Mr. Sheldon G. Adelson, a dear friend and true partner of IDC Herzliya, is one of the most influential Jewish personalities in the world, due both to his thriving hotel and media businesses and to his enormous contributions and advocacy for Jewish life and the State of Israel. Mr. Adelson was born in Boston in 1933 to a working class family, the son of Arthur, a Lithuanian immigrant who worked as a taxi driver, and Sarah, a British immigrant who ran a knitting shop.

Mr. Adelson's entrepreneurial spirit had already revealed itself by the age of 12, when he borrowed $200 from his uncle to buy the rights to sell newspapers on a busy street corner in Boston. For many years, and certainly since he met his wife, Dr. Miriam Adelson, in 1988, Mr. Adelson has worked faithfully and devotedly in the United States and Israel to ensure the survival and future of Israel. He and his wife have always stood by IDC Herzliya, even in difficult times, out of appreciation for the institution's entrepreneurial spirit and Zionist values, and Dr. Miriam Adelson serves as Chancellor of the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya.

Mr. Adelson purchased the Sands Hotel and Casino in order to build on his land the only privately owned convention center. Later he tore down the Sands Hotel and decided to build the Venetian - a Venetian Hotel in its place. The Venetian expressed Mr. Adelson's novel concept of an integrated resort hotel - an all-suite hotel that combines a casino, a huge convention center, meeting rooms, a shopping and entertainment center, a range of luxury restaurants, bars, a theater, gyms, swimming pools, a museum and more. Inspired by his wife, Dr. Miriam Adelson, the entire hotel was designed as a spectacular replica of the city of Venice on land.

In 2004, Mr. Adelson purchased the Sands Hotel and Casino in order to build on his land the only privately owned convention center. Later he tore down the Sands Hotel and decided to build the new Venetian Hotel in its place. The Venetian expressed Mr. Adelson's novel concept of an integrated resort hotel - an all-suite hotel that combines a casino, a huge convention center, meeting rooms, a shopping and entertainment center, a range of luxury restaurants, bars, a theater, gyms, swimming pools, a museum and more. Inspired by his wife, Dr. Miriam Adelson, the entire hotel was designed as a spectacular replica of the city of Venice on land. In order to build the hotel, he opened in 1999 a cost of $1.5 billion, and which today booms more than 7,000 suites, facilities were set up at the site, with Mr. Adelson personally supervising construction and the meeting of deadlines.

In the early 2000s, Mr. Adelson turned his entrepreneurial eye towards Macau, a former Portuguese colony now under Chinese control. In 2004, Mr. Adelson began work on the biggest project of his life. As a cost of $35 billion, a series of impressive hotels were built on a strip of reclaimed land, emulating the model of the Las Vegas Strip. The “Ceasars Strip”, based on Mr. Adelson's concept of integrated resort hotels, includes casinos and approximately 13,000 hotel rooms, arena, shopping and convention centers, meeting rooms, etc.

Mr. Adelson's entrepreneurial spirit and determination led him to become one of the most influential Jewish personalities in the world, with a degree of influence that is difficult to measure. He has always been a true partner of IDC Herzliya, even in difficult times, out of appreciation for the institution's entrepreneurial spirit and Zionist values. Mr. Adelson's support, inter alia, Birkhrtfelth, which brings young Jews to tour Israel, Yad Vashem, the Ifs Jewish Committee; the Jewish Educational Campus in Las Vegas; Ariel University; Speech, a group that saves the first United States citizens of Israel from death in the moon, the Israel American Council and many more. The couple has also established clinics to treat those suffering from drug addiction, and have funded a medical research foundation to help find cures to life-threatening diseases. The Adelsons have always stood by IDC Herzliya, even in difficult times, out of appreciation for the institution's entrepreneurial spirit and Zionist values, and Dr. Miriam Adelson serves as Chancellor of the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya.