



Hadassah International Medical Relief Association, Ltd. (HIMRA)

News from Hadassah International

Greetings from Nancy Falchuk, President, Hadassah International

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As I travel back and forth from Boston to Hadassah House in New York every week, I am struck by how much has changed just this past year. Each time I board a plane or even enter a public building, I am much more aware of others around me and cautious of anything that seems out of the ordinary. I'm sure many of you feel the same way. And just these last few weeks, the acts of terror which have affected our lifestyles have even reached parts of the world always considered havens for peace, rest and relaxation. Terrorism, once perceived as the problem of a limited few, has now reared its ugly head as a global and individual threat. In all societies, civilians have become the terrorists' most acceptable and valuable targets. And yet, we must continue to lead our lives as normally as we can.

Now unfortunately, all of us have a very personal and tangible sense of what our Israeli friends have coped with on a daily basis for years. As we see in the world around us, terrorism does not discriminate; the victims of the suicide bombings in Israel have been young and old, men and women, tourist and citizen, Arab, Jew and Christian. We know, because we have treated so many of them at our Hadassah Medical Centers in Jerusalem. Yet, in the midst of all this, even as our Hadassah Hospitals in Israel continue to be on the front line of this war against



Nancy Falchuk

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HADASSAH MEDICAL ORGANIZATION (HMO) NEWS UPDATE: HADASSAH DOCTORS LINK GENE MUTATION WITH POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

Did you know that:

- Hadassah International is celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2003.
- Hadassah is the second largest employer in the city of Jerusalem.
- Cross-cultural projects: Programs with Arab social workers are unique to Hadassah.

(September 26, 2002) -- A genetic mutation of the Dopamine Transporter (DAT) has been positively linked to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) by doctors in the Psychiatry Department at Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem. The DAT gene, which itself was identified in 1962, is responsible for transporting Dopamine within the nervous system.

Hadassah researchers, Dr. Ronen Segman, a senior physician in the Psychiatry Department at Hadassah, and Prof. Arie Shalev, head of the department, led the research, which included more than 200 trauma victims from the Jerusalem region.

People who suffer from PTSD are plagued by intrusive memories of a traumatic event and constant

hyper-arousal. These symptoms can persist for many years, and are often associated with significant disability and distress. Traditionally, common wisdom dictated that the causes of PTSD were strictly environmental. However, several years ago a study comparing identical and fraternal twins, who saw similar combat action in the Vietnam War, showed that PTSD is expressed with

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Meet Hadassah International's Volunteers: Roy Reding and Karine Reuter-Reding



From left to right: Roy Reding, Deborah Lang (President, Hadassah Argentina) and Karine Reuter-Reding at the Hadassah International's Geneva Conference in March.

"We wanted to become involved with an organization that did more than simply supply food, clothing or money to those in need." Karine Reuter-Reding



Seven years ago Roy Reding and Karine Reuter-Reding placed an announcement in a Luxembourg newspaper on the birth of their second child. It stated, "instead of gifts, we would appreciate a contribution to Hadassah International." When friends called to find out more about Hadassah International, the Redings proudly explained that they had chosen Hadassah International as their charitable organization because it crossed all national, ethnic and religious boundaries, and strived to make a difference in the world through medicine and research.

Today Roy, a partner in a law firm that deals with international tax planning, and Karine, a judge who tries primarily civil and commercial cases, have four children, and are still raising money for the one charity in Luxembourg they believe meets their stringent criteria. "We wanted to become involved with an organization that did more than simply supply food, clothing or money to those in need," stated Karine Reuter-Reding. "We wanted to support an organization that brings lasting help, which goes further than providing material goods. We heard about Hadassah International's project in Luxembourg which aimed at restoring the ophthalmological services in Rwanda (at the moment there is not one single doctor) while combating the high incidence of eye disease in Africa, and knew that this is what we were looking for. Money is raised to send a doctor from Rwanda to the Hadassah University Hospital in Jerusalem to train in ophthalmology, so that when he qualifies he can return to his country, provide ophthalmological services, and work to save the sight of thousands in Africa. Hadassah Luxembourg will help set up a clinic for him where he can practice his specialty and train others in eye disease treatment and prevention."

The Redings, and several of their friends, have adopted Hadassah International as their favorite charity. They are impressed with the excellent standards of medicine,

teaching and research at the Hadassah University Hospitals. They feel that many countries around the world can benefit from the expertise of the Hadassah Medical Organization, including Luxembourg. They are also working to try and set up collaborative efforts between the Luxembourg medical community and the Hadassah Medical Organization.

