HADASSAH
TOGETHER WE LIVE

YEAR IN REVIEW
2020
“Every day let us remind ourselves that there are always new worlds to conquer, new barricades to jump over. The next decades are on the horizon and let us be ready for them and may it be in a world of shalom (peace).”

Bernice S. Tannenbaum
Founder, Hadassah International

Hadassah International was established in 1983 by Hadassah, the Women’s Zionist Organization of America at the initiative of Past National President Bernice S. Tannenbaum, in order to unite people of all faiths and nationalities in their mission to improve lives around the globe through their financial support of the pioneering healing, teaching, and research at the Hadassah Medical Organization in Jerusalem.

Hadassah International spans five continents and is made up of volunteer men and women who believe that advancement and cooperation in medicine transcend politics, religion and national boundaries. The universal language of medicine allows Hadassah International to build bridges among nations and to facilitate research and clinical ventures between the Hadassah Medical Organization and medical institutions around the world.

Hadassah Medical Organization, founded by Hadassah, The Women’s Zionist Organization of America, established modern healthcare in Israel.

(Pictured on Cover):
Nurse in the COVID-19 outbreak ICU at Hadassah Ein Kerem.
HADASSAH INTERNATIONAL YEAR IN REVIEW 2020

Hadassah has treated more COVID-19 patients than any other hospital in Israel.

With solidarity.
With innovation.
With compassion.

TO HADASSAH STAFF FROM REUVEN RIVLIN, PRESIDENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

“You are a light to us all. ...Your dedicated care strengthens the resilience of the State of Israel and preserves the mental and physical health of its citizens. I want to express the nation’s gratitude for your selfless devotion, hard work, professionalism, and unstinting commitment.”

Images on pages 1-2 were taken in the Hadassah COVID-19 outbreak wards by photographer Bruno Lavi, Senior Deputy Director General for Operations at Hadassah Medical Organization.
Since the outbreak in Israel, Hadassah has been the largest center for COVID-19 treatment nationwide, caring for one in every 6 patients in Israel.

“It’s hard to know what to expect, as we are living through history in the making. Even the doctors don’t have all the answers on how to treat this new disease. It’s anxiety-provoking, but I know I’m in a good place.”

- MERYL JACOBS is a speech therapist for children with special needs. She was Hadassah’s fourth COVID-19 patient.
Dear Friends,

2020 turned out to be a year like no other. No matter what we thought the year would look like, the reality of it was quite different as we faced the most serious pandemic to affect (and infect) our planet in over 100 years.

At Hadassah International, it became clear to us that our global supporters were keen to tap into the expertise of our Hadassah medical professionals in Jerusalem, so as to have a better understanding as to what COVID-19 is all about, and how to best protect ourselves, our families and our loved ones. Under the guidance of our Executive Director, Jorge Diener, Hadassah International held a Summer Summit, a series of webinars in which our medical specialists shared their vast knowledge with a global audience that numbered in the thousands. Never before have we been able to reach so many communities and people around the world and share the wisdom, experience and scientific knowledge of some of the world’s leading medical professionals.

In fact, riding on the success of our Summer Summit, in early November we delivered Episode 1 of our Winter Live Series of webinars, “Fifty Shades of Health”, with Hadassah Director General Zeev Rotstein sharing with us his thoughts on the future of medicine. It was a fascinating discussion and we continued with the Winter Live Series with a new episode every two weeks through mid-February, 2021.

With global travel coming to a virtual standstill, we were unable to hold our Hadassah International Annual Board Retreat in Jerusalem as we had planned. Instead, we held a Virtual Board Retreat on November 3rd and 4th using the Zoom platform. By now, most of us are highly skilled at running our business meetings and family celebrations on Zoom (or some other virtual platform) and our Board Retreat was both productive and insightful. One of the highlights of our Retreat, was an enlightening discussion on the global challenges we face as a result of COVID-19, between our two medical doctors on the Hadassah International Board, Dr. Shai Misan from Italy and Dr. Manno Sacks from Switzerland. Incidentally, Dr. Misan joined the Board Retreat from Bahrain, where he was on business, and shared with us the excitement in Bahrain around the establishment of full diplomatic relations between Bahrain and the State of Israel. Since then, he has arranged for a patient in Bahrain to seek medical opinion online from our specialists at Hadassah in Jerusalem. Extraordinary Times, Extraordinary Opportunities!

Many of you have had the good fortune of knowing Melissa Kaplan, who has played such a vital role in the evolution of Hadassah International. When I joined the Hadassah International Board a few years ago, it was Melissa who guided me through the learning process and helped me understand my role as a Board member. She has been an outstanding leader of our management team, and I will always be grateful to her for the wisdom and wise counsel she offered me. During the summer months, Melissa, who had taken a leave of absence to work on a book that she is writing, made the decision to make writing her fulltime occupation. She leaves Hadassah International in great shape and we wish her much success and fulfilment in her new chosen career.

Jorge Diener, based in Israel, filled in for Melissa during her leave of absence and has now stepped into his new role as Executive Director. I very much look forward to working with Jorge in the years ahead. Jorge and I are keen to build out our global outreach which, of course, includes our new friends in the Middle East.

As Joyce Rabin and Shelley Kaplan concluded their terms as Hadassah International Board members at the end of 2020, I would like to thank them for their leadership, their passion and service for Hadassah in general, and Hadassah International in particular! People like them inspire others to get involved, and bring their own passion to the benefit of the Hadassah Hospitals in Jerusalem.

Finally, a very big Todah Rabah to our Hadassah International Board members, management team and members of the Hadassah International family around the world for your ongoing commitment to our mission. We are blessed to travel this journey together.

With warm wishes,

Robert Dorfman
President
Hadassah International
“It’s like biological warfare. We’re learning as we go along, getting better all the time. What unites us is that we all want to work here, to do whatever we can for our patients.”
- Dorit Shorokeh, Head Nurse

“What saved me when I was hospitalized with COVID-19 was the voice of Dr. Marc Romain, the human angel.”
- MOSHE ZEVULUN

The Hadassah Mount Scopus Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation has launched a new clinic offering personalized rehab programs for the growing number of COVID-19 survivors.

Score: 2020

600 PIECES OF VITAL EQUIPMENT PURCHASED
through the Hadassah emergency campaign for treatment of COVID-19 patients in ventilated ICU and general COVID wards.
Above:

Hadassah allows COVID ICU ward entry to nuclear family.

Israel President Reuven Rivlin (above) receives COVID-19 vaccine at Hadassah.

DIY VENTILATORS

Hadassah surgeon and innovator Dr. Yoav Mintz and team developed an open-source ventilator. The USAID-sponsored device was conceived to be free and accessible to medical teams in need worldwide. Downloadable as a source code blueprint for fabrication, the machine employs only low-cost, readily available parts.

“DIY VENTILATORS

Hadassah surgeon and innovator Dr. Yoav Mintz and team developed an open-source ventilator. The USAID-sponsored device was conceived to be free and accessible to medical teams in need worldwide. Downloadable as a source code blueprint for fabrication, the machine employs only low-cost, readily available parts.

FIRST WORKFORCE TESTING

Hadassah conducts first workforce testing for the entire medical staff with onset of the pandemic in Israel

“FIRST WORKFORCE TESTING

Hadassah conducts first workforce testing for the entire medical staff with onset of the pandemic in Israel

“This war belongs to us all—Arabs, Jews, religious, secular. In Israel and abroad. This plague doesn’t take root in origin or nationality. It doesn’t consider whom you believe in.”

