







"

To me, who has practiced a few hundred miles east of here (Hadassah Hospital, Jerusalem) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, nothing could be more extraordinary than the intimacy, respect, solidarity, and sense of community I could feel (at Hadassah), a community which was expressed without words, without shared language, but which was utterly palpable."

"

Often during my time at Hadassah I find myself daydreaming and re-imagining my world in Riyadh if it were one day populated with Jewish patients alongside Muslim patients, Jewish colleagues alongside Muslim colleagues. It seems at once unimaginable, and as I return to my surroundings, immensely possible."



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Qanta Ahmed, M.D., is associate professor of medicine, State University of New York, honorary professor, Glasgow Caledonian University, School of Public Health, and Honorary Fellow, Technion Israel Institute. A committed Muslim, an author, and a newspaper columnist, Dr. Ahmed strongly supports Israel as well as the work of Hadassah University Medical Center.



Hadassah University Medical Center, the largest Tertiary Care Hospital in Israel, has been called an "island of sanity in an ocean of turmoil," serving as a bridge to peace and a safe haven where it doesn't matter who you are. Muslims, Christians, and Jews have worked alongside each other at the hospital for almost 100 years, saving lives while treating everyone equally.

- Hadassah has provided medical care for all the people of Jerusalem for over 100 years.
- Hadassah Healing is world renowned. Doctors and nurses are also researchers, so patients benefit from new discoveries in medicine.
- Hadassah/Hebrew University Medical School trains hundreds of doctors, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, and occupational therapists each year. The International Masters in Public Health program has trained over 900 medical practitioners from around the world who are changing the practice of medicine in their own countries.
- Hadassah Research sets the standard for Israel and around the world, with its physicians and researchers producing over half of the clinical medical research papers published by Israel, which leads in the number of medical research papers produced per capita worldwide.
- The Hadassah Sarah Wetsman Davidson Hospital Tower provides state-of-the-art facilities for patients requiring hospitalization.
- The Hadassah Medical Center is supported by the dedicated volunteers and members of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, and Hadassah International units around the world.



adassah Stories

Ibrahim: From Jordan to Hadassah, Seeking Sight

Ibrahim Shoumenn recently celebrated his 15th birthday in Jerusalem, a three-hour bus-ride from his native home in Amman, Jordan. As he blew out his candles, he wished not only for the new smartphone he loves but also for his eyesight to return.

Ibrahim, who suffers from Norrie disease, a recessive genetic disorder which causes blindness, underwent surgery at the Hadassah Medical Center in an attempt to restore the small amount of vision he had before he lost it altogether. Totally blind in one eye, Ibrahim previously had a little vision in the other when his parents first brought him to Hadassah at 10 months of age. Although there was no treatment for their son's condition, Hadassah's physicians told them to bring him back if his remaining vision worsened.

When Ibrahim woke up completely blind this past January, his parents knew it was time to return to Hadassah, which readily agreed to accept him as a patient. Hadassah's Pediatric Ophthalmologist Dr. Hadas Mechoulam operated on Ibrahim and relates that the surgery successfully restored some of Ibrahim's vision to him.

Ibrahim's parents are passionate about the excellent treatment their son received from the doctors, nurses, and other medical staff at Hadassah. "Everyone has just been so nice!" Ibrahim says.

Ibrahim, who has a "musical ear" according to his mother, realized the hospital had a piano and went over to play it, letting the music flow through him. Passersby stopped to enjoy the offering.

Says Ibrahim: "The surgery has given me hope. I just can't decide if I want to become an Android developer or a composer, but the surgery means that either may be possible."

Palestinian Children Embrace Heart Health, Thanks to Hadassah

Dr. Donna Zfat-Zwas, director of the Hadassah Medical Center's Linda Joy Pollin Cardiovascular Wellness Center for Women, visited two Palestinian East Jerusalem schools recently to see how well the Center's heart health message is playing out among the children and their mothers.