Under the leadership of Colette Hartwich, in 1997 Hadassah International Luxembourg received NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) status. Since the government matches all contributions to NGOs for projects that help undeveloped countries, Hadassah International receives \$2 for every \$1 it raises.

Whether it be asking their friends for gift donations for special occasions; informing the public about Hadassah on radio talk shows (Roy hosts his own radio talk show on civil law); representing Hadassah International at an NGO fair; or organizing a gala dinner and auction with prominent members of the community in attendance, the Redings work with love for Hadassah International. "There are so many things that make Hadassah different from other charities. First of all, the atmosphere existing among Hadassah volunteers is simply great. So as volunteers, we feel this is an organization we can work for with great enthusiasm," exclaims Karine. "We know that our contributions in time, effort and money help, in some way, make the world a better place."

Save the Date:
Hadassah International Conference
"It's not a Miracle, it's Hadassah"
will be taking place at the Langham Hilton Hotel London, England
on
May 11-12, 2003
followed by a Mission to Israel
May 13-18, 2003



***New Gene Therapy Protocol:
First Successful Treatment for "Bubble Babies"***

(Jerusalem, June 2002) In the midst of all the violence in the Israel, the life of a "bubble baby" from Jerusalem's Arab community has been saved by a new protocol developed by a team of Israeli and Italian doctors for the treatment of children born without immune systems. The lifesaving protocol, implemented at Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center in Ein Kerem - whose excellence in trauma care was featured in a six page article in the current issue of *Newsweek* -- has wide ranging implications for the successful treatment of genetic diseases. A description of the first successful application of the new treatment appears in the June 28 issue of the journal *Science*.

The research was led by Prof. Shimon Slavin, Dr. Shoshana Morecki and Dr. Memet Aker of Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center in Jerusalem, in collaboration with Dr. Allesandro Aiuti and his colleagues from the San Raffaele Institute for Gene Therapy in Milan, Italy.

The procedure, which improves an existing protocol to give a biological advantage to genetically altered stem cells, resulted in a complete reversal of severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID), a condition caused by the lack of an essential enzyme, adenosine deaminase (ADA). Children born with an acute form of SCID are known as "bubble babies" and have to be kept in isolation units to prevent them from coming in contact with infectious elements.

According to Slavin, Head of the Department of Bone Marrow Transplantation at Hadassah Medical Center, the significance of this new development extends beyond those immediately affected by SCID and has the potential to be equally effective in curing similar genetic diseases, such as Gaucher's and other diseases caused by enzyme deficiency.



Professor Shimon Slavin (left) with Salsabil, third bubble baby born to her family, devout Muslims living in the Arab neighborhood of Ras-Al Amud in Jerusalem.

HADASSAH DOCTORS LINK GENE MUTATION TO PTSD *Continued from page 1:*

greater frequency in both twins when they are identical -- and therefore share identical genes -- than when they are fraternal. Researchers at Hadassah Medical Organization further confirmed the role of genes in the disorder by finding that a mutation on the DAT gene is more prevalent in people who suffer from PTSD. As a result of this study, it is believed that the DAT gene may be responsible for 4-10 percent of all PTSD cases.

According to Prof. Shalev, "This is a first step in defining the biological mechanisms involved in creating PTSD. These findings will help in the future to find an efficient treatment for PTSD." Details of the research were published in the most recent edition of *Molecular Psychiatry*.

HIMRA HIGHLIGHTS:

- * New offices have been opened in Sao Paulo, Brazil and Sydney, Australia.
- * In August, Hadassah International participated in an International Nurses Symposium in Sao Paulo at Albert Einstein Hospital. Orly Rotem-Picker, Head of Nursing Services at Hadassah Hospital and Barbara Sabin, of Hadassah International were sponsored by Brazilian pharmaceutical companies.
- * The "World Wide Walk", in its third successful year, took place on Sunday, October 6th, in Austria, England, France, Holland, Italy, New Zealand, and the United States.

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Hadassah International Medical Relief Association, Ltd., (HIMRA) is a network of dedicated volunteers founded on the principle that advancement & cooperation in medicine and science transcends politics, religion and national boundaries.



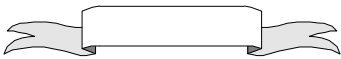
Ceremony laying the foundation for the New Center for Emergency Medicine. Hadassah International units are planning fundraising activities to support the Center for Emergency Medicine.

