



Newsletter No. 5

Hadassah International Israel

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Dear friends,

The activity of the board of Trustees over the last year has been a success. The board has met on a quarterly basis and held two major events (with some 3600 participants).

Since the beginning of the current year we have held two meetings at the homes of ETTY and Ronnie Kovrovsky and Daphna and Gideon Fisher.

We have begun working for the establishment of a rehabilitation center for IDF soldiers and terror victims at Hadassah Mt. Scopus through a massive campaign on social networks, digital and print media.

We are also preparing for our annual gala dinner at the David Intercontinental Hotel on November 30, 2017. At the center of the program will be a homage to the great singer and artist Arik Einstein.

We thank each and every one of you for your membership and activity on the board of Trustees for the benefit of the residents of Israel.

With deep appreciation,

Dalia Itzik Meir Mark
Chair Director

HADASSAH.
INTERNATIONAL ISRAEL

• SAVE THE DATE •

HADASSAH INTERNATIONAL ISRAEL

GALA DINNER 2017

Thursday, November 30th, 2017, 7:00 PM
David Intercontinental Hotel, Tel-Aviv

To benefit rehabilitation of soldiers and terror victims
at the Hadassah Mount Scopus Rehabilitation Center

Reports from Hadassah Hospital

RISING GENETICS STAR RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Hadassah Hospital Geneticist Dr. Tamar Harel, who is looking into the underlying genetic reasons for rare diseases in children, has received an award from Partners HealthCare Personalized Medicine, affiliated with Harvard Medical School, Boston Children's, Brigham and Women's, and Massachusetts General hospitals.

According to PHPM, the William K. Bowes Jr. Award in Medical Genetics aims "to recognize and honor an Outstanding physician or scientist who is completing or who recently has completed his or her training in the area of medical genetics or a combined training program with medical genetics."

PHPM will host a Bowes Medical Genetics Award Day this month, honoring Dr. Harel. Members from the Academic community have been invited to celebrate the awardee's accomplishments and hear a lecture on her progress in personalized medicine. In addition, Dr. Harel will participate in Harvard Medical School Grand Rounds.



"The nomination alone served as a tremendous honor," comments Dr. Harel, "though I cannot take sole credit for the achievement. I have tremendous gratitude towards the outstanding research staff from the Baylor (Texas) College of Medicine, specifically Prof. James Lupski, who coordinated the research and nominated me for the award." Dr. Harel brings out as well, "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants. I have no doubt that the supportive and positively challenging atmosphere at Hadassah has pushed me to strive for excellence, which ultimately has led to this achievement."

"Dr. Harel," notes Prof. Orly Elpeleg, head of Hadassah's Department for Genetic and Metabolic Diseases, "intelligently utilizes various genetic tools at her disposal when providing care for patients. Her medical achievements, alongside her enthusiasm and professionalism, are a testament that she will play a key role in the future of genetic research."

Reports from Hadassah Hospital

HADASSAH MAGAZINE HIGHLIGHTS THE WORK OF HADASSAH'S MELANOMA TRAILBLAZER

May is Melanoma Month.

Featured in this month's Hadassah Magazine is Hadassah Hospital's world-renowned, cutting-edge physician/scientist, Prof. Michal Lotem, a woman who is trailblazing new treatments that are rendering patients cancer free from typically fatal metastatic melanoma.

Prof. Lotem, head of Hadassah's Melanoma and Cancer Immunotherapy Center, explains: "We developed a way of genetically engineering the few thousand immune system cells from a metastasized tumor into trillions." And she is not stopping there. She is working to transform immune cells into even more powerful cancer killers so more patients can be saved from this deadly disease.

Yom HaZikaron, Israel's Remembrance Day, commemorated on May 1st, marked Stewart Greenberg's five-year anniversary to the day of first meeting Prof. Lotem. Diagnosed with stage four melanoma, he had been told by prestigious medical institutions in the United States that there was nothing more they could do for him, but Prof. Lotem was much more optimistic. She saved his life with a personalized melanoma vaccine! "Michal is our angel," he says. "She is very modest, but the truth is that she is at the forefront of worldwide melanoma research."



