THE

HADASSAH
CHRONICLES

A centENary of Caring for Kids 1912 - 2012

Produced by Hadassah Australia
November 2012

To our wonderful Hadassah Australia family -

We are delighted to bring you this special publication of "The Hadassah Chronicles – A centENary of Caring for Kids" to celebrate the double anniversaries we have celebrated in 2012: 100 years of Hadassah in Israel, and 10 years of Hadassah in Australia.

In this booklet we have assembled the complete set of full page articles and "advetorials" that have appeared in The Australian Jewish News, and which tell the story of Hadassah from its earliest days before World War I up to the dedication of the magnificent new hospital 19-storey tower in October 2012.

My first contact with Hadassah Hospital was in 1977 when Dalia and I arrived in Jerusalem with our two children; our third was born there in 1981. Hadassah was then and remains to this day an essential part of the fabric of Jerusalem.

In the early 2000's, as the Second Intifada raged it was at Hadassah that the majority of the injured were treated and healed.

I was in Jerusalem in June 2002 when a series of horrific terror attacks were carried out that caused massive injuries and loss of life. With friends we went to Hadassah where first we donated blood and then stayed to support the medical and nursing teams in their incredible work saving and healing precious lives.

It was at that time that I first heard about Hadassah International, a global network of volunteer groups committed to supporting the Hadassah Hospital and its mission.

Together with friends and colleagues here we resolved to create an Australian unit of Hadassah International.

I am proud of what we have achieved over the past decade: we founded and still fund the Jerusalem Crisis Intervention Center, which provides vital support to the many psychologically challenged children in Jerusalem; in conjunction with our friends at JNF we are building Israel’s first Therapeutic Garden on the slopes of beautiful Mt Scopus; we have initiated the Goshen Project, an Australian-inspired pediatric community health program that will address treatment of chronic illnesses as well as developmental and behavioural problems among children throughout Israel; and we have initiated AUSIMED – the Australia Israel Medical Research Foundation – which will dramatically enhance medical research collaborations between Israel and Australia.

There is much to be proud of, but there is still much to be done. Our first decade has laid the foundations; we are now ready to build and go forward.

I am immensely grateful to you, our friends and supporters who have been so generous in your support of Hadassah. I am humbled to have been a part of the journey so far, and I look forward with real excitement to the journey ahead.

Ron Finkel
President
Supporting Healing, Teaching, Research.
Dear friends,

On behalf of Hadassah International, it is our great privilege to greet Hadassah Australia on the occasion of your 10th Anniversary!

What a proud record of achievement you have attained during this past decade! Congratulations to President Ron Finkel and your leadership for steering Hadassah Australia to this proud moment.

Your mission echoes that of Hadassah International with your emphasis on programs and projects to benefit healthcare in Israel as well as in Australia.

Representatives from Hadassah International, including Hadassah Australia’s Executive Director Martin Splitter gathered in Jerusalem in October to celebrate the Hadassah’s Centennial. We witnessed the official dedication of the Sarah Wetsman Davisdon Hospital Tower, which has been the beneficiary of many generous gifts from Hadassah Australia.

At Hadassah Hospital - Mount Scopus, our Hadassah International Centennial delegates were privileged to learn details of the new Healing Garden, a collaboration between the Jewish National Fund and Hadassah Australia; and then to visit the site where Martin Splitter explained the project to our delegation.

Your continued support of the Jerusalem Crisis Intervention Center, under the inspired direction of Dr. Esti Gailli, has captured the attention of so many interested donors in Australia during this past decade of achievement. You should all feel so gratified that you have chosen to support so generously this means of saving young lives devastated by so many forms of trauma.

As you celebrate this momentous milestone - your 10th Anniversary - we extend our heartiest congratulations to all our Hadassah Australia friends and supporters.

Our best wishes for continued success!