- DR. AHMAD NAAMA, Senior Emergency Room Physician

“You can talk about infrastructure. You can talk about science. But in the end, what makes a medical institution or a country work is its people.”

- PROF. YORAM WEISS, Director, Hadassah Ein Kerem
HADASSAH IN THE
An Arab doctor and an ultra-O ground in a covid ward
Dear Friends,
Our hearts go out to the families of the men and women who, despite our bravest efforts, could not be saved. There is nothing more precious than life, and nothing more incomprehensible than a kindred spirit abruptly and prematurely extinguished.

If we remember but one thing fondly from this past year, it will most certainly be the tsunami of solidarity that has brought us all together in ways that we might never have imagined. Yes, this year has been anything but ordinary, and our collective efforts and sacrifices are testimony to that.

We emerged strong. The world over, Israel has been a constant source of inspiration for the efficacy with which it has managed the crisis. And Hadassah has been leading this effort from day one, treating more patients than any other hospital in the country including cases from the West Bank and Jordan, and introducing innovations that have had a tangible impact on the world’s collective fight for life.

Hadassah was the precursor for pooled testing worldwide. We were also the first hospital system to screen the entire staff. We introduced the first clinically tested blood serum “plasma” immunization and were the first major medical center to permit family members wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to visit their families. We were first to introduce COVID-recovered volunteers back into our wards to provide bedside companionship and human contact. Our doctors took part in the development of DIY respiratory machines for deployment in areas of the world without access or means of obtaining them. We directed more than 20 research projects at our clinical virology lab. We collected blood plasma to treat new patients, we set up the COVID-19 follow-up clinic to diagnose and treat aftereffects of the virus, and we shared Hadassah protocols with hospitals worldwide.

And we did this while accepting ALL of those who needed medical attention, opening ward after ward, adding bed after bed. It is with tremendous pride that I salute the doctors, the nurses, and the entire hospital Hadassah staff, who have shown that well beyond the Hippocratic oath and the call of duty are found exceptional acts of heroism, compassion and “Ve Ahavta Le Reecha Kamocha” (“And you shall love your neighbor as yourself”). Our caregivers worked many hours and shifts beyond measure, in challenging conditions, steamy body suits, and atmospheric infection. Without their personal engagement and dedication, their creativity and leadership, we certainly would not have been able to maintain the record low mortality rates that we did, while providing continual care to our patients.

The people of greater Jerusalem count on us, which is why, despite the pandemic’s impact on our activities, we have kept hospital services at both Hadassah campuses running at full capacity wherever possible.

We have kept up our commitment to quality care and treatment, and I am proud to say that we have also managed to forge ahead with critical capital projects on both campuses. Reinforcement of the infrastructure of the round building was a huge concern for Hadassah and I...
am proud to say that we have not only completed this task, but, have also added a column of fortified rooms on every level of the building to provide immediate secure space for patients and staff in the event of a missile attack. We did this at a time when the round building was serving as the transient home to our COVID-19 outbreak wards. We are on schedule with this tremendous new facility thanks to many of you, and, mostly, through the friendship and generosity of Alberto and Vicky Saba and their family.

The new state-of-the-art rehabilitation building at Mount Scopus has also broken ground, and we are excited to see this tremendous project becoming a reality. Our rehabilitation center is the only facility of its kind serving the 1.2 million residents of Greater Jerusalem.

We can also be proud of those seemingly little events that can change our perspective on humanity—the vows in a makeshift chuppah (wedding canopy) of a young Hassidic couple three stories below the window of the groom’s father isolated in the COVID-19 ward, brought tears to patients and staff looking on from the surrounding buildings and grounds—the birth of identical triplets (one occurs in every 200,000 births) against all odds—the moving musical performance of El Na Refa Na La by Yair Levi to our youngest patients at the Charlotte R. Bloomberg Mother and Child Center.

This has been an exceptional year and one that has been particularly challenging to our institution financially. It is with great humility and humanity that you, our friends around the world, have contributed with untold generosity and, for this, we are infinitely grateful! Your devotion is an inspiration to us all.

Yours,

Prof. Zeev Rotstein

Director General

Hadassah Medical Organization
TOGETHER WE ACT.
In 2020, Hadassah International facilitated:

- **10** MEDICAL COLLABORATIONS
- **> 60** WEBINARS
- **> 50** COMMUNITY SUPPORT ACTIONS
- **> 100** INTERVIEWS AND APPEARANCES IN THE MEDIA
- **50** ARTICLES IN THE WORLDWIDE PRESS

**WEBINAR SERIES PROGRAM**

**Tuesday, June 22**
- Dr. Jonathan Zeichner

**Wednesday, June 24**
- Julie Brandes
- Dr. Shari Kramer

**Monday, June 29**
- Dr. Abigail Mutasma

**Monday, July 6**
- Prof. Ajay Mahajan
- Prof. Max Stoddard

**Thursday, July 9**
- Prof. Aaron Kipnis

**Monday, July 13**
- Prof. Abigail Mutasma

**HADASSAH INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SUMMIT**

June / July 2020

#healthmustgoon
#lifemustgoon
With the first outbreaks of COVID-19, Hadassah immediately began evaluating scenarios, ensuring information flow within the organization and preparing itself for what it understood would be a very challenging chain of events.

Hadassah International launched an extensive outreach campaign to its communities worldwide, providing access to first-hand information, return on experience and protocols for action. Spearheading the fight against the pandemic in Israel, a country in which management of the public health crisis was exemplary, Hadassah was able to share vital news and information in real time with its friends throughout the world. The perpetual flow of information was made possible through online meetings, interviews, and webinars translated into numerous languages and disseminated via a dedicated online platform. Hadassah protocols reached governments, healthcare institutions, retirement homes, and community centers.

Worldwide press was replete with coverage of Hadassah research breakthroughs and touching stories from what was undoubtedly the most unforgettable year in recent memory.

Miraculous bridges of solidarity and compassion were built among communities, healthcare givers and patients of differing cultural backgrounds with the mantra that togetherness is strength.

And breakthroughs were not limited to COVID-19. Research and discovery continued at the hospital with the announcements of exciting discoveries including a stem cell treatment shown to slow progressive MS by up to 90% and proof that an existing FDA-approved drug, Fenofibrate (Tricor), prevents lung damage in patients. We have collected some of Hadassah’s notable firsts from this past year (see page 14).

Pictured above Dr. Pablo Yeldin, President of the Health Commission at the Argentinian Chamber of Deputies, on reception of Hadassah Manual of Protocols by the Argentinian Parliament. The Manual of Protocols was translated into English, Russian, French and Spanish and released in five consecutive editions over the course of the months March-December 2020.
“WE ARE ON A MISSION TO SAVE LIVES

In the face of Coronavirus, that means adopting inventive protocols with determination and resolve in the face of criticism. The real winners are the families who know we are doing more for their loved ones.”

- Prof. Sigal Sviri, head of Hadassah’s COVID-19 Outbreak Intensive Care Unit
When the pandemic broke out, Prof. Sviri was charged with the inconceivable mission of setting up a fully-equipped, dedicated Intensive Care Unit for COVID-19 patients in just under one week. “We had to think through every detail,” she recalls. The unit quickly became central to Israel’s battle against public enemy number one—the novel Coronavirus, proposing some of the most exciting and ambitious solutions to patient treatment… and there has been no letup since.

