



International Symposium: **The evolutionary history of the human face**

Madrid, September 13, 2016

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## YOEL RAK

After completing his Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley, Yoel Rak joined the faculty of the Sackler School of Medicine at Tel Aviv University, in Israel, where he teaches anatomy and human evolution. Beginning with his doctoral research on the architecture and morphology of the australopith face, Rak has devoted most of his research efforts to understanding facial anatomy and the masticatory system in the hominin record, particularly in *Australopithecus* and early *Homo* from eastern and southern Africa (at the early end of the human fossil sequence) and Neandertal and early *Homo sapiens* in the Levant and Europe (at the more recent end). For the last twenty years, Rak has been engaged in fieldwork in the Hadar region of Ethiopia and at the Neandertal sites of Amud and Kebara in Israel. By integrating an anatomical approach with functional morphology, Rak hopes to gain a deeper insight into human taxonomy and phylogeny. Rak holds the Igor Orenstein Chair at Tel Aviv University and in 2008 was elected to the Israel Academy of Sciences.