Sincerely,

Sherry Altura
President

Melissa Kaplan
Executive Director
November 2012

Dear Friends,

It is indeed an honor for me to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Hadassah Australia on the occasion of your 10th Anniversary. It has been a decade of fruitful collaboration and mutual cooperation between the medical, scientific and philanthropic communities of Australia and our Hadassah Hospitals in Jerusalem.

Hadassah Australia has played a key role in these projects and we are looking forward to strengthening these ties through additional projects including a new therapeutic garden at Hadassah Mt. Scopus, physician exchange programs, and more.

The Hadassah Medical Organization’s mission is to provide the best and most advanced medical care, teaching and research. Hadassah is a center of goodwill where the benefits of medicine transcend politics and religion. We consider it our mission to serve as a bridge to peace by forging links between peoples of all nationalities, races and religion who come to our doors for healing.

Hadassah has been a pioneer in medicine for the past 100 years. We conduct more research than all other hospitals in Israel combined. But what really makes Hadassah special – what sets us apart from most hospitals in the world – is that we at Hadassah understand that we are part of a larger family throughout the world. You are our Hadassah family. I thank you for your support, your encouragement, your dedication and wish you much continued success in achieving your goals in the coming years.

I am disappointed that I am unable to personally celebrate with you on this special occasion. I wish you all a wonderful evening and hope to have the opportunity to meet you in the very near future.

Yours sincerely,

Ehud Kokia

Professor Ehud Kokia, MD, MHA
Director General
FROM ZERO TO 100 - HADASSAH CELEBRATES ITS centENARY YEAR

SNAPSHOTS

STEM CELL SUCCESS

Steel Cell Research, a highly-respected international journal, has agreed to publish a paper prepared by Monash University and Hadassah on the world's first stem cell trial for multiple sclerosis. The collaboration was made possible through a grant of $450,000 provided by AUSMED—the Australia-Israel Medical Research Initiative—from a donation by Lee Eddy and Ira Eddy.

The principal authors are Professors Claude Bernard of Monash and Benjamin Rechavia of Hadassah. The model will open up new ways to study the devastating disease and test treatments for it.

LIFE-SAVING INITIATIVE

Hadassah is helping to cut the incidence of AIDS among African men. Operation Abraham is a collaboration between Hadassah and the Jerusalem AIDS Project, which is harnessed as a model by UNAIDS in its program to circumcise an estimated 20 million men over five years. Recent evidence indicates that this simple procedure will cut the incidence of AIDS by 60 percent.

The idea developed out of Israel's experience with more than 100,000 adult males from the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia. They underwent circumcision to satisfy religious requirements.

An UNLIKELY ADVOCATE

"Israeli lawmakers should visit Hadassah and observe how Palestinian and Jewish cancer patients relate to each other with respect," said Ron Finkel, President of Hadassah Australia. "They would see that it's not just another war but also a war for survival and peace. Hadassah is a model for how to overcome obstacles and find common ground."

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The Australian Jewish News - jewishtimes.net.au
“I recently returned from a visit to Israel, specifically to meet with my counterparts in Hadassah International and to continue discussions with many of the world-leading scientists, doctors and researchers I had the pleasure of meeting at Hadassah Hospital last year.”

“It also gave me a chance to see another close-up look at the brand new Sarah and Max Woolner Davidson Tower at Hadassah Ein Kerem, which will be dedicated in October this year as part of Hadassah’s international centenary celebrations.

“The Tower is physically impressive; an imposing 5-storey structure with state-of-the-art design. But this building is no mere monument to a successful fundraising campaign. It is the next generation in patient care.

“Every achievement in medical excellence that Hadassah has pioneered over the past 100 years is evident here, together with the impetus of leading researchers and academics in health and trauma management.

“Hadassah Australia is totally committed to supporting Hadassah Hospital and its role in delivering medical best practice. This is not the end of our work but the beginning of a new challenge.”