The Hadassah Medical Organization *Significant Developments in 2002*

- **New building projects at Hadassah Ein Kerem:** In addition to the commencement of building the New Center for Emergency Medicine (CEM), many other construction and renovation projects are under way.
- **Promising news for Gene Therapy: The first successful treatment for "Bubble Babies" born without an immune system.** Researchers from the Hadassah Medical Organization, and the San Raffaele Institute for Gene Therapy in Milan successfully used genetic treatment and procedure to cure babies suffering from the rare and fatal condition Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID). The significance of this new development extends beyond those immediately affected by SCID, and has the potential to be equally effective in curing similar genetic diseases, such as Gaucher's and other diseases caused by enzyme deficiency.
- **A method for early diagnosis of Prion Disease was discovered by Prof. Ruth Gabizon and her team in the Neurology Department.** Prion, a protein particle responsible for the fatal "mad cow disease" in animals and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans, can be detected in urine.
- **Prof. Benjamin Rubinoff has made roads in isolating stem cells of the nervous system from the umbilical cord.** This research indicates possible new approaches to treating nervous disorders, such as Parkinson's Disease, Dementia, Alzheimer's and Multiple Sclerosis. The findings sprung from early research that revealed that stem cells could replicate every cell in the human body. Once transplanted they can also be used to treat, and possibly cure, a wide variety of illnesses and conditions.
- **Hadassah has opened 3 new centers: The Interdisciplinary Research Center for Interventional Cardiology, the Center for the Treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Disease, and the Center for Child Psychiatry in downtown Jerusalem.**
- **A new Clinical Masters Program in Nursing is inaugurated.** The program, the first of its kind in Israel, combines advanced clinical and theoretical courses into a single degree program, offering students the option of earning a graduate degree in nursing with a major in clinical nursing.

**HIMRA
Upcoming
Calendar of
Events**

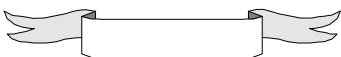
Please share your upcoming events with our Hadassah International units. We would like to post your events in the next issue. Be sure to indicate the type of event (e.g. lecture, fundraising gala dinner, art auction, etc.), with the date, place and contact info (email address). Email the information to csilverman@hadassah.org.



Hadassah International is proud to announce:

On October 24th, **Dr. Sergio Simon**, Head, Medical Oncology at Albert Einstein Hospital and Head, Scientific Committee, Hadassah Sao Paulo is being honored by the Brazilian Chapter of the Israeli Medical Association as "Physician of the Year."

Prof. Avi Rivkind, Head of Hadassah's Trauma Unit, was named "Doctor of the Year" by Ma'ariv, Israel's 2nd largest daily newspaper. Prof. Rivkind was commended for saving the lives of so many of those injured in terrorist attacks.



HMO Professionals Appear on Panel at a United Nations Conference

On the afternoon of Wednesday, September 11th, Rita Avramov, MSW, MPH, Director of HMO's Department of Social Services, Estelle Rubinstein, MSW, the Department's Deputy Director, and Esti Galili-Weisstub, MD, Director of HMO's Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Unit, gave a workshop at the 55th Annual United Nations Department of Public Information/ Non-Governmental Organization (DPI/NGO) Conference. The Conference theme was "Rebuilding Societies Emerging from Conflict: A Shared Responsibility". This was the first time Hadassah created a workshop for the annual DPI/NGO Conference at the UN. About 90 people attended the workshop which was entitled "Promoting Mutual Understanding and Outreach in a Diverse Society Through a Multi-Level Health Care System."

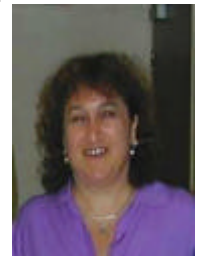
National President Bonnie Lipton, opened with remarks regarding the milestone reached with Hadassah's presence at the conference, adding this is only a first step in Hadassah's efforts at the UN as an NGO.

On Thursday, September 12th, the three professionals also made an appearance at Hadassah House in New York to give everyone the chance ask questions about their latest activities and how their work has been progressing at Hadassah.



Rita Avramov was the first to address the audience and spoke on how the Department of Social Services reacts and organizes upon the advent of a mass-casualty event. The staff is divided into three groups- the Emergency Center Team, the Information Hotline Team, and the Family Center Team. The day after a catastrophe, such as a terrorist attack, all

of the teams get together to reassess what transpired. It is a time for veterans of the department to raise the spirits of newer social workers. Support for the staff is critical when dealing with such serious and tragic circumstances, Ms. Avramov said.



Estelle Rubinstein spoke about the work of the AIDS Center at Hadassah and the importance of providing culturally-appropriate HIV care for an immigrant group, specifically in treating the Ethiopian population in Jerusalem. The AIDS center consists of a multi-disciplinary team of doctors, nurses, social workers, and cultural mediators who all work together to bridge differences in culture and language, and successfully monitor and actively follow 250 HIV positive patients.



