academic and industry mentors and significant financial support.

Since the program launched in 2014, there have been:

- 28 startups that have raised more than \$66 million in private funding
- 21 patent applications have been assigned to the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute, and five patents have been granted

**At the Helm:** The Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute has attracted some of the most highly regarded educational leaders including:

- Dr. Ron Brachman, director of the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute since July 1, 2016. An internationally recognized authority on artificial intelligence, he was formerly Yahoo!'s Chief Scientist and Head of Yahoo! Labs

- Dr. Fernando Gomez-Baquero, director of the Runway Program, is an award-winning nanomaterials engineer and entrepreneur who has been recognized for bringing energy technologies from academia to the market. With a Ph.D. in nanoscale engineering from the University at Albany SUNY and a background in industrial engineering and economics, he has helped Runway Postdocs to create products including a mobile tool for assessing neurological conditions, a smart baby monitor, a wearable UV radiation tracker for lupus patients, and more

**History of Cornell Tech, Home of the Joan and Irwin Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute:**

Aiming to make New York City's economy more diversified and competitive, then Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced in 2010 that the city would provide \$100 million to the institution or consortium of institutions with the best proposal for an applied science campus. In December 2011, the Cornell and Technion partnership was selected by the City as the first winner of the competition.

On April 22, 2013, Dr. Irwin Mark Jacobs, Founding Chairman and CEO Emeritus of Qualcomm, and his wife Joan Klein Jacobs, announced a \$133 million naming gift to Cornell University and the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology to create the Joan & Irwin Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute. They both are Cornell alumni who have a long history of supporting Cornell University and the Technion. The Jacobs' visionary support of the Technion includes the Irwin and Joan Jacobs Graduate School and the Irwin and Joan Jacobs Center for Communications and Information Technologies (CCIT). Dr. Jacobs also directed Qualcomm to establish an R&D center (the company's first outside of San Diego) near the Technion campus in Haifa in 1993, to take better advantage of its talented graduates.

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