Martin Splitter
Executive Director, Hadassah Australia

The Second Decade: 1922 - 1932

Hadassah provided school lunches for needy children in Palestine. Henrietta Szold had no time for pleasures. She wasn’t about to apologize for the way Hadassah was introducing a new, Western-style approach to nursing and medical care to Palestine. It was a land riven by disease and poor patient outcomes. In early 1922, Hadassah built a mother and infant welfare station in Jerusalem for paediatric medical and surgical examinations. This was about preventative medicine, and overcoming ignorance and prejudice that were contributing to the community’s problems.

Ms Szold said: “The purpose of our Infant Welfare Centres is to keep babies well, and to make available to all mothers...the way to prevent needless sickness.”

The role of infant welfare nurses was to “encourage and procure breast feeding, and, when that was not possible, to ensure a supply of clean prepared milk.”

The nurses interviewed new mothers, examined babies, gave talks, visited women in their homes to ensure doctors’ instructions were followed and that babies were properly clothed, fed, and cared for.

Ms Szold wanted infant welfare stations to be places where mothers felt comfortable about discussing their concerns with trained nurses who could give them sympathetic and intelligent advice.

By the end of the decade, Hadassah opened twenty more infant welfare stations.

Other programs followed. In 1922, through the Drop of Milk program, donkeys delivered pasteurized milk to babies labelled in Hebrew, Arabic, and English. The following year, the school-lunches program was introduced.

A Clever Collaboration

Like many in his profession, Andrew Kaye has followed with interest the achievements of his research colleagues at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. Professor Kaye, who heads the Department of Surgery at the University of Melbourne and is Director of Neurosurgery at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, learnt of research that Hadassah was doing into gliomas, one of the most common brain tumours in Australia and Israel.

As this is one of his main areas of interest, he was well aware that these can be among the most malignant cancers, with young and middle-aged age groups most at risk.

Between now and 2000, three people per 100,000 are affected each year.

He had previously met Professor Tali Segal at an AUSMED-sponsored workshop at Hadassah. His research team is pioneering a highly-sensible blood test that detects DNA released from the tumour into the bloodstream. This potentially simple test, using standard laboratory procedures, could become a test for very early detection of the gliomas.

With Professor Segal’s support, Professor Kaye brought together a team from the Royal Melbourne Hospital and University of Melbourne’s Brain Tumour Laboratory to study 310 patient samples to confirm the validity of the blood test as a useful clinical biomarker. As Professor Kaye said: “When it is developed, this test could result in a positive outcome for around 1,000 Australians and 250 Israelis annually. The benefits will be felt well beyond both countries.”

AUSMED, an initiative of the Hadassah Australia Foundation, was created to foster collaborations between the major research institutes in Israel and Australia. AUSMED was responsible for bringing Professor Kaye and Professor Segal together.

Ron Field, President of Hadassah Australia, said that the new standard treatment for gliomas is surgery, followed by radiotherapy and chemotherapy.

“Unfortunately two challenges remain,” Mr Field said. “One is providing accurate information about the likely progression of the tumour, and another is detecting tumour recurrence.”

“Current methods for detecting progression and recurrence lack sensitivity. If successful, it will enable more informed treatment for patients.”

“This is another example of Hadassah’s pioneering work in medical research and the value of partnerships with the medical community in Australia.”

The Center of First Resort

Dr Fortunato Tomi Ben-Harosh, one of Israel’s leading child and adolescent psychiatrists, was among the first to treat incarcerated Palestinian children involved in a horrific bus attack in south east Jerusalem last month. Some of the children were sent to hospital in Ramallah while others were evacuated to Hadassah’s Mt Scopus campus. Dr Ben-Harosh is head of Hadassah’s Ortho Post-Trauma Center for Children, and works closely with Dr Elfi Goff-Winters’ team at the Jerusalem Crisis Intervention Center.

Coping With Kids: Two Leading Experts, Two Important Discussions.