Inside the Al-Eisawieh School for Girls, a public school in the Arab neighborhood adjacent to Hadassah Hospital's Mount Scopus campus, the stairs and walls of the school are decorated with tomatoes and cucumbers. A play is going on in the gym, where a girl dressed as a milk carton is debating another dressed as a Pepsi bottle. In one classroom, the girls are cutting up salad. In another, they're turning vegetables into flowers to upgrade snack time. It wasn't always like that. Before, a truck drove up during recess with soda and junk food for sale.

Across town in the Abu Tor girls' school, the teacher asks how many girls ate breakfast that morning. All the hands fly up. That's new. Many of the girls didn't consider eating a healthy breakfast before this. Their moms are delighted and now often join them at the table.

A journalist summed up the impact in her subsequent article: "I was so inspired, I wanted to dance! The principals of these schools have incorporated heart health into every aspect of learning ... art, music, gym class, language, math, you name it! Hadassah is going to save thousands of lives with their work. Entire families are going to be changed, nay, saved by their efforts!"



Hadassah Trauma Expert Explains His Philosophy of Medicine

The Hadassah Medical Center is an "Island of Peace," explains Prof. Avi Rivkind, head of the Trauma Unit and the Division of Emergency Medicine at the Hadassah Medical Center.

Prof. Rivkind is famous for snatching trauma casualties from the jaws of death. "I value life and will do everything possible to save a life. We shouldn't be playing God and decide who lives and who doesn't; we must do everything to keep the person alive. If that's a person that deserves to go to prison, let it be so," he explained as he recalled the surgery he performed on the senior Hamas leader responsible for the bombing of Israeli Bus #18. He saved the man's life, and now the terrorist is in prison, serving a sentence for the murder of 58 people.

For over 20 years, Prof. Rivkind has been training Hadassah's medical school students in the protocol for handling a terrorist attack or mass casualty event. Hospitals from around the world (including Boston hospitals that handled the casualties from the marathon bombing) send their emergency management teams to be trained by Prof. Rivkind at the Hadassah Medical Center.



Hadassa

Innovations



Dr. Yoram Maaravi, the Hadassah Medical Center's director of geriatric rehabilitation, travels around the world "nonstop" to tell his colleagues abroad about Hadassah's geriatric model, through which geriatricians are the conductors of an elderly patient's care. "Anyone who copies our unique system will improve the care of elderly people dramatically," Dr. Maaravi says.

The Hadassah model begins with a Geriatric Emergency Program—the first such program in the world. "It's important that the elderly be treated by people who understand their diseases and complexities," Dr. Maaravi explains.

Dr. Maaravi cites the example of an 85-year-old man who comes to a hospital emergency room after having fallen during a trip to the bathroom in the middle of the night. The physician determines that the patient has a broken leg. In a typical hospital emergency room, he says, the patient would be given orthopedic surgery, sent to rehabilitation, and then be returned home. Because of the Geriatric Emergency Program at Hadassah Hospital-Mount Scopus, however, the scenario is very different. The physician in the ER immediately contacts a geriatrician when the elderly person first arrives to determine why the man fell. The geriatrician identifies the various problems that could have caused the fall—checking the patient's eyesight, investigating whether, perhaps, he has the beginnings of Parkinson's disease. He will question him as to whether he is on a diuretic or has a prostrate problem. The geriatrician will treat each problem, and, if not eliminate it, he will at least improve the clinical situation for the patient. With this broader type of intervention, Dr. Maaravi relates, falls go down by 50-60 percent!

Hadassah Is Treating HIV/AIDS in Africa

For over 20 years, the Hadassah Medical Center has brought HIV/ AIDS treatment and prevention to Ethiopia and Uganda.

Starting in about 1995, Prof. Shlomo Maayan, head of Hadassah's AIDS Center (HAC), in collaboration with the Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute (EHNRI) and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), ran an AIDS treatment program at the St. Paul Hospital in Addis Ababa. Hadassah taught the Ethiopians a multidisciplinary team approach for treatment of AIDS. This model, based on Hadassah's experience with its own Ethiopian AIDS patients in Jerusalem, included treatment for adults as well as children.