With Jerusalem and its surroundings sustaining the country’s highest rate of infection, the COVID-19 Outbreak Intensive Care Unit (ICU), temporarily quartered at Hadassah Ein Kerem’s repurposed round building, was accepting the highest influx of patients in the country. And as head of the Outbreak ICU, overnight, Sviri found herself conducting an orchestra in a pressure cooker.

Prof. Sviri is most proud of her teams from backgrounds as culturally and ideologically diverse as the country itself, and who treat patients as though they were members of their own families, attributing low mortality rates at Hadassah to their skill, professionalism, and commitment.

Despite the intensity, and likely because of it, she confides, some exciting breakthroughs in the battle against the Coronavirus were brought to the world from “our” ICU. Successful phase II clinical trials for the world’s first commercially produced plasma-derived immunoglobulin (IgG) serum, in partnership with the Israeli biopharmaceutical company Kamada, convinced the Israeli Health Ministry to overcome its reluctance to promote research on the passive vaccine. Trials showed that 11 of 12 patients suffering from COVID-19-induced pneumonia, showed considerable improvement within just 48 hours of receiving the plasma and were discharged within days.

To combat the deadly effects of isolation in the outbreak wards, Hadassah became the first hospital to recruit recovered Coronavirus patients as volunteers, to provide care and support for patients. Fitted with full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and carefully monitored and short intervals, volunteers have had a tremendous impact on recovery, especially with elderly patients.

The COVID ICU strictly abides by protocols defined by a special Coronavirus Ethics Committee appointed at Hadassah. An inspirational leader, Sviri is the first woman Director of an Israeli Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU). “Ever since I was a young physician, I wanted to be on the front line. I wanted to be where it counts. Where life meets death and death meets life… and I wanted to beat death and save lives!”
First in Israel:
Hadassah surgeons saved the hands of two teens with complex injuries using innovative 3D technologies. 3D imaging of the bones provided an accurate design of distortion and 3D printed models were used for simulation prior to the operation.

First in Israel:
Hadassah orthopedists performed a highly successful complex spinal surgery on a fully conscious patient suffering from a spine fracture. Multiple injuries prevented administration of anesthesia which could have endangered the patient’s life.

A new subcutaneous drug for osteoporosis has been released in Israel. Administered by injection, it releases an antibody that acts against the protein responsible for inhibiting bone formation. The drug has recently been included in the 2020 Israeli drug rebate program (the “drug basket”).

Hadassah performed Jerusalem’s first gastroplasty for weight loss. The procedure allows for faster recovery, fewer side effects and a lower rate of complications.

A gene that causes severe heart defects in children has recently been deciphered at Hadassah. Identifying the gene allows for advanced genetic diagnosis and counseling to parents with hereditary problems of heart defects.
First in Israel: Hadassah collected plasma from recovered COVID-19 patients to produce a serum that may help seriously ill Coronavirus patients.

Hadassah patients were treated with a new COVID-19 “passive vaccine,” which was developed by Hadassah and the Israeli biopharmaceutical firm Kamada.

First worldwide: Hadassah became the first hospital to recruit recovered Coronavirus patients as volunteers to provide humanitarian support for hospitalized COVID-19 patients.

Five severely ill COVID-19 patients were cured after taking part in the first clinical trial of an innovative treatment. Allocetra, the immunotherapy drug used in the clinical trial, was developed at Hadassah Ein Kerem in collaboration with Enlivex, an Israeli biotechnology company.

First worldwide: Hadassah was first to allow designated family members to visit Coronavirus patients.

Hadassah patients were treated with a new COVID-19 “passive vaccine,” which was developed by Hadassah and the Israeli biopharmaceutical firm Kamada.

First ever joint venture between Hadassah and Abu Dhabi hospitals took place with an international conference on future trends in pediatric intensive care. This is the first time that hospitals in Israel and the United Arab Emirates have collaborated on an official basis.

A revolution in the field of IVF treatments: For the first time, the department of public medicine at Hadassah grants every woman the liberty to choose a specialist to accompany her throughout the fertility treatment process.

Pictured: Hadassah's first hybrid OR includes Israel's only Artis Zeego multiaxis imaging system. The machine combines robotics technology with imaging systems, enabling unprecedented precision.
THERE IS NO GREATER PAIN THAN THE DEATH OF A CHILD

Delivering a measure of consolation at the most soul-shattering moments a parent ever has to face.

Pictured above: Fadia Abed-Fatiha, senior nurse in the Metta Cohen Pediatric ICU at Hadassah Ein Kerem.
There is no greater joy than releasing a child from the Pediatric ICU,” says Fadia Abed-Fatiha, senior nurse at the Metta Cohen Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), Hadassah Ein Kerem, and clinical instructor. “But there is no greater pain than the death of a child.”

It all began when, amidst the devastating separation with their dying three-year-old daughter, Leah, came a desperate plea for help from the parents. “All her life she slept in my arms; can I hold her one last time?” pleaded Leah’s mother. Fadia placed Leah in her mother’s arms that one last time. It was at this moment of inner appeasement that Fadia realized more had to be done for parents who are parting from their children. “We do everything we can for the child, but we need to do more for the parents,” she said.

Fadia was first introduced to the concept of end-of-life care at the Henrietta Szold Hadassah-Hebrew University School of Nursing, where she researched how bereaving families were helped at other hospitals around the world. The grief cart, first used at the Toronto Children’s Hospital in Canada, was a source for inspiration but the cultural entanglement of Jerusalem added a level of complexity.

“Fadia’s Cart” is the first of its kind in Israel and an example for cultural tolerance and respect worldwide.

“I met with rabbis, imams, and priests to ensure that parents will find a way to connect with God in the final hours of their child’s life,” said Abed-Fatiha, a devout Muslim. “In my experience, no one is an atheist when their child is dying.”

The top three drawers are filled with Jewish, Muslim, and Christian ceremonial objects, including prayer books, beads, and prayer mats. The fourth drawer is full of fragrances – used in an Islamic custom to counter the distressing odor of death. The most popular items in the cart are a stamp pad and a putty kit allowing parents to memorialize their child’s hand and footprints.

Fadia affirms that in Islam it is not customary to take home objects belonging to the departed, but despite tradition, religious Arabs and Jews are very much comforted by the prints. There are needs that are universal no matter what the beliefs or cultural upbringing of a parent.

Fadia’s compassion knows no borders. When she started with the project, the 37-year-old mother of twins replenished the contents of her cart at her own expense before contributions of solidarity began easing the financial burden... “but more is needed,” she confides.

She received her nursing degree from Al-Quds University/Makassed Hospital and completed her master’s degree at the Henrietta Szold Hadassah-Hebrew University School of Nursing. She continues to instruct nurses at both institutions.

Fadia’s initiative led to a PICU protocol that permits parents to hold their dying child in their final moments in privacy and intimacy.

Fadia’s outstanding initiatives were recognized in 2017 with the Israel President’s Award conferred by President Reuven Rivlin.
FROM BENCH TO MENSCH

NEW DIRECTOR OF THE SHARETT INSTITUTE OF ONCOLOGY, PROF. ARON POPOVITZER PROUDLY PRESENTS THE ETHOS THERAPY SYSTEM - THE VANGUARD IN AI-DRIVEN ADAPTIVE RADIOTHERAPY FOR PERSONALIZED CARE.

WELCOME TO THE FUTURE.
A GLIMPSE AT THE FUTURE

“I believe in Hadassah because of the passion, the excellent research, and the dedication to the patients.”

-Prof. Aron Popovtzer

The Sharett Institute of Oncology at Hadassah is a world leader in cancer prevention, treatment, and research. In addition to serving the population of greater Jerusalem, it is a referral center nationwide and attracts patients internationally.