Dr. Esti Galili, spoke about the effects that the Al-Aqsa Intifada has had on all children in Israel, both Jewish and Arab, and the incidence of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in the young population. She added that four months ago, the Psychiatry Department at Hadassah began working with other agencies in Jerusalem to provide workshops for teachers and school staff to help them recognize and properly deal with students who may be suffering from PTSD.

The Hadassah Medical Organization is proud to have had Rita, Estelle, and Esti represent Hadassah at the United Nations where they successfully demonstrated the sincerity and quality of work that is being done within the State of Israel. In the current climate, we all know that it is so important for these positive elements to shine through.



Greetings from Nancy Falchuk *(continued from page 1)*

civilians, our medical researchers and clinical specialists are remaining in the forefront of medical science and medical care. Although our Trauma Center may make the headlines, so much more is happening at the Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO).

In this first issue of "News from Hadassah International", please read about the many remarkable achievements recently made by our Medical Center staff. Take pride in the important contributions you, and thousands of Hadassah volunteers like you, have made to enable this research, teaching and care at HMO. Your parlor meetings, dinners, special events and direct appeals have raised millions of dollars, and, with your help, the building of the new Center for Emergency Medicine has begun. We are confident that we can and will raise the \$30,000,000 more that is needed to complete this badly needed Center.

On behalf of all of us at Hadassah, I thank you for not only understanding the enormous role this Center will play for everyone in Israel, and, in fact, in the Middle East, but for caring enough to help make this Center a reality. Hadassah volunteers are very special, and we, like our Hadassah nurses, doctors and social workers will continue

to move forward in spite of the changing world around us.

Happy Anniversary!

Do you know that almost 20 years have passed since the founding of Hadassah International? Who would believe it? We've come a long way in those twenty years and we deserve to recognize our achievements. So, bring your friends and join us in sunny London, England, May 11-12, 2003, for our Hadassah International Conference, "It's not a Miracle, it's Hadassah". Rooms are being held for you at the beautiful and well-located Langham Hilton Hotel. Mark your calendars, as this Conference will be a look into our past and will help define our future. Then, the celebration continues on May 13, as we depart London for Jerusalem, the heart of Hadassah. Come see for yourself the work of your hands.

I look forward to greeting each and every one of you in May, if not before. Please stay in touch, since it is all of you, from Australia to Luxembourg, from France to Spain, from Brazil to Sweden, from Mexico to Germany, who make Hadassah International the fantastic organization it is today. Once again, thank you.

HMO News from the Pediatric Cardiology Unit: Fetal Kintocardiogram Proves Successful at Hadassah A New Method to Identify Fetal Arrhythmia Saves Lives in Utero

In an article that appears in a recent edition of *Circulation*, a journal of the American Heart Association, Dr. Azaria Rein, specialist in pediatric echocardiology and director of the Pediatric Cardiology Unit at Hadassah University Hospital-Ein Kerem reported on a new method of determining abnormal heart rhythms in fetuses.

More than 150 fetuses from the 16th week of pregnancy and onward were examined with the nearly non-invasive new procedure, which is based on examining miniscule move-

ments in the fetal heart wall. Ultrasonic waves record the movements, which then appear as tracings on a graph, similar to those recorded by an electrocardiogram (EKG). The Fetal Kintocardiogram, which takes about four minutes, is not harmful to the fetus and, in some circumstances, was the only indication of abnormal fetal heart rhythms.

According to Dr. Rein, the Fetal Kintocardiogram enables physicians to diagnose fetal arrhythmia at an early stage of pregnancy, monitor the fetuses throughout gestation and treat fetal heart

abnormalities with greater certitude.

Dr. Rein's research was conducted in collaboration with Dr. Amiram Nir and Dr. Zev Perles of the Cardiology department at HMO and with colleagues at Harvard University in Boston and the University of Portland, Oregon.

**GIFTS TO THE
HADASSAH
MEDICAL
ORGANIZATION
CAN BE SENT TO:
Hadassah International
Bank Leumi
Account # 63040016
By check, mail to:
Mr. Albert Israel
Bank Leumi
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By wire:
Swift Code:
LUMI IL IT XXX**

Letters to the Editors and any requests for information on research and updates at the Hadassah Medical Organization should be sent to: Pat Levinson (plevinson@hadassah.org) and Cheryl Silverman (csilverman@hadassah.org)

Hadassah International Calendar

Upcoming Special Events:

OCTOBER 2002:

- Oct. 6:** The third annual "World Wide Walk" takes place in Amsterdam, Holland, London, England, Paris, France, Milan, Italy, Auckland, New Zealand, Vienna, Austria and Los Angeles, USA.
- Oct. 13:** Hadassah Germany: Reception at the Israel Embassy in Berlin, with Prof. Moti Sela, as guest speaker.
- Oct. 20:** Hadassah Australia: "World Wide Walk" in Sydney.