Hadassah is facilitating a series of talks by Professor Franci Oferkolski, OAM of the Royal Children’s Hospital and Dr Hava Galashit from Hadassah Hospital who is completing a fellowship under Professor Oferkolski. The talks will be held in March, May and July at Yeshivat Hakinneret, Bitla, and King David. The topics will cover the critical role that parents play in the early years of childhood development. Book online now at www.hadassahaustralia.org.

100 Years Young

There are two ways of celebrating Hadassah’s centenary in 2012. One is to join the global Hadassah family in Jerusalem where the centENary year will reach its peak with the dedication of the new Sarah Warman Davidson Tower in October. The other is to become a friend of Hadassah Australia via its website or Facebook and be a part of a global event that will be the celebration of a lifetime and something that our community should be immensely proud of.

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CENTENARY PARTNER

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"WHAT IS OUR OBSESSION with towers?" In biblical times it was the Tower of Babel, and in the 21st century, it is the Sarah Wexman Davidson Tower. While the former was a "wonderful" idea thwarted by God, the latter truly is a wonderful idea dedicated to Man.

"The tower I speak of was officially opened just last week, and represents a remarkable achievement in the delivery of positive health outcomes to the people of Jerusalem.

"It should be no surprise that it is the creation of Hadassah," an organisation that is celebrating its centenary this year.

"More people will drink it is just another example of lackadaisical tourism funded by well-meaning people. After all, that's what tends to happen when hospitals run out of space and need to expand. In this case, Hadassah has created a paradigm shift by critically analyzing the delivery of health care and responding with a radically new approach.

"If you are planning a visit to Israel, you must see our new tower. If not, please go to our website and follow the link. As you will see, unlike at Babel we now speak with one voice."

Amanda Gordon - President NSW

THE THIRD DECADE: 1932-1942

BY THE 1930S, HADASSAH Hospital was successfully serving the people of Jerusalem. This was recognised by the Palestine Royal (Peel) Commission, a commission of inquiry set up to propose changes to the British Mandate for Palestine. It wrote: "The Hadassah Medical Organization has developed a worldwide system of clinics in Jewish centres and hospitals in the principal towns...[and] the Jewish population benefited more, Hadassah medical services were available to all the communities in Palestine, and many of the poorer classes amongst the Arabs received much assistance from the work of the organisation. This disinterested philanthropy of Hadassah deserves recognition: it was a real step towards the promotion of good feeling between the two races; but unhappily the effect of its work was impaired by other influences."

In 1934, two years before Lord Peel arrived in Palestine, Nispalah 'Tully' Davidovani was born at Hadassah Hospital. Today, the world away from her, a recent graduate in electrical engineering from the Technion in Haifa, Tully worked on the new campus at Ein Kerem: and, following the Six Day War, on the newly-liberated Mount Scopus campus as well.

JERUSALEM 2005: A YOUNG girl and her father, immigrants from the former Soviet Union, were caught in the crossfire of a Palestinian gunman in the Old City.

The gunman's gun fired, his daughter was spared. They cheated death, but what they couldn't avoid was the psychological trauma that followed.

Fortunately for Serina Ishaya, 37, and her daughter Shoshan, 11, it happened in a city blessed with some of the world's finest trauma specialists. Most were trained at the Hadassah-Hospital Hebrew University Medical Center.

Within hours, Shoshan was assessed at the Jerusalem Crisis Intervention Center (JCIC), recognized internationally for its work in child and adolescent mental health.

From that moment, a process kicked in that gave this vulnerable child the support she needed to recover from her ordeal. Her saviour was Dr Esther Leibovick.

Finding purpose in the chaos of trauma has been the passion of Dr Gail-Leibovick, the head of the JCIC and Director of Hadassah Hospital's Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Department.