Sharett is a national institute that treats more than 3,500 new patients each year. The intimate and extensive collaboration between the researchers from the Medical School and the clinicians at the Institute generates patient-centered innovative therapies and ground-breaking cancer research.

And, while caregivers focus on optimizing treatment utilizing the most innovative methods available, the Institute is widely recognized as a center for compassionate care, profoundly concerned with the individual emotional needs of each and every patient. Patients may be included in international clinical trials and test cutting-edge cancer treatments. The oncology department at Hadassah is the first in Israel to offer genomic mapping to all its cancer patients as of January 2021. State-of-the-art computing gives doctors unique insights into the tumor development for each oncology patient.

In 2020 we proudly welcomed the world-renowned radiation oncologist, Prof. Aron Popovtzer as new director of the Institute. Himself a Hadassah-Hebrew University School of Medicine graduate, Popovtzer specializes in ENT, oncology, and radiotherapy. He pursued further specializations in head and neck cancer at the University of Michigan and at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York, where he became a leading expert in brachytherapy—a treatment in which radioactive implants are inserted directly into cancerous tissue.

Popovtzer is the principal investigator of a new Israeli therapy, DaRT—Diffusing alpha-emitters Radiation Therapy—to cure cancers including skin, oral, breast, and pancreatic cancer. The new treatment is laser-focused and eradicates the tumor cells but spares the surrounding healthy tissue. The DaRT study he is currently leading at Hadassah will later be implemented at hospitals across the globe—including Memorial Sloan Kettering and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. “It is more effective than other radiation,” Popovtzer explained. “This is definitely an exciting treatment.” Popovtzer has already published the first results on the feasibility and safety of DaRT in the prestigious Journal of Radiation Oncology.
In a year with extraordinary challenges for human health, Rabbi Shlomo Amar, Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem and former Sephardi Chief Rabbi of Israel, sent out a profound prayer for global healing in a moving and uplifting service from the Moshe Saba Masri Synagogue at Hadassah Ein Kerem. The service was broadcast live to Jewish communities worldwide.

Speaking on behalf of Hadassah's devoted staff, whose work on the frontlines of the pandemic constitutes the backbone of health security in the capital, Prof. Zeev Rotstein, Director General of the Hadassah Medical Organization, opened the ceremony with a message of hope and optimism. On behalf of steadfast Hadassah friends and supporters worldwide, Jorge Diener, then Associate Director of Hadassah International, delivered a message of solidarity and unity in the face of the unknown, "Together we live."

In his address, Rabbi Amar blessed the world with health, peace, prosperity, and tikun, concluding with the particularly moving cadences of the Shofar.

"It is a special honor that such a poignant ceremony took place at the Synagogue donated by the Alberto and Vicky Saba Family in Mexico – devoted supporters of Hadassah's commitment to the physical and spiritual wellbeing of the people of Jerusalem and Israel," affirmed Jorge Diener.
Despite the Coronavirus outbreak, there was no stalling construction at the Round Building. The complicated task of infrastructure reinforcement against earthquakes was completed. A central, fortified pier of safe rooms, running the length of the building to ensure that patients and staff are safe in the advent of missile attack, is midway to completion. Levels nine and ten are being added to the tower, with columns and elevator shafts already in place, while the building’s central cavity is being filled and annexed to expand existing floor space. Aside from structural consolidation, work is underway to renovate operating rooms, expand the geriatrics department, add direly needed beds, and upgrade patient rooms and public spaces. Ultimately, a shimmering glass and metal shell will encase the structure, rejuvenating the landmark. The dialysis department has already been completed and opened. Full functionality of the Round Building is expected in Q3 2021.

Did you know?
While the historic Round Building has been repurposed to centralize Hadassah’s COVID-19 outbreak wards, construction forge ahead to revamp and revitalize the magnificent edifice.
n 1997: Nir Caspi lay gravely wounded for three quarters of an hour behind enemy lines during the Ansariya Ambush—after entering a booby-trapped orchard in Southern Lebanon. Psychologically he was prepared for the worst—the loss of his friends in the commando unit, the imminent arrival of Hezbollah soldiers, and possible capture.

Nir was evacuated by a rescue team and airlifted to hospital. He spent three months in recovery and undergoing daily rehabilitation at Hadassah, where he tried to imagine his life going forward.

In 2004, Caspi co-founded the restaurant chain Café Landwer, resurrecting the brand originally established in Berlin in 1919, and growing it to a franchise of over 80 restaurants in Israel, Canada, and the United States. Caspi remembers the difficulties he faced when in rehabilitation and has since maintained a very strong bond with Hadassah. Rehabilitation remains one of the most arduous challenges of recovery. It is a long, merciless struggle to push oneself beyond one’s limit.

In spite of the challenges this past year, we are proud to announce that Jerusalem’s new ultra-modern rehabilitation facility is rapidly rising. The lower levels, including parking, the technical area, and treatment pools have been constructed and progress continues as scheduled.

The Center will accommodate 19,500m² of dedicated patient-centered healing, rehabilitation spaces, and facilities. The inpatient wings will grow from 38 existing beds to 132 beds across the four departments: Neurology, Geriatrics, Spinal Cord and Orthopedics, and Ventilator-Dependent.

The new building is the first major structure of the new Mount Scopus campus master plan to emerge from the ground—a symbol of campus rejuvenation.

In rehabilitation, there is a “before” and an “after.” The months and even years spent in between are a time of personal challenge, mental conditioning, and dedication to an ever-evolving goal. “The new Rehabilitation Center at Mount Scopus will help people regain hope and their physical capabilities... restoring their independence and dignity,” affirmed Dr. Tamar Elram, director of Hadassah Mount Scopus.

A living miracle.

1997: Nir Caspi lay gravely wounded for three quarters of an hour behind enemy lines during the Ansariya Ambush—after entering a booby-trapped orchard in Southern Lebanon. Psychologically he was prepared for the worst—the loss of his friends in the commando unit, the imminent arrival of Hezbollah soldiers, and possible capture.

Nir was evacuated by a rescue team and airlifted to hospital. He spent three months in recovery and undergoing daily rehabilitation at Hadassah, where he tried to imagine his life going forward.

In 2004, Caspi co-founded the restaurant chain Café Landwer, resurrecting the brand originally established in Berlin in 1919, and growing it to a franchise of over 80 restaurants in Israel, Canada, and the United States. Caspi remembers the difficulties he faced when in rehabilitation and has since maintained a very strong bond with Hadassah. Rehabilitation remains one of the most arduous challenges of recovery. It is a long, merciless struggle to push oneself beyond one’s limit.
In recent months, it has become evident that treating persistent complications among the growing population of COVID-19 survivors necessitates personalized rehabilitation services that address cognitive, neuropsychological, motor sensory, respiratory, physiological, and functional impairments.

To meet the demand, the Mount Scopus Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation has opened a new clinic complete with personalized rehabilitation programs dedicated to the needs of recovered COVID-19 patients.

Virus-free patients, young and old, report persistent symptoms, such as medical and respiratory complications, often resulting from prolonged mechanical ventilation, as well as profound weakness in upper and lower limbs. This weakness is often a serious barrier to resuming the most basic activities of daily life.

Rehabilitation is an absolute necessity for many elderly COVID-19 survivors, especially those suffering from existing chronic health conditions. A marked increase in demand has also emerged among patients who have deteriorated physically due to movement restrictions, social isolation, and inability to access healthcare for pre-existing or new illnesses.