Dr. Michal Lotem

Head of the Center for Melanoma and Cancer Immunotherapy
Hadassah Medical Organization

First Lady of Hadassah: Outgoing Director of Hadassah Mt. Scopus Dr. Osnat Levtzion-Korach in farewell interview

Article by Nofar Romi on MYNET Jerusalem

A gesture towards the “transparent workers,” the hours she worked in the hospital kitchen, and the fact that she is the first woman (and youngest) director of a Hadassah medical institution - Dr. Osnat Levtzion-Korach reflects on five years on the job and hardly a word about the crisis at Hadassah Ein Kerem

Leaving Hadassah but not the city: In the last five years Dr. Osnat Levtzion-Korach managed Hadassah

Mt. Scopus, which is less celebrated than its larger and more appreciated big brother at Ein Kerem. But if you ask her, image isn't everything. In 2012 she was appointed director of the hospital and became the first woman in that job at Hadassah as well as the youngest director ever, at the age of 44. Now she is leaving the Jerusalem Institute for the Yitzhak Shamir Medical Center (formerly Assaf Harofeh), but declares she has no intention of leaving her home in Beit Hakerem.

The dream: to volunteer with refugees.

Dr. Levtzion-Korach grew up in Jerusalem, the daughter of Tirza and Prof. Nechemia Levtzion, who was a historian of the Middle East and president of the Open University.

She met her husband Amit in high school thanks to Scouts. He is an esteemed cardiac surgeon at Hadassah and she is the director of the hospital. They got married and have four children, ranging in ages from 9-22. She recently returned from a visit to Ethiopia with her son, where they volunteered at an orphanage for children with HIV. There she fell in love with a little boy who returned her love and made her want to volunteer even more with the unfortunate. “My dream is to volunteer in refugee clinics,” she says. Now, with her move to central Israel, the dream seems closer than ever.

Dr. Levtzion-Korach specialized in pediatric oncology in Ein Kerem, but does not comment on the crisis at that hospital. “All I will say is that the doctors are excellent and well respected but I also think they went too far,” She says.

Levtzion-Korach is an expert on pediatrics and medical administration. She was the Deputy Director General of Hadassah Ein Kerem, Deputy Director of Assaf Harofeh from 2008- 2012, and the director of Hadassah Mt. Scopus from 2012 to the present. “The return to Hadassah was a return home,” she remembers. “I came to a very high level hospital with a very good atmosphere but I quickly became aware of the problems. One of the problems is that its infrastructures are simply old.”



And during your tenure Hadassah experienced a serious economic crisis.

"Right. Mt. Scopus was always economically "thin." I made it my goal to bring it to financial stability. At the time I understood that the Hadassah women were very busy so I started fundraising without them. We also tried to understand who our target population was in order to strengthen the relationship with them."

How?

"Let's take the haredi population. With the Hadassah rabbi, Rabbi Klein, we reached out to community leaders. We also made a lot of adjustments in that respect, in areas such as kosher food or a new Torah scroll, which was one of the first things I took care of." A significant share of the hospital's patients, from the Arab sector, also experienced an improvement of the level of service under Dr. Levtzion-Korach's management. Interpreters are available in the emergency room on a regular basis.

The transparent workers.

In addition to the economic challenge, the hospital has also had to deal with the terror on Jerusalem's streets. "The spate of terrorist attacks required us to respond very quickly," says Levtzion-Korach. "We were not a trauma center, but because of our location most of the injured were evacuated to us." Precisely at this point, where most of the attention is given to life-saving medical teams, the hospital director chose to direct her attention to the "transparent employees," the sanitation workers. "When the drama is over and the action is gone, the patient is evacuated. Who stays in the room to clean up the blood and the mess? Contract workers, people who come to work, to clean," she stresses. Levtzion-Korach sent social workers to support these employees on a regular basis.