In 2005, Prof. Dan Engelhard, head of Pediatric Infectious Diseases and the Pediatric AIDS Center at Hadassah, was invited to visit an Ethiopian orphanage where 400 boys and girls, dying from HIV/AIDS, were being treated with compassion by the Mother Teresa order of nuns. Engelhard was sure they didn't have to die. He'd treated tiny AIDS patients, among them Africans, at Hadassah. Thus was born his ART-Joy-Love project, whereby the American government provided the medicine and he provided the HIV/AIDS expertise. The nuns made sure the complex daily cocktails of anti-retroviral drugs were taken in full and the dying ceased. To supplement the medicine, Prof. Engelhard founded a corps of volunteer physicians, nurses, students, and medical clowns to bring art therapy and tender, loving care to the recovering children. There are seven orphanages now in Ethiopia and Uganda.

Prof. Engelhard has saved the lives of thousands of African children through this program.





Chaldean Christians Lina Mansur, her husband, and their three children fled Qaraqosh, the "Christian capital of Iraq," last summer after the forces of Islamic State cut a swath across their country.

Now add to their journey their worries over their very sick child. Maryam, their youngest, was born with a hole in her heart. Surgery would have to be swift, they were advised; the nearest specialists were in Turkey.

The Jerusalem-based Christian organization Shevet Achim offered to bring Maryam to Jerusalem for care. Lina would have to leave the rest of the family behind. In the end, she realized it was her daughter's only chance.

The initial prognosis was not good. Too much time had elapsed, and Maryam had pulmonary hypertension. At 18 months old, Maryam was also old for the surgery.

"A hole in the heart" was the least of it. Maryam's complex condition included a heart tipped to the wrong side, undivided heart chambers, and additional challenges. Cardiovascular surgeon Eldad Erez said he rarely sees more than one case this complicated a year in Israel. But last week, Dr. Erez and his team labored eight hours in the operating theater, fixing her heart.

Lina sleeps in a room attached to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). A stream of visitors come to visit her. Lina had no idea so many people spoke Arabic in Israel. Doctors, nurses, and custodial staff sit with her; a hospital clown comes to cheer her up. And then there are the mothers of the other patients, her roommates, and new friends in this sorority of hope and prayer for the healing of these children. Four of the eight beds in the PICU are occupied by babies from Arabic-speaking families, including from Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza.

Lena notes: "You have given my child a future. God bless you."



Medicine as a Bridge to Peace

 At Hadassah–Mount Scopus, fifty percent of patients in the emergency department and on the inpatient unit are Palestinian Arabs. The Department of Pediatrics has recruited both Arab and Jewish physicians and nurses to appropriately reflect the patient population. Many of the Arab residents in training remain at Hadassah as attending physicians or as attending physicians in East Jerusalem.

Dr. Sigmund J. Kharasch from Boston relates his experiences working at the Pediatric Department at Hadassah Mount Scopus in *Pediatrics Perspectives:*

"I met and interacted with many other physicians and nurses from diverse backgrounds and cultures: Arabs from Syria and the Palestinian territories, physicians from Turkey, and Jews from Israel, Iran, South America, Sweden, and Russia. Together, we treated hundreds of patients with diseases. For obvious reasons, politics was never discussed in the hospital. One's alliance did not seem to matter. Jews took care of Arabs, and Arabs took care of Jews. No one blinked an eye. It was clear to me that people there were judged not by where they came from but by their caring and respectful nature and ability to provide medical care of the highest quality for all children and families."

