



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



מרכז האוניברסיטה העברית לקיימות
The Hebrew University Center for Sustainability
مركز الجامعة العبرية للاستدامة



Scientific Progress

Among the many game-changing research breakthroughs developed at HUJI's Faculty of Medicine is Dr. Shai Sabbah's work on the connections between nerve cells in the retina that are responsible for collecting visual information. Research published by a collaboration between Dr. Sabbah's group and the Danish Research Institute of Translational Neuroscience at Aarhus University sheds light on the direction of selectivity in which retinal bipolar cell axon terminals operate, enabling a more precise way to fundamentally understand our sense of vision.

Another scientific breakthrough is the development of an innovative approach to creating a drug that will fight skin and liver cancer without chemotherapy. As part of a three-year study in collaboration with researchers in Germany and the United States which resulted in a publication in Nature, Prof. Boaz Tirosh and his research student Dr. Mohamed Mahamid (School of Pharmacy's Institute for Drug Research) tested the movement of intracellular proteins in cancer under various drug combinations. The researchers found a unique drug combination that proved effective against liver cancer and skin cancer in preliminary research and is now to be tested in clinical trials. This new strategy for cancer therapy may in turn lead to a significant shift in the approach to the study of these cancers.

Community Impact

Roughly a quarter of cases of childhood blindness in sub-Saharan Africa result from cataracts, a treatable condition. Cataract-afflicted children typically remain blind due to lack of diagnosis and medical care, and all too often die before reaching adulthood. Prof. Ehud Zohary (HUJI Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Brain Science) heads Project Eye Opener, established to improve these children's fate in a dramatic way. It combines surgical treatment with rigorous scientific evaluation and follow-up therapy to optimize chances for sight recovery. To date, 53 children have been treated at Hawassa hospital in Ethiopia, and are tested regularly to assess their visual development.

The Israel National Program for Quality Indicators in Community Healthcare is led by a directorate from the HUJI-Hadassah Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine, headed by Prof. Ronit Calderon-Margalit. The purpose of the program is to maintain continuous, dynamic measures of healthcare quality that include preventive services, screening, treatment, and disease management. The information is used by the public and by policymakers in order to assess the quality of healthcare. The program's goal is to improve

healthcare services provided to the residents of Israel.

Studies and Learning Initiatives

The International Master's in Public Health is a 12-month master's degree program at HUJI's Hadassah Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine, designed to train international healthcare professionals on the front lines of their countries' healthcare systems. Program participants acquire tools for analyzing public health challenges and for designing intervention strategies at the community and national levels. The curriculum covers a broad range of areas: epidemiology, biostatistics, health administration, health economics, health systems and public health practice, planning, administration and evaluation, and others. A major component of the program is the Community-Oriented Primary Care Workshop, based on a holistic approach to healthcare delivery that integrates clinical medicine and public health.

In cooperation with Hadassah Medical Center, the student clinic of HUJI's Faculty of Medicine is an initiative with the aim of providing medical services to underprivileged communities in and around Jerusalem who do not have health insurance or access to medical services. The clinic provides access to primary care for street dwellers and refugees, and promotes early diagnosis and treatment of children with developmental delays in East Jerusalem. The clinic believes in every individual's basic right to receive medical services, regardless of his/her status.

Actions on Campus

HUJI offers psychological services for students suffering from stress, anxiety, depression, or any other condition requiring professional help. This service can also provide help coping with difficulties in interpersonal or marital relationships, offering a variety of treatments including targeted crisis treatments, long-term or short-term dynamic, and psychiatric treatments that are tailored to the needs of the applicant. Free initial counseling sessions are offered, and additional services are subsidized. In addition, there is a support program for students coping with mental disorders, providing up to four weekly hours of support.

The Faculty of Dentistry offers dental treatments at a reduced cost, funded by donations recruited by dental students and faculty members. The treatments are offered to the elderly and to children living in poverty, residents of sheltered housing, and Holocaust survivors.