The stories of transparent workers don't start and end with the cleaners. People who work with the director recall a day when the crisis between the employees and the management was acute and they decided to call a strike at both Hadassah hospitals. The director came and tried to persuade the striking kitchen workers to provide food for the patients. When that didn't work, she tied back her hair and started to work herself. "When the employees saw Osnat in the kitchen they came in right after her and ended the strike," they say.

Not a way station.

Next September, after a few months' vacation, she is going to join the Yitzhak Shamir Medical Center, formerly 'Asaf Harofeh', as the director general of the hospital, her first foray into the public healthcare system. In the last month Hadassah has been at the center of a public outcry over the crisis in the pediatric hematology-oncology unit.

Dr. Levtzion-Korach specialized in pediatric oncology but she rarely speaks out about the crisis. "I just want to say that the doctors are excellent and well respected but I also think they went too far."

During her term as hospital director Levtzion-Korach worked under five different directors general, but her attitude towards the present director Prof. Zeev Rothstein is surprising. "We have excellent relations. He is an original thinker and much of what I did at the hospital was with his encouragement," she says. When she is asked if she can understand where his tough image comes from, she answers simply, "yes, certainly."

Will we see you in your next job replacing Rothstein as the director general of Hadassah?

"I am not going to manage Assaf Harofeh to come back and manage Hadassah. Assaf Harofeh is a big and challenging center in its own right and not a way station."

THE REHABILITATION CENTER FOR IDF DISABLED SOLDIERS AND VETERANS WITH SPINAL CORD

INJURIES AND MULTIPLE TRAUMA IN THE MOUNT SCOPUS REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT

The center's objectives are:

1. Providing a comprehensive and patient-specific evaluation and treatment facility for disabled soldiers and veterans with spinal cord and multiple trauma injuries.
2. Establish a well-coordinated multidisciplinary rehabilitation center, which combines all required medical services available in Hadassah. This will place the disabled at the heart of the care system so that all available services are a one stop shop.



The center will include:

1. Evaluation will include unique and multi-disciplinary evaluation for the construction of optimal treatment plans. This evaluation will be based on the state-of-the-art technologies supplying quantitative and precise biomechanical data.
2. The treatment methods will be applied via robotic, virtual reality, self-training systems and highly motivating games, etc.
3. Cognitive rehabilitation process including long term, patient-specific psycho-cognitive treatment.
4. Occupational therapy center designed to adapt the home environment, vehicle, workplace and more to the patient's special needs.

Hadassah International Israel activities for the rehabilitation center

Hadassah Mt. Scopus Medical center

In 2016 Hadassah International Israel undertook a fundraising project to build a rehabilitation center for soldiers and terror victims in the Hadassah Mt. Scopus Medical Center's rehabilitation department.

To that end, two fundraising events were held, one on Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at the Tel Aviv Charles Bronfman Auditorium with 2,400 guests. The event was preceded by a VIP cocktail and included a performance by standup comedian Shalom Asayag and a concert by the singer Shlomi Shabbat. A moving moment occurred when Chaim Lev Tov, an injured soldier who is undergoing rehabilitation at Hadassah Mt. Scopus, got on the stage to sing the song "Father" with Shlomi Shabbat.

The second event was for the religious public and took place on Saturday night December 3, 2016 at the Smolarz Auditorium at Tel Aviv University with 1,200 guests. This event included a performance by world-known Hasidic singer Avraham Fried with a full performance of his show "Melave Malka" and singer Yishai Ribo in a guest appearance. Chief Rabbi David Lau got on stage to sing with Avraham Fried and the recovering soldier Chaim Lev Tov.

The board of trustees decided to continue full steam ahead to fundraise for the center and will hold another gala evening on November 30, 2017 at the David Intercontinental Hotel in Tel Aviv. The board of Trustee will also operate in other channels through a unique social media campaign.



Board of Trustees 2017 evenings

Meeting of the
Board of Trustees
at the home of
Etty and Ronnie Kovrovsky
February 1, 2017



**Meeting of the
Board of Trustees
at the home of lawyers
Daphna and Gideon Fisher
June 13, 2017**



Design: Eve Mestritz

from Hadassah International Israel

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