Evidence is accumulating about the functional decline of recovered COVID-19 patients as a result of complications of the illness. Some of them have difficulty with daily activities and are unable to return to the workforce and society. The purpose of the new clinic is to carry out an evaluation and provide a personalized therapeutic program to improve the functioning and quality of life of those patients.

POST-COVID-19 PERSONALIZED REHABILITATION

“We are seeing a tidal wave of demand for rehabilitation in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. A wide range of tailored rehabilitation services will be essential to address the emerging cognitive, neuropsychological, motor sensory, respiratory, and functional impairments.”

- Dr. Tamar Elram, Director, Hadassah Mount Scopus
In 1963, the year after the Hadassah Ein Kerem campus was opened, Sir Isaac and Lady Edith Wolfson started the family tradition of a longstanding relationship with Hadassah Hospital by establishing the Ophthalmology Research Laboratory.

Through six decades, four generations of the Wolfson Family have been steadfast and loyal partners with Hadassah in its mission to save lives and improve healthcare in Israel, regardless of politics and religion.

Hadassah, a 19-year-old lone soldier, was about to lose a kidney. She had suffered from chronic nephritis and was diagnosed with a congenital kidney defect that had caused severe decline in kidney function. Hadassah was operated on using the da Vinci Si robot, generously supported by the Wolfson Foundation and the Wolfson Family Charitable Trust. Thanks to the da Vinci robot, her surgeons were able correct the congenital defect and preserve renal function.

In the words of the Wolfson Family Charitable Trust (WFCT) and Wolfson Foundation Chief Executive, Mr. Paul Ramsbottom OBE, “The work of Hadassah is admirable, and it is always a thrill to visit the hospital and see international quality research sitting alongside the highest standards of clinical care.”

Through the years, the UK-based Wolfson Family Charitable Trust (WFCT) has awarded over 30 major gifts to Hadassah Hospital for advanced life-saving medical equipment, research grants, research laboratories, and clinical departments. Their impact has been felt throughout the Ein Kerem and Mount Scopus campuses of Hadassah in every aspect of hospital life, from the laboratory bench to the patient’s bedside. The gifts have funded research in cancer, immunology, gene therapy, and diabetes. They have provided Hadassah with sophisticated equipment for advanced imaging, image-guided surgery, intensive care units, and bone marrow transplants, as well as crucial facilities for patients.

A vigil, a 53-year-old mother of six, was diagnosed with a rapidly growing kidney tumor. With the help of the new minimally invasive da Vinci Si robot, the tumor was completely removed while preserving the kidney.

Through the WFCT’s steadfast commitment to support medical research laboratories, clinical departments, and the purchase of advance medical equipment at Hadassah, countless lives are saved every day.
The Wolfson Family Charitable Trust (WFCT) has partnered with Hadassah on numerous recent major projects:

**Pre-clinical In-Vivo Imaging System (IVIS)**
Enables monitoring of infiltrated immune cells and of implanted cancer cells in a non-invasive manner and with extremely high accuracy

**Cytoflex Fluorescence Activated Cell Sorting (FACS)**
An essential component of immunology research, enabling the identification of cells and the analysis of their function

**Da Vinci IV Surgical Operating System**
Used for laparoscopic kidney surgery, prostate cancer surgery, and other gynecological and general surgeries that require the sensitivity and accuracy of a robot

**Arcadis Avantic Fluoroscopy Imaging System**
Used to develop real-time assessment of tumor treatments

Established in 1958 in the UK, the Wolfson Family Charitable Trust (WFCT), working in partnership with its sister organization the Wolfson Foundation, supports outstanding researchers to tackle issues of fundamental importance, mainly with direct funding and with grants for highly advanced equipment critical to research. WFCT supports excellence, mainly through capital infrastructure projects in Israel, focusing on universities, hospitals, and major cultural institutions. Grants are given with three key objectives: to promote excellence through the provision of infrastructure; to serve as a catalyst, so that the Foundation and Trust's funding can leverage matching support; and to identify and cultivate promising and exceptional research projects that are currently under-funded.
Against a backdrop of cancer that took away her older brother at the tender age of seven, Prof. Dina Ben-Yehuda has dedicated her life to healing. The first woman dean of the Hadassah-Hebrew University Faculty of Medicine was also one of the first female soldiers in Israel’s history to receive the IDF Chief of Staff distinction from Lt. Gen. Mordechai “Motta” Gur for her personal initiative during the Yom Kippur War. Charismatic and profoundly human, at just 20 years of age and amidst one of the most trying moments in the nation’s history, she gathered information on soldiers killed or missing in action to help families dealing with uncertainty and destitution.

“At one home, the soldier’s father refused to open the door... I said I wouldn’t move until he did. I was so tired that I fell asleep on the doorstep. Twelve hours later, the door opened. Inside stood a bereaved father and his children. Months had passed since his son had disappeared. He hadn’t let the children leave his sight. They were locked in the apartment and hadn’t returned to school.” – Dina Ben-Yehuda
Prof. Dina Ben-Yehuda is proud that this year, for the first time, a faculty position has been appointed in the School of Nursing, acknowledging the high academic standards of the School’s curriculum.

Did you know?

The Hadassah–Hebrew University Faculty of Medicine is a unique partnership equally owned by Hadassah Medical Organization and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

23rd dean of the Hadassah Medical School established in 1949, Prof. Dina Ben-Yehuda is driven by a singular mission — to educate and train the physicians of tomorrow.

She immediately set out to adapt curricula to meet the rapidly evolving needs of medicine. “We are in dire need of the combined capabilities of a physician who can understand AI and Deep Learning algorithms.” With the generous support of Sami Sagol, we opened a dual degree program in medicine and computer science, one of a handful worldwide training physicians in algorithms for “precision medicine.”

Courses in digital medicine are now mandatory for all medical students, but Ben-Yehuda is wary that technology and Big Data must not replace the human side of caring. “With technology overload, patients are hungry for a human touch. We have to preserve compassion,” she adds. Research at Hadassah is patient-driven. Currently there are 74 MD/PhD students that combine a medical degree with a PhD research project – a remarkable number that Ben-Yehuda hopes to increase. The close proximity between the Hebrew University and the Hadassah Medical School is the key to this unique synergy. It takes just four minutes to walk from Ben-Yehuda’s office in the hospital to her office at the faculty.

To boost commercialization of research breakthroughs and new therapies, Ben-Yehuda initiated a joint Biomedical/MBA program with the Hebrew University Business School.

Ben-Yehuda is taking care of numerous patients with hematological malignancies. Her distinguished research career has not been hampered by her new administrative duties. Her research team is rapidly progressing towards Phase 1 clinical trials for a nano-delivery strategy for the truncated protein, tLivin, that she discovered. tLivin can cause apoptosis-resistant cancer cells to die and holds tremendous promise for the war on cancer.

Ben-Yehuda first came to Hadassah as an intern in 1981, where she was trained in basic research. Following postgraduate research at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, she returned to Hadassah in 1992. In 2000, she was appointed director of the hematology division. Prof. Ben-Yehuda has repeatedly been voted outstanding lecturer in the medical school. In 2017, she was honored with the Danielle Prize for health care professionals “who rise beyond their professions and give of themselves to patients.”

Hadassah International has been vigorously raising funds for the extraordinary School of Nursing, which runs the exceptional Achotenu (Our Sisters) scholarship program to help the underprivileged attain nursing degrees.
For over half a century, the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) has empowered Hadassah to incorporate next-generation surgical advancements, US best medical practices and technologies as a model of American medical practice in the Middle East. As an American-founded Medical Center, Hadassah hospitals have enjoyed a special relationship with USAID/ASHA, which promotes American practices and ideas worldwide.