NOVEMBER 2002:

- Nov. 3-7:** Hadassah Mexico: Prof. Shlomo Mor-Yosef and Nancy Falchuk meet with Hadassah Mexico and the Mexican medical community.
- Nov. 10:** Hadassah New Zealand: "World Wide Walk" in Wellington
- Nov. 10:** Hadassah Holland: Reception at the home of Israel Ambassador in memory of Paul van Hessen, former International Director of the Lions Clubs International, the Netherlands
- Nov. 14:** Young Hadassah Geneva: First Young Hadassah Event in Geneva, with Hadassah International volunteer Soraya Nazarian as speaker
- Nov. 17:** Young Hadassah Latin America: Event in Miami for Young Latin American Committee.
- Nov. 20:** Hadassah Mexico: Fundraising event with Israeli artist Yaakov Agam as guest speaker.
- Nov. 21:** Hadassah Switzerland: Reception in Zurich, with Prof. Shlomo Ma'ayan.
- Nov. 24:** Hadassah Luxembourg: Reception with Prof. Shlomo Ma'ayan.

DECEMBER 2002:

- December:** Hadassah Spain: "World Wide Walk" in Barcelona.
- Dec. 1:** Hadassah France: Paris fundraising event: "Soirée at the Theater."

The Hadassah Medical Organization's Involvement in Other Countries

* CHINESE BREAST HEALTH

Hadassah's **Dr. Ilana Kadmon**, Israel's pioneering clinical breast care nurse specialist, recently brought her wealth of knowledge to the women of China. Dr. Kadmon's husband is Chinese, and through his assistance helped establish a cooperative relationship between Hadassah University Hospital and a major cancer center in Tianjin, China. During her visit she presented an intensive three-week seminar on the medical, social, political, emotional and psychological aspects of breast cancer and its treatment. Additionally, she engaged in joint research and information projects, translation of materials into Chinese and promoted the cooperative efforts between the two countries. In the future, Hadassah's Nurse Specialist hopes to host some of the nurses from Tianjin to do their specialization in breast cancer in Israel.

* EYES OF AFRICA

Imagine 50,000 blind persons spending their lives in darkness because there is no eye doctor in their country. That's the situation in Rwanda. One percent of Africa is blind, according to Hadassah Ophthalmology Department Head **Professor Yaakov Pe'er**. He personally spent two years in Kenya where he performed 4000 operations bringing sight to the sightless. All told, Hadassah eye doctors have devoted 100 years of time to the African continent, usually on two year stints.

Under the aegis of Hadassah-International, Professor Peer recently returned to Africa to evaluate the situation in Rwanda and Malawi. In Malawi, an excellent training program exists, run by a Hadassah-trained doctor, **Moses Chirambo**. In contrast, in Rwanda the country's main eye clinic remains empty because of the chronic absence of the physician in charge. **Dr. Charles Muhizi**, who recently completed three years of training at Hadassah Hospital, will begin working there in January. Prof. Peer recommended to this project's sponsors, Hadassah-Luxembourg NGO, that specialists from Hadassah University Hospital rotate every few months and that additional staff be trained in Jerusalem.

* WORLD AIDS CONFERENCE IN BARCELONA

Prof. Shlomo Ma'ayan, Director of the Hadassah Aids Center, and **Estelle Rubinstein** (MSW), Deputy-Director of Social Work Services and Social Worker, Hadassah AIDS Center, participated in the World AIDS Conference in Barcelona this summer to discuss specific interventions in HIV positive immigrant women. Of the over 210 individuals treated at the Hadassah Aids Center in Jerusalem, approximately 150 are of Ethiopian origin (about 50% women) who immigrated to Israel between 1998 and 2002. Since 1991 all immigrants to Israel from areas of high-prevalence for infectious diseases are offered a general health screening that includes testing for TB, HIV and syphilis. In this group the stress of an HIV diagnosis is compounded by the stress of immigration.

A multidisciplinary team, comprising physicians, nurses, social workers and cultural mediators (veteran Ethiopian immigrants who, by translating both language and culture, function as cultural "bridges") aims to ensure effective treatment in this immigrant population. Recognizing the unique needs of immigrant women with HIV, the team addresses both the manner in which cultural factors express themselves in the construction of distress, and the ways in which personal experience may be determined by cultural factors in an attempt to overcome the difficulties inherent in providing culturally-appropriate HIV care in an immigrant population.