THROUGH THE NUMBERS

Building Hadassah's Sarah Wexman Davidson Tower (planned right) required 300 cubic metres of concrete and 16 tons of rebar. The Tower is 19-stories (14 floors above ground plus four underground) with 215 beds, 20 operating rooms, 6 intensive care beds and the ultra-modern Heart Institute. On any given day at Hadassah: 25,000 people will come to the hospital's Ein Kerem campus; 25 babies will be born; their first breath in Hadassah's delivery rooms; 127 operation will be performed by Hadassah surgeons; 1,514 patients will undergo life-saving hematology or oncology day care treatments; 651 people will visit Hadassah's emergency rooms; 392 dental treatments will be provided; 1,188 laboratory tests will be done; 11 MRI and ultrasound examinations will be performed; 6,000 research papers, emanating from Hadassah's physicians scientist, will be published.

And that's just on Monday.

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ESTI’S CAMPAIGN FOR KIDS

With 40% of its residents under 14, rampant unemployment, poverty, social and political pressures, Jerusalem has one of the highest rates of child and adolescent stress of any major city in Israel. Acts of terror against children only add to the problems the JCIC deals with on a daily basis.

In pioneering work was recognized by Hadassah Australia which "adopted" JCIC in 2006. Since then Hadassah Australia has been the primary source of funds for the JCIC, but more is needed.

Dr Gail-Leibovick will be visiting Australia next month, says our support is vital because outpatient services for mental health are not covered by the State. JCIC's work is increasing, in part because of the number of immigrant children needing help.

"External trauma causes damage to the inner world," she said, reflecting on the experience of Shoshan Ishaya. "I want to expose with our Australian friends the experience of trauma and the formation of empathy, not only in the psychology of the individual but also in the psyche of the group."

Thanks to her, children who may have become a burden to the community can now look forward to a very different - and far brighter - future.
The Hadassah Chronicles: #4

"What is it about Hadassah that attracts the best and the brightest? It’s a question that often comes into my mind, especially when I hear about the remarkable achievements from Israel's most successful research hospital."

"Until now, we have marvelled at Hadassah from a distance. But recently, it became personal with the announcement that one of our own from Perth is heading to Hadassah, effectively poached by the hospital."

"It says a great deal about Professor Peter Vernon, van Heerden of Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital in Perth and Clinical Professor at the University of Western Australia. Clearly, Vernon is an outstanding clinical surgeon and a leader in his field, having observed him at close quarters during a previous sabbatical, was quick to jump when he announced his decision to make Sydney."

"But it also points to a very special relationship that Australia and Israel enjoy. As we've seen during this celebratory year – Hadassah's centenary and Hadassah Australia's 70th anniversary – our connections go back to the beginning of Hadassah's existence."

"Women is leaving behind a grateful community. While we are losing an outstanding medical leader and educator, he will be missed. If not physically, then certainly through his involvement in collaborative research that Israel constantly delivers to the world." – Lionel King - President WA

THE 4TH DECADE: 1942 - 1952

It was a decade of triumph and tribulation, both for Israel and Hadassah. Statehood was achieved, but at a cost. For Hadassah, the cost resonates to the present day.

On April 11th, 1948, a medical convoy on its way to Hadassah Hospital's Mount Scopus campus with urgently needed supplies was attacked by Arabs. Among the dead were Dr. Chaim Yeshayahu, Director of Hadassah and Dr. Moshe Ben-David, the head of the new medical school. Along with them were 20 others, including nurses and doctors.

Not far away, in Safed, a dedicated Hadassah nurse was dealing with her own grief: the loss of her husband. Tzipporah Fanny Hornstein was one of the last graduates of the Hadassah School of Nursing. Under her leadership, the nurse's role was defined as one of the hospital's operating theatre.

Her skill with languages – Hebrew, English, French and Arabic – was highly valued.

The women identified by the researchers were found to have increased pro-inflammatory, or programmed cell death, generating an anti-aging effect. These two additional genes found in the women are associated with longevity.

