

## Preventing Cancer Recurrence --- Before It Begins



Dr. Dalit Barkan

**Head, Laboratory of Tumor Dormancy and Metastasis**  
*Department of Human Biology and Medical Sciences*

### Research Focus

Dr. Dalit Barkan is tackling one of the deadliest challenges in breast cancer: **recurrence**. While many breast cancer patients respond well to initial treatment, 90% of breast cancer-related deaths occur because the cancer comes back – often years later – and spreads to other parts of the body.

At the University of Haifa, Dr. Barkan leads a lab focused on preventing this return of cancer by targeting cells that lie dormant in the body. These are cancer cells that quietly remain after treatment—undetectable and unaffected by chemotherapy or radiation – and can suddenly "wake up" and cause deadly new tumors.

Her research is especially focused on triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) – a particularly aggressive type that makes up 10–20% of breast cancer cases. TNBC often leads to fast, drug-resistant relapses within just a few years of diagnosis, and currently, there is no cure once it spreads.

Dr. Barkan and her team have made an exciting discovery: they've identified new compounds that can block the signals which allow these dormant cancer cells to become active again. This means they may be able to stop recurrence before it starts.

**A Personal Mission:** Dr. Barkan is not only a world-class researcher, she is also a breast cancer survivor. She writes:

*"Like so many people, I have lost loved ones to cancer, and I myself am a breast cancer survivor. These experiences have driven me to dedicate my professional life to finding new paradigms in cancer treatment—because I believe a cure is possible."*

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### For Your Consideration

To bring this breakthrough closer to patients, Dr. Barkan is seeking visionary partners to help advance the most promising compound into pre-clinical trials. A gift of \$300,000. will accelerate the development of therapies that prevent recurrence—offering real hope to end the suffering caused by this devastating disease.

### About the Principal Investigator

Dr. Dalit Barkan is a leading cancer researcher specializing in breast cancer dormancy and metastasis. She earned her PhD from the Weizmann Institute of Science and completed her postdoctoral research at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland. She joined the University of Haifa through the Returning Scientists Program.