“Thanks to the advanced equipment that our endovascular neurosurgery unit received through the generosity of USAID/ASHA, we are able to provide the most advanced medical treatment in the world, right here at Hadassah,” affirmed Prof. Jose Cohen, director of Hadassah’s Brain Catheterization Unit. He was referring to the new Azurion Biplane Angiography system in the Endovascular Neurosurgery and Stroke Unit at Ein Kerem.

USAID has gifted numerous futuristic technologies to both Hadassah campuses including the advanced Phillips Azurion 7 for the new catheterization (cath) lab at Mount Scopus - the most advanced medical equipment of its kind in the world. The new cath lab has greatly improved acute cardiac care for residents of North and East Jerusalem.

Other USAID donations have included equipment for the Women’s Health Center; and a state-of-the-art orthopedic surgical robotic system, ROSA.

“For decades, USAID has generously supported Hadassah. This is not a coincidence. USAID and Hadassah share many of the same values, such as excellence in medical care, equal treatment for all, professionalism, and compassion,” declared Dr. Tamar Elram, Director of Hadassah Mount Scopus.
USAID–Hadassah
5 Decades of Medical Excellence

Established in 1957, the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) program of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) represents the pioneering spirit and generosity of the United States. The objective of the ASHA program is to strengthen schools and hospitals overseas to best demonstrate American values and practices. For over five decades, USAID/ASHA has been a frontline supporter of Hadassah, providing essential equipment to both the Ein Kerem and Mount Scopus hospital campuses. In fact, USAID gave the first gift for rebuilding the Mount Scopus hospital after the Six Day War.

Prof. Jose Cohen, head of Brain Catheterization Unit that has been generously equipped with Israel’s most advanced operating theater by USAID/ASHA
Prof. Orly Elpeleg is a world-renowned expert in deciphering genetic disorders in children. The internationally acclaimed scholar and head of the Department of Genetics at Hadassah combines academic research with patient care.

“I am a pediatrician who was frustrated by our inability to diagnose some of our patients. I was always interested in patients with mysterious illnesses – children who were either born with abnormalities or developed them very early on. We use genetic tools to decipher and solve enigmas. My dedicated team, composed of talented bioinformatics analysts, spends days and nights searching a patient’s DNA to find the error. Which gene is destroying the child’s health?”

Herself a graduate of the Hadassah Hebrew University School of Medicine, Prof. Elpeleg focuses her research on monogenic disorders, including those associated with inborn errors of metabolism. She led the research effort that uncovered the genes responsible for over 100 rare genetic disorders. Elpeleg has extensive national and international collaborations and has coauthored almost 300 peer-reviewed scientific publications.

A groundbreaking study by a multinational team led by Elpeleg was recently published in the American Journal of Human Genetics. It uncovered the biological basis of a severe neurological disorder in children linking neuronal degeneration in childhood with altered rDNA chromatin status and rRNA metabolism. Elpeleg credits the discovery to deep sequencing technology, and she is proud that Hadassah is among the first Medical Centers in the world to introduce this into clinical practice.

Fifteen years ago, under the direction of Elpeleg, Hadassah initiated the “Undiagnosed Patient Program,” and has since assembled the largest genetic mapping database in Israel - HADASSOME.

Did you know?
Since 2010, Hadassah has assembled the largest genetic mapping database in Israel.

No known cure, but immense hope.

The case of Raquel has led to the surfacing of an imminent problem in isolated small Jewish communities in the diaspora. These communities tend to marry among themselves, which can result in marriages between distant relations, unaware that they are 3rd or 4th-degree cousins. In such cases, some of the couples may carry the same disease-causing genomic variant (mutation). To this end, Hadassah offers a solution using next-generation genomic technology, facilitated by the recent purchase of NovaSeq6000 and its accompanying robots. Hadassah offers DUO screening, which determines the sequence of all known disease-causing genes, in order to search for a mutation shared by both partners before the birth of the couple’s first child.

Within the framework of the Mexican Jewish Community Project, some 200 couples’ genes were analyzed. Approximately seven percent of them were informed of shared mutations, data that can now be translated into prenatal diagnosis to prevent the transmission of severe genetic disorders. In addition, a database consisting of genomic variants specific to the Jewish Mexican community was created.
Prof. Orly Elpeleg at her lab with NovaSeq6000 and sequencing robot, technologies which have facilitated the move to personalized medicine while increasing the speed and lowering the costs associated with gene sequencing.

A mutation in a single letter or two, within the three billion letters of the human genetic sequence, can cause disease.

Thanks to the project, couples can choose prenatal screening for hundreds of genetic variants to prevent the transmission of severe genetic disorders.

“What the Mexican Jewish community has done is cutting-edge. This is a community that cares for each other.” - Prof. Elpeleg

The Mexican Jewish Community Project

Identification of disease-causing mutations within the Syrian Jewish community of Mexico led to the creation of the Mexican Jewish Community Project that has gene-sequenced 200 couples and produced a database of over 300 exomes (genome subsets) since January 2020.
May 14, 2020 *The New York Times* front page reported the staggering story of Dvir Musai, a religious Jew, whose debilitating nerve injuries incurred in a terror attack were healed by Hadassah surgeon Dr. Madi El-Haj, an Israeli Muslim Arab surgeon using a controversial anatomy textbook by Nazi Prof. Eduard Pernkopf.
One sunny, ill-fated day in 2002, 13-year-old Dvir Musai, out on a school trip, stepped on a terrorist landmine. The explosion was devastating, tearing through his lower limbs. Musai was admitted to Hadassah in critical condition where his life was saved.

Armed with determination and resilience, the young man managed to bounce back. Physically diminished despite numerous surgeries, Musai continued suffering from excruciating residual pain radiating from his right foot. At the age of 31, after 18 years of suffering, Musai was considering leg amputation when the fateful encounter with Dr. Madi El-Haj changed his life forever. El-Haj knew he could help Musai but was faced with an ethical dilemma - the answer to the problem would be found among the pages of the Nazi-era Atlas of Topographical and Applied Human Anatomy by Eduard Pernkopf. The nerve illustrations of unsurpassed accuracy and detail were first introduced to El-Haj while he was on a medical fellowship under peripheral nerve surgery pioneer Prof. Susan Mackinnon at Washington University in St. Louis.

Prof. Mackinnon, herself faced with the dilemma, opened the ethical discussion on the use of the atlas for medical ends in 2014, ultimately giving rise to the “Vienna Protocol.” Formally adopted in 2017 by the world Holocaust Remembrance Center, Yad Vashem, the protocol states that the atlas can be used if there is full disclosure to the patient about its origins.

After consulting his family, who had lost relatives in the Holocaust, Musai agreed that Dr. El-Haj refer to the atlas during the operation. The success of the surgery forged a deep and profound friendship between the two and their families.

One of eight siblings, Dr. Madi El-Haj grew up in a farming village in the Galilee. His lifelong journey to become a physician, and ultimately a peripheral nerve surgeon, was inspired by his desire to help his sister and father, who both suffered from chronic nerve damage during their lives. His father, as a young man, was left with paralysis of the arm and leg by a work accident.

In 2008 El-Haj graduated cum laude from the Hadassah—Hebrew University School of Medicine, followed by a residency in orthopedic surgery and a fellowship in hand surgery, both at Hadassah. In 2016 he went to the US to carry out a surgery fellowship in the Christine M. Kleinert Institute for Hand and Microsurgery in Louisville, Kentucky. And in 2018, he completed a peripheral nerve surgery fellowship under the supervision of world-renowned Prof. Susan Mackinnon at the Washington University School of Medicine and the Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri.