 Professor Eitan Kerem, the head of Hadassah's Cystic Fibrosis Center, recently established a satellite clinic in Gaza with the help of a dedicated Palestinian health care team of volunteers who have not specialized in CF care. Hadassah is now providing specialized training to the team so they can give optimal treatment to their patients. • Prof. Rami Mosheiff, head of Hadassah's Orthopedic Trauma Center, recounts the story of a Palestinian boy who stepped on a land mine and suffered serious injuries to both his legs. Although Hadassah's surgeons had to amputate his left leg, they were able to use tissue from the amputated leg to repair the badly tornup right one. Eager to get his son home, Prof. Mosheiff relates, the father took the boy out of the hospital before doctors could provide him with a prosthesis. Not long afterwards, former Israeli President Ezer Weizman underwent some surgery at Hadassah, and King Hussein of Jordan came to visit him. When the monarch asked if there was anything he could do for Hadassah, Mosheiff says, "We asked him to find this boy." King Hussein did so, and the young man was brought back to the hospital to be fitted with the artificial leg. "I still believe, more than ever," Prof. Mosheiff notes, "that medicine is a bridge to peace."

You saved my son's life, and I came to thank you. More than that, I came to help Hadassah. I am going to fundraise for you. I am going to make sure the children who are lucky enough to be treated here have everything they need."— A young Israeli Arab, in traditional Moslem dress, who expressed his appreciation before leaving the hospital

When my husband and I got to the hospital, we were told that our son needed urgent surgery. My son had been blown up by an Arab terrorist, and here was an Arab doctor at Hadassah Hospital to heal him. Even in those dark moments, I sensed a spark of the potential for peace." — A Jerusalemite whose son was injured in a terror attack and was treated by an Arab doctor at Hadassah

We love Hadassah. We are being treated wonderfully."

 The father of eight-year-old Ruba from Gaza, who, during the fighting in Gaza, was treated at the Hadassah Medical Center for thalassemia, a potentially fatal genetic disease that is common to both Jews and Arabs

Heart Attack? Hadassah Protocol Saves Lives

The Hadassah Medical Center's protocol for victims of heart attacks translates into 34 minutes from the time a patient arrives at Hadassah until the blocked artery is opened, relates Prof. Haim Danenberg, Director of Interventional Cardiology. This is the shortest time in Israel and one of the shortest times in the world, he says.

From the moment the patients are fetched by specially equipped ambulances, they are given clot-busting medication, and their vital signs are monitored and sent with an EKG to the Hadassah Hospital. The patient goes straight to the Catheterization lab (bypassing the emergency room) and is operated on immediately. Hadassah has reduced the fatality rate from heart attacks to 2 percent (one of the lowest rates in the world).

Hadassah is also a pioneer in minimally invasive heart valve replacement and other interventional cardiac techniques.

Dr. Efraim Zuroff, Director of The Simon Wiesenthal Center, is one of Hadassah's recent cardiac success stories. Hadassah, he says, "restored me to full health and to confidence in my health."





Project Rozana: Building Bridges Across the Oceans

Hadassah Hospital is building bridges across religions and cultures in Jerusalem through Project Rozana, an Australian-inspired, multi-faith initiative that raises funds for the treatment at Hadassah of critically ill Palestinian children from the West Bank and Gaza. These funds also pay for training at Hadassah of Palestinian doctors, nurses, and therapists to enable them to build health capacity in their own communities. Hadassah is a testament to the humanity between people.

"We are very proud of this project," says Ron Finkel, President of Hadassah Australia. "It sits squarely with the mission statement of Hadassah Hospital, a nominee for the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize, and the Hadassah International network. We speak about Hadassah as a 'bridge to peace' and as an 'island of sanity in an ocean of turmoil.' This philosophy is a deeply held conviction that is evident among the staff and patients, be they Israelis or Palestinians, Jews, Christians, or Muslims."

Project Rozana is named after four-year-old Palestinian girl Rozana Ghannam, who suffered life-threatening injuries when she fell from a ninth-floor balcony at her home near Ramallah. Her mother, Maysa, had recently been treated for cancer at Hadassah, and she insisted that her critically injured daughter be taken there by ambulance. Rozana's treatment, which involved multiple operations and many weeks in hospital, was successful, and she now lives the life of a happy and healthy young girl.