The seven genes, along with 60 that distinguished the DNA of women who conceived naturally after 45, from Ashkenazi women of the same age who had their last child by the time they were 30. Hospital researchers also conducted a study on mice to examine whether certain anti-aging proteins are secreted during pregnancy, making it easier for the body to rejuvenate itself.

They found that older pregnant mice – roughly comparable to women in their 40s – recovered from liver damage faster than mice that were pregnant. They found that pregnancy leads to secreting a protein that enables the liver to recover faster.
The Hadassah Chronicles: #5

The Fifth Decade: 1952-1962

The years following the War of Independence came to define the Hadassah Medical Organisation's relationship with the State of Israel.

With the loss of its hospital premises on Mount Scopus, and the influx of new immigrants, many of whom were in desperate need of medical care, Hadassah adapted to become one of the country's leading health care providers.

It transferred its network of health welfare stations around the rest of the country to the government, and consolidated its position in Jerusalem.

It also welcomed its first class of physicians to graduate from the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Medicine, which later opened its doors to African, Asian and South American medical students.

As the decade continued, so too did Hadassah's engagement with the community, leading to the opening of its new state-of-the-art hospital at Ein Kerem. It introduced new programs like the Family and Community Health center at Kriyat HaLevi, a multi-ethnic immigrant settlement, and a community health station in the Arab village of Abu Ghosh.

It was also the decade that Mary and Mendel Lipson of Melbourne came to Israel. Formerly from Baranowice in Poland, the couple and their two daughters (see photo) settled in Carlton before the war.

Israel's statehood gave them a chance to reconnect with their few remaining family members. Their first visit, in 1952, was emotional and uplifting. The second, in 1954 following the Sinai Campaign, was difficult. The third – and last – was in 1956 when Mendel was diagnosed with a heart condition and admitted to Hadassah.

Mary remembered it as a hospital like any other but with care.

She told her family it was the ultimate expression of Israeli humanity. She said that despite the unprecedented ingathering of exiles, many of whom were physically and psychologically damaged by the Holocaust and fighting wars that threatened its survival, Israel – through organisations like Hadassah – chose to emphasise health and wellbeing over retribution.

The fifth decade ended with Hadassah celebrating its Golden Jubilee.

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A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

When Professor Yaron Ilan speaks, the world of science hangs on his every word — or breath, to be more precise.

The reason is simple. The softly-spoken Director of the Department of Medicine at Hadassah Hospital is one Israel's most loaded innovators. He is one of the key researchers behind a non-invasive liver disease early diagnosis device which uses a patient's breath to achieve outcomes that previously required more complicated and often invasive procedures.

Significantly, the BreathID System is so advanced in concept it can be used on babies as young as seven days.

As well as assisting gastroenterologists and hepatologists through early diagnosis of a range of liver and gastrointestinal disorders, BreathID may assist in the decision making process in patients who require liver transplantation.

The technology was developed by Exelent Bioscience Ltd., an Israeli-listed start-up company of Hadassah. Hadassah's technology transfer arm.

Professor Ilan, who is also the Medical Director of Exelent, is an inventor of more than 30 patents and a number of drugs being developed by international pharmaceutical companies. He has extensive biotech industry experience as a founder of several start-up companies.

(Revealing the trend of most manufacturing developed nations, the BreathID units manufactured in Israel, providing employment opportunities locally.)

Shabbat dash for transplant patient

For religious Jews, the sanctity of Shabbat is paramount. Only under extraordinary circumstances can that be violated, such as a life-threatening situation when inaction could result in death or serious injury.

One such situation arose a few weeks ago, but the story began five years before that.

Forty-year-old Chaim Fertikman's name had been added to the register for a kidney transplant. Chaim and his doctors knew that he was entering a lottery where patients must wait until a suitable donor is found. Sadly, many don't last the distance.

Israel ranks near the bottom of organ donations in Western countries, a sobering fact that did little to encourage Chaim or his family. Ye Chaim kept faith, despite it being tested many times over the years.

