

Dr Rotem Sorek

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Dr. Rotem Sorek received his B.Sc in Life Sciences from Tel Aviv University on 2000, and his PhD in Human Genetics, also from Tel Aviv University, on 2006. Between the years 2006-2008 he conducted post-doctoral studies in the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories in Berkeley, CA, and on 2008 he joined the Weizmann Institute of Science as a senior scientist.

Dr. Sorek's studies focus on RNA-mediated gene regulation and genome evolution. His early works revealed an evolutionary mechanism leading to the creation of new pieces of genes (exons) in the human genome by transposons. For these studies Dr. Sorek received the RNA society/Scaringe international young scientist award.

His more recent studies focus on the evolution of bacterial DNA, and specifically how the arms-race between bacteria and viruses that infect them influence the evolution of biological processes. For his studies in bacteria Dr. Sorek was awarded, in 2012, the Rubinowitz-Grossman Prize for outstanding young scientists from the Israel Society for Microbiology.

Main publications:

Sorek R, Ast G, Graur D. Alu containing exons are alternatively spliced. [*Genome Research*, 12\(7\): 1060–1067 \(2002\).](#)

Sorek R et al. Genome-wide experimental determination of barriers to horizontal gene transfer. [*Science*, 318\(5855\):1449–1452 \(2007\).](#)

Moran NA, McLaughlin HJ, Sorek R. The dynamics and timescale of ongoing genomic erosion in symbiotic bacteria. [*Science*, 323\(5912\):379–382 \(2009\).](#)