The Hadassah University Medical Center is a world leader in both human embryonic stem cell (hESC) and adult stem cell research.

Led by Prof. Benjamin Reubinoff, director of Hadassah's Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research Center, researchers at the Hadassah University Medical Center in Jerusalem have produced lines of human embryonic stem cells (hESCs) for transplantation that are free of animal components. Hadassah has also developed a novel strategy to derive and control differentiation of large quantities of human embryonic stem cells (hESCs).

The following are some of Hadassah's areas of research and breakthroughs using stem cells.

Stem Cell Research to Restore Neurons: Hadassah has successfully conducted clinical trials using adult stem cell technologies for neurodegenerative diseases, showing that stem cells derived from bone marrow can revitalize neurons. "This may represent the biggest hope in the field of degenerative diseases like Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and Multiple Sclerosis (MS)," said Prof. Dimitrios Karussis, head of the Hadassah University Medical Center's Multiple Sclerosis Center.

Stem Cell Research to Improve Vision: Hadassah is well advanced in developing a technique that reverses macular degeneration. Through injections directly into the eyes of individuals who have poor vision, Hadassah has shown in preliminary trials that stem cells can reverse the disease and allow them to see. Hadassah has just launched the first human trial with its groundbreaking protocol under the direction of Prof. Eyal Banin, Director of Hadassah's Center for Retinal and Macular Degeneration.

Stem Cells Speed Up Healing Process for Severe Fractures: Under the direction of Prof. Meir Liebergall, head of Orthopedics, Hadassah has shown that injecting stem cells to treat severe fractures speeds up recovery. "A process that began 15 years ago eventually led to this clinical trial at Hadassah, the first of its kind in Israel," explains Prof. Liebergall. "The trial included 24 patients with severe pelvic fractures," he reports, noting that "this research is a medical breakthrough."

Placental Stem Cells Research: Hadassah University Medical Center researchers have shown that placental stem cells (PLX) are successful in mitigating acute radiation-induced complications in mice. "Following three successful treatments in patients, which were conducted for the first time in the world at the Hadassah Medical Center," relates Prof. Reuven Or, director of Hadassah's Bone Marrow Transplantation and Cancer Immunology Department, "we can say that PLX cells from the placenta can save the life of patients suffering from bone marrow failure."

Stem Cell Research for Heart Disease: Hadassah has been using stem cells to regenerate new blood vessels in the heart to compensate for those that are occluded. Research in this area is in progress to treat severe cardiac problems.

Stem Cell Research for Alzheimer's: The Hadassah Medical Center is one of the prestigious participants in a global consortium aimed at employing stem cells to eventually uncover the cure for Alzheimer's disease. Prof. Tamir Ben-Hur, M.D., Ph.D, head of Hadassah's Department of Neurology, is spearheading the research at Hadassah.



Two Hadassah doctors and a "medical clown" came to Nepal to work in the IDF field hospital. The following is an excerpt from a poem written by Hadassah medical clown David Dush (translated by Tom Wexler).

I am a clown one that sees so much suffering and sickness and working with the healthy side. Creating disorder in any place with order bringing back the order to places without continuing the game even if it is late and dark and you have to go to bed... and everyone I meet is a best friend without even knowing a name.

He came in yesterday, with his older brother his leg bandaged and his foot amputated he rests on a stretcher made into a bed a surgery tent. Wonderful! The medic (a man with a huge soul and full of love) turns to me, "common Dush, this boy is for you" yes sir, as you command!

And then, like all the times before, like all those cases that for years have been a part of life, I choose to jump off the springboard of life.

. I breathe,

I observe,

l act.

Aiming everything I have in me only towards him and like this with a bang, his eyes meet mine. Not such a clear look, am I one of all the strangers around him? Those with the uniform

those with the robes

with the strange objects...

but he looks and he sees that I look somewhat different

something else in the view- looks a bit weird and unrealistic. That's what I am.