Then a kidney was found. Under the system that operates in Israel, if the hospital can't find the first candidate within one hour and have them waiting and prepared, the new organ moves to the next person on the national waiting list.

But Chaim was nowhere to be found.

The organ transplant coordinator at Hadassah isn't easily fooled, and having come to know Chaim wasn't about to give up on him. After calls to his home and mobile proved fruitless, she called the police and arranged for a search.

They finally found Chaim… it was shul. Escorting the police, an ambulance 'spirited him to Hadassah' (with the Rabbi's blessing) where the transplant was performed successfully.

One of the doctors involved in the surgery said: "It was ironic that in praying to God to spare his life, Chaim had to break a sacred vow to achieve that."
The Hadassah Chronicles: #6

The Sixth Decade 1962-1972

The liberation of Jerusalem during the 1967 Six Day War also meant the reunification of Hadassah Hospital.

The magnificent campus on Mount Scopus, which had been abandoned and left in no-man's-land following the 1948 War of Independence, was again in the hands of its Israeli owners.

Opened in 1933, the Rothschild-Hadassah University Hospital at Mt Scopus was the first teaching hospital and medical centre in Palestine.

In June 1967 the City of Jerusalem was once again a city united for all medical facilities, something previously denied to them.

It symbolised the organisation's core values of healing, teaching and research.

The years that followed reunification marked many firsts for the Hadassah Medical Organization, including Israel's first successful two-vein open-heart operation and Israel's first successful kidney transplant.

Hadassah agreed to a government request to rebuild its 'hill of healing' as a state-of-the-art general hospital. Its completion meant that residents of East Jerusalem and the West Bank were given access to world-first medical facilities, something previously denied to them.

The result was a steady stream of both Jewish and Arab patients, many with diseases unseen in Israel for decades. Everyone was treated.

In 1969, Gary Zentner – then a young Australian doctor, was accepted as an intern at Hadassah. It wasn’t quite what he expected!

"The year at Hadassah was a cultural and professional shock," Gary said. "I wasn’t prepared psychologically for the intensive work schedule of the interns, and I suffered from chronic, persistent sleep deprivation."

But nothing prepared him for the military casualties caused by The War of Attrition against Egypt. It was at its peak during his internship.

"To this day, the sound of a military helicopter overhead brings back difficult memories."

Gary’s association with Hadassah didn’t end in December, 1969. From 1995-1998 he was head of the Paediatric Emergency Department at Hadassah Mount Scopus. His wife, who went to school during his internship, has headed the IVF lab at Hadassah for the past 25 years.

"I can still remember members of the royal families from Jordan or Saudi Arabia coming for treatment at Hadassah. I learned that royal blood is actually red like everybody else!"

Dr. Ori Waid

Researchers at Hadassah have identified a possible cure for lung cancer. Tests have shown that the new treatment can lead to a reduction in tumours by about 30 percent, and when used in conjunction with radiation therapy and chemotherapy, the pace of cancerous cell growth reduced by about 90 percent.

The study was led by Dr. Ori Waid, a physician-researcher at Hadassah Cardiothoracic Surgery Department.

Lung cancer is the second most common cancer in both men and women, and is also one of the deadliest cancers in the western world, with survival rates of only 20 percent after five years.

Researchers examined the impact of two components, a receptor called CXCR4 and a protein that cleaves to it called CXCL12, which has been identified in many studies as present in cancer patients.

They found that cancerous cells contained both the receptor and the protein in concentrations that increased as the cancer became more advanced and aggressive.

The researchers then found that a material known as BKT140 succeeded in preventing the protein and receptor from connecting to each other, which led to the death of cancerous lung tumour cells and a reduction in the size of the growth.

This blocker was developed by Biokine Therapeutics of Rehovot for a totally different purpose – to be given to bone marrow donors to accelerate production of bone marrow cells before the donation.