Dr. El-Haj returned to Hadassah and currently serves as a senior peripheral nerve surgeon, and hand and microvascular surgeon in the Ein Kerem campus. He specializes in peripheral nerve injury, brachial plexus injury, thoracic outlet syndrome, complex regional pain syndrome, nerve transfer, spinal cord injury, upper and lower limb nerve injury, as well as hand surgery.

El-Haj is greatly in demand in his passion to heal patients from their chronic suffering.

Over the last two years he has performed more than 1,300 operations, of which 700 are defined as complex surgeries. These include nerve transfer for cervical spinal cord injuries and peripheral nerve injuries, as well as complex regional pain syndrome surgery. In many respects, El-Haj is a pioneer, developing innovative surgical procedures and often performing new techniques in Israel for the first time.
Mental Health in the Eye of the Storm

As the pandemic turned the country’s hospitals into war zones, and health workers began working around the clock under extreme stress, psychiatry became acutely important.
The list of challenges generated by the COVID-19 crisis has been endless and without let-up. Dr. Esti Galili-Weisstub, director of the Herman Dana Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Hadassah, and her team have worked tirelessly as the Division’s workload has increased exponentially across the board, and without increase in personnel. The pressure generated by the pandemic restrictions and self-isolation during the past year is unprecedented; the Adolescent and Child Psychiatry Unit is handling an avalanche of new difficult cases that include eating disorders and suicidal tendencies among hospitalized and out-patients. The Unit also launched a project to mentor and support community workers who have been overburdened during the ongoing crisis.

Halting family visits to hospitalized children in the psychiatric unit and complying with social distancing and wearing masks during counselling, represented colossal handicaps. “The value of the interpersonal experience of sitting in the same room with a patient cannot be overstated,” says Galili. “With masks, it is immensely difficult to gauge facial expressions that are so crucial to treatment.”

And while the core of her work at Hadassah is pediatric, Galili joined the team that supported the hospital staff and patients in the COVID-19 outbreak wards. “Personnel in the Coronavirus wards endure tremendous stress and are simply too tired to pick up the phone and ask for help,” imparted Galili. Together with her colleagues she created a hotline for caregivers, also providing face-to-face therapy, to help them cope with the extreme stress generated by the pandemic.

Galili is also a bridge-builder in a region divided by conflict. Together with Dr. Shafiq Masalha, an Arab-Israeli psychotherapist and lecturer at the Hebrew University, she established the Binational School of Psychotherapy - The Project Rozana initiative. The project received a generous startup grant from World Vision followed by a prestigious European Union grant of $850,000 to fund the first psychotherapy training program for Palestinian Authority (PA) professionals. “I want the graduates of this program to have a major impact on the mental health of individuals on both sides of the checkpoints that separate this country,” says Galili-Weisstub. The Binational School of Psychotherapy, which has completed the first pilot program, will train Israeli and Palestinian mental health professionals (psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers) in psychotherapy over a 42-month cycle.

And Galili’s bridge-building extends to global action. The Hadassah trauma unit is recognized worldwide, and the team shares its expertise in disaster-hit regions around the globe. From the 2005 tsunami in Sri Lanka, to the terror attack in a Paris school, the 2017 Mexico City earthquake, to the 2017 Las Vegas and 2018 Pittsburgh shootings, Galili’s team has been present on-site to help local communities cope and rebuild after disaster.
$9M for Jerusalem’s New Rehabilitation Center at Mount Scopus

“Hadassah’s new Rehabilitation Center at Mt. Scopus will be the most sophisticated facility of its kind in Israel, ensuring that citizens of greater Jerusalem will have access to the best care available for generations to come. This has been Hadassah’s hallmark for over a hundred years.”

-Dalia Itzik, Chair, HI Israel, Former Speaker of the Knesset

Hadassah International (HI) brought together friends from three continents at a gala evening graciously hosted by Joey and Lindsay Schottenstein at their Miami home in December 2019. The benefit was a tremendous success with $9M raised for Hadassah’s new state-of-the-art Rehabilitation Center at Mount Scopus.

Citing the psalm of David, Lindsay Schottenstein affirmed, “Thanks to the new Rehabilitation Center at Mount Scopus, the broken men and women of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) will become the cornerstones of new and productive lives.”

Nir Caspi, former member of Israel’s naval commando unit Shayetet 13 (roughly equivalent to America’s Navy Seals) recounted the injury he endured during a classified military operation in Lebanon and his difficult personal journey to rehabilitation at Hadassah. Now a successful entrepreneur, Caspi recounted, “Once you open your eyes and realize that you are no longer the same person, not able to move or having lost a limb, successful rehabilitation becomes your lifeline and only hope. Hadassah gave me the hope I needed to return to active service and enjoy a busy, engaged life.” Award-winning Israeli actor Tomer Kapon from the Israeli TV series Fauda added an inspiring testimony about his own experience as a paratrooper in the IDF.

“In the near future, anyone who needs the best rehabilitation treatment in the world will be able to receive it in Jerusalem,” said Former Knesset Speaker and HI Israel Chair, Dalia Itzik, thanking Jeanie and Jay Schottenstein and Nily Falic, Chair emeritus of the Friends of the IDF, for their generous support of the evening.

“This unprecedented event serves as the launch of the exciting campaign to raise funds for our new rehabilitation center,” added Dr. Tamar Elram, director of Hadassah Mount Scopus, the new home of the center. And HI Board member Rafael Zaga, professed, “Tonight, the Latin American Hadassah International delegation and I witnessed the magnificent heart and soul of Hadassah and its amazing ability to use healing to transform the world.”

“It was an honor to partner in Hadassah’s unique fundraising event for patients and IDF soldiers. The Rehabilitation unit will be built in Jerusalem and provide individual and optimal care for those who need it most.”

-Harel Wiesel, Owner and CEO of Fox Group

In light of the overwhelming support for the project, HWZOA National President and Chair of the HI Board of Directors, 2016-2019, Ellen Hershkin concluded, “Thanks to our many generous donors from Israel, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, and the US, Hadassah’s groundbreaking medical research and treatment have a worldwide impact.”
At the height of the Second Intifada, I was living in Yemin Moshe in Jerusalem, studying conflict resolution at Hebrew University. I was spending time with my cousin, Prof. Avi Rivkind, who was on the front lines at Hadassah’s Trauma Unit focused on treating victims of terror. During this period, I visited the hospital many times, always mesmerized by this island of sanity in the midst of such turmoil, and compelled by its mission in the most complex city on earth. I will never forget Avi saying to me, “In America, doctors take the Hippocratic oath. In Israel, we live it.”

When I returned to life in New York City later that year, I was smitten. I was forever changed as I had fallen in love - with Hadassah. As a result of my living abroad in Asia, Europe, and Latin America by the time I was 30, Hadassah International’s global focus and mission was the perfect fit for me.

Since my first meeting in Paris with Young Hadassah more than 13 years ago, my time with Hadassah has been about relationships. The Hadassah International bond has offered me the gift of the closest of relationships that still impacts my life and HI will remain a part of my global family for the duration of time.