I look back with a sneaky smile

it's a second of an oh so well-known diagnosis

and then

I understand

this boy is me.

A naughty look, a little hectic,

he is very much a child and very much real.

Just like that crazy moment,

where he looks and all he sees is me.

And everything we have around us is just a gigantic set

of the sick, the wounded and all of these scents...

it is now that we are both in a moment that's as strong as life I slowly approach,

and again- I act.

He surprisingly smiles- an invitation.

A world without language where everything is clear and no disputes I find us in a swordfight.

The smell of the foot comes and goes, threatening to end the game.

Good thing I have a big red nose that protects me from smells.

Keeps me from evil spirits, from disasters

and here one of the doctors my victim shall become

as he turns around I push a balloon on his bum.

He laughs without limits of injure and pain, here is this eternal child again!

Again we continue- swords and fights with no rules

he in bed and I am a puppet on strings

we are truly once in a life time friends.

Knowing his foot was amputated

because of infection they have to cut more

because of the angle of his injury, how awful is this information

I say goodbye for now

going for coffee and a quick smoke

suddenly the medic shouts from the distance

"Dush! We are taking him to surgery! We need you here!"

I spill my coffee

put out the flame

running into a new but old experience

doctors and medics and his older brother

we go on the surgery march

no lights no sparkles

a wheelchair between the tents

going into the tent

putting him on the bed

all around us smell, noise, voices

so many other stories...

Working in the IDF Field Hospital in Nepal

"We have treated hundreds of orthopedic patients," reports Hadassah Medical Organization Orthopedic Resident and Nepalese native Dr. Shree Krishna Kashichawa from the Israel Defense Forces' field hospital in Nepal.

The IDF hospital is set up in the western part of Kathmandu, about eight kilometers from the center. Dr. Krishna reports that the IDF orthopedic team is a large one, comprised of surgeons, nurses, and paramedics.

"In our department," he says, "we are seven orthopedic surgeons, including myself; my colleagues are the best and I am learning a lot." Dr. Krishna adds that their spine specialist has already performed many operations in the local hospital, near their field facility.

Dr. Krishna also relates that he was able to visit his family. Although still fearful because of aftershocks, they are fine. Dr. Krishna's parents and five married siblings live in the area most affected by the earthquake; the house where he was born was knocked down and is now uninhabitable. His Israeli colleagues quickly set out to build temporary shelter for them.

Israel has one of the top disaster-relief teams in the world and is consistently among the first to send a delegation to help out on the ground. Hadassah is proud to be a part of this delegation to Nepal.





David Fintzi was taking advantage of his first vacation since entering the prestigious medical school in Bucharest to visit a friend who lived in Iasi, Moldavia, 400 miles away. Boarding an abandoned electric train coach in Iasi, he touched the metal railing, and 27,000 volts of electricity ran through his lean body.

David hovered between life and death for 72 hours. Eighty-two percent of his body was burned. When the local doctors offered no hope of survival, his family decided to move David to Hadassah because of its international reputation and experience with burns. The air ambulance service created by Hadassah's South African pilot/physician Prof. David Linton transported David, while a doctor and a nurse from Hadassah battled to keep David alive during the flight.

David received many skin grafts from the Hadassah Skin Bank. He was unconscious in the ICU for a month and was then moved to Hadassah's new Sarah Wetsman Davidson Hospital Tower, where he received extensive rehabilitation training.

David speaks of Hadassah in glowing terms. "The doctors and nurses were so good. Not only were they professional, they cared. I was in the Tower in a private room, which was very important both emotionally and medically because my deep open wounds could be a source of infection. Bringing me to Hadassah was a very good decision. Hadassah gave me back my life. It is a great hospital and a great place. It is a place where people get to live when they should have died."

Today David has made Aliyah. He continues to recover from his injuries and has resumed his medical studies.



Hadassah is an international organization with volunteers in 30 countries around the world. We are proud to build bridges to peace through our support of the Healing, Teaching, and Research at the Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem.

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