At Hadassah International, we have always been a family of dreamers. Spanning cultures and languages, religions and gender, volunteer and staff, we learned from each other. Through the most turbulent of times, we continued to dream, connect, and support each other. Our team went beyond expectations time and time again, daring to dream and implement where Hadassah had yet to venture. The strength of our relationships sustained us.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been the quintessential opportunity for Hadassah International to rise to the unimaginable challenge and exhibit world-class global leadership in the pioneering spirit of Henrietta Szold, founder of Hadassah. Our relationships around the world continue, and the dreamers continue to expect the unexpected, to build the future - Now.

May Hadassah International dreamers go from strength to strength in these uncertain times and beyond!

From my heart to yours,
Melissa Kaplan
Former Executive Director
Hadassah International

THIS IS NOT GOODBYE
The year 2020 presented us with great challenges. We are proud of Hadassah researchers who, in addition to their regular research activities, invested tremendous effort in the study of the novel Coronavirus, in search for a cure to eradicate the dreaded plague. Hadassah researchers collaborated with colleagues at top research institutions around the globe and published in first-tier publications. Following is a selected list of collaborations and prizes that will give you a taste of the exciting research we are doing. I'm happy to take this opportunity to thank you, Hadassah's friends worldwide, for your long and sustained support of our unique institution.

- Prof. Eyal Mishani, head, Research and Development Division; General Director, Research Fund, Hadassah Medical Organization

**UNITED STATES**
- Prof. Benjamin Glaser - University of Pennsylvania and City of Hope
- Prof. Michael Wilschanski - University of Iowa
- Prof. Hagai Levine - Washington University
- Prof. Gil Leibowitz - University of Miami

**EUROPE**
- Prof. Rivka Pollak - University of Oxford (BIRAX Foundation framework)
- Prof. Polina Stepensky - Northwestern Memorial Hospital and Freiburg University
- Prof. Benjamin Glaser - European Consortium
- Prof. Rachel Katz-Brull - European Consortium

**PRIZES**

**Israel Science Foundation Physician-Scientist Research Grants**
Hadassah faculty received 6 of the 8 prestigious annual grants:
- Dr. Ori Wald
- Dr. Shai Rosenberg
- Dr. Rabea Asleh
- Dr. Albert Grinshpun
- Dr. Inbal Reuveni
- Dr. Tal Falick Michaeli

**Israel Science Foundation Research Grants**
- Dr. Jonathan Axelrod
- Prof. Abd Al-Roof Higazi
- Prof. Simcha Yagel
- Prof. Dror Sharon
- Prof. Ran Nir-Paz

- Dr. Hamutal Gur-Erenfeld
- Prof. Eitan Kerem
- Prof. Gil Leibowitz
- Prof. Benjamin Glaser
- Prof. Yael Houri-Haddad
- Dr. Gilad Ben-Gal
- Prof. S. Nahum Goldberg
- Prof. Zvi Fridlender

**Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) & Conquer Cancer Foundation of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) $200,000 research grant**
- Dr. Albert Grinshpun

**2020 Worthy Citizen of Jerusalem Award**
Prof. Tamar Yablonski-Peretz
Former head, Sharett Institute of Oncology
## Facts & Figures

### Fast Facts
- **Patients served annually**: >1,000,000
- **Operating rooms**: 45
- **Beds**: 1,413
- **Employees**: 5,065
- **Doctors**: 1,023
- **Nurses**: 2,748
- **Operations/procedures annually**: >45,000
- **Winners of “Israel Prize” (cumulative)**: 12
- **Scientific publications in the past 5 years**: >2,000
- **Percentage of bio-medical research in Israel conducted at Hadassah**: 40-50%
- **Patents**: >200
- **Clinical trials in progress**: 160
- **Start-ups**: 15

### Number of Hospital Admissions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>97,688</td>
<td>100,378</td>
<td>94,387</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>447,237</td>
<td>444,779</td>
<td>415,036</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160,485</td>
<td>165,340</td>
<td>144,855</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Hospitalization Days

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>415,036</td>
<td>444,779</td>
<td>447,237</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13,037</td>
<td>13,817</td>
<td>12,972</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>272,886</td>
<td>240,010</td>
<td>218,156</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Emergency Room Visits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>272,886</td>
<td>240,010</td>
<td>218,156</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Inpatient Bed Occupancy*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93%</td>
<td>102%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Activity of COVID departments is included in activity of internal medicine departments

### Ambulatory Activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9,693</td>
<td>10,234,483</td>
<td>1,021,868</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13,817</td>
<td>13,037</td>
<td>12,972</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24,016</td>
<td>22,777</td>
<td>20,864</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Births

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13,857</td>
<td>13,037</td>
<td>12,972</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Outpatient MRI Procedures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20,864</td>
<td>22,777</td>
<td>24,016</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Outpatient Radiotherapy Treatments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>218,156</td>
<td>240,010</td>
<td>272,886</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FACTS & FIGURES

% INCREASE OVER 5 YEARS
(DESPITE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK)

ORTHOPEDICS
(MILLIONS OF NIS)

CARDIOVASCULAR SURGERY
(MILLIONS OF NIS)

RADIOThERAPY
(MILLIONS OF NIS)

MRI
(MILLIONS OF NIS)

NEPHROLOGY (DIALYSIS)
(MILLIONS OF NIS)

ANGIOGRAPHY
(MILLIONS OF NIS)

INR
(MILLIONS OF NIS)

GASTROENTEROLOGY
(MILLIONS OF NIS)

VASCULAR
(MILLIONS OF NIS)

NUCLEAR MEDICINE / PET
(MILLIONS OF NIS)

CARDIOLOGY
(MILLIONS OF NIS)
Dear Hadassah International Stakeholders,

The financial stability of our hospitals continues to improve. Our activities have increased by a yearly average of 4% since 2016, without an equivalent rise in wage expenses. Research activity has also grown considerably, exceeding NIS 100M in annual turnover for the first time in 2019. This positive progression was confirmed in 2020.

Hadassah Medical Organization’s accumulated deficit decreased by 900M NIS by comparison with the deficit at the signature of the recovery agreement in 2014. Debts to suppliers were paid in a timely manner, and management has met all objectives for debt settlement in accordance with the recovery agreement.

While this positive progression is reassuring, Israeli state regulations on hospitals has tightened, precipitating the rise of the mandatory discount rate on turnover from 21% in 2014 to 28% in 2020. By consequence, total expenditure has doubled from 300M NIS to 600M NIS, posing considerable challenge to the management of our hospitals.

2020 was also a particularly challenging year due to the sharp decrease in revenue and the equally acute increase in operating expenses provoked by the worldwide SARS-CoV-2 public health crisis. Hospital management acted swiftly and secured dedicated state subsidies to offset the financial strain of these extraordinary events and assure stability.

We are encouraged by Israel’s resilience and the speed and efficiency with which widespread immunization has been administered. Recovery from the pandemic will allow our management, healthcare professionals and staff to return to a new normal and with it, consolidation and growth.

Yuval Adar,
Chief Financial Officer
Hadassah Medical Organization
Dear Stakeholders,
Despite one of the most challenging years in recent memory I am filled with pride and appreciation that our communities and friends worldwide have come together with generosity and concern. It has been a year in which many records have been broken—not all of them positive—but it has also been a record year for our fundraising efforts with $18.3 M raised. My profound thanks to all those who have been part of this tremendous achievement.

Jorge Diener,
Executive Director, Hadassah International
COVID-19

COVID-19 PATIENTS 2020

COVID-19 PATIENTS BY AGE

HIGHEST ACUITY OF COVID-19 PATIENTS AMONG ISRAEL HOSPITALS FEB. 1, 2021
THE POWER TO BRING HEALING TO OUR WORLD.

TOGETHER.