The findings were presented recently at the American Association for Thoracic Surgery conference in San Francisco, and researchers are planning to submit requests to approve clinical trials on people.

Dr. Waid is confident of obtaining the approval, as the material was already developed as a remedy and has already proven to have a high safety profile with few side effects.

"Cure For Lung Cancer Closer Than Ever."

Hadassah: My View

"You've probably heard the expression, 'if you want to understand the Internet, ask a six year old child'.

"This generation is growing up with the Internet and social media more generally, as a natural part of life.

"They understand its potential whereas most people born into earlier generations do not.

"Harness its power and you have one of the most important communication tools known to mankind. The speed of change is electrifying. Even today, email is losing favour to Facebook and Twitter which allow us to 'speak' to each other in real-time.

"So what does that mean for Hadassah Australia? Can we afford to continue communicating with our stakeholders using just the conventional techniques? The answer is no. If we don't adapt we die, because the tsunami of change is profound.

"While we are always reviewing and updating our communication strategies, this centenary year has given us the impetus to rebuild our website and develop integration with social media platforms to become more relevant to our expanding circle of interest.

"The reality is that Hadassah Australia has a lot to say. We are not a single amorphous entity but a series of diverse interests from medical and scientific collaborations through to fundraising and health education programs.

"We do make a difference, whether to psychologically traumatised children in Jerusalem or people suffering from chronic illnesses. Communicating what we do is a challenge that new technology is helping us to address."
The Seventh Decade 1972-1982

Five years on from the Six Day War, Israelis were entitled to believe that peace— if not yet formal— would be the legacy of their decisive victory. Unfortunately, events beginning in 1972 would rob them of that decade.

It began with the murder of 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympic Games (an event which is still reverberating in the Olympic movement, 40 years on). The following year, Israel’s survival was threatened when Egypt and Syria launched a co-ordinated attack on Yom Kippur. The angst at Israel’s unpreparedness was short-lived with the signing of a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt in 1979.

Emotionally, the euphoria ended after Israel again became embroiled in military conflict, this time in Lebanon.

Hadassah Hospital played a seminal role in all these events, from looking after the emotional health of people traumatized by events in Munich to dealing with frontline military casualties.

In 1979 Jane Rupke arrived in Israel fresh from Australia, to enrol in the degree course at the Hebrew University Hadassah School of Nursing.

Thirty years later, now an experienced health administrator and Executive Director of the Zionist Council of Victoria, Jane remembers her time as one of the most exciting and challenging of her life.

Jane graduated in 1983. She continued nursing at Hadassah Ein Kerem for another four years until she gave birth to her son, Alon (who is now an emerging communal leader). “The day Alon was born I remember completing my afternoon shift, then being rushed to the maternity ward instead of reporting for the evening shift.” Jane said.

“...The standards required of a graduate degree were very high and we knew we were part of a generation. Not every doctor was comfortable with nurses who were empowered by academic excellence.”

During this period, Hadassah successfully completed its first heart transplant and was the centre of Israel’s medical universe.

Jane spent 22 years in Israel, eight of them at Hadassah. It coincided with periods of enormous stress that most nurses in Australia never have to deal with. It wasn’t only the quality of her training that helped Jane, but Hadassah’s collaborative atmosphere. As Jane is the first to admit, the experience at Hadassah was second to none.

Hadassah: My View

“In 1973, in the final days of the Yom Kippur War, I decided to volunteer in Israel, joining others who were outraged by the injustice of the surprise attack on Israel’s holiest day.

“When I arrived in Israel my life changed; not because I was in a war zone but because I had to rethink the concept of ordinary.

“One of the people I met was a nurse from Hadassah who had returned to the Kibbutz I was on to see his family, after working around the clock treating the wounded. This was considered ‘ordinary’ in a country which had lived through three wars and years of terror. As he pointed out, this was war number four.

“Today, but not before him until I became involved in Hadassah’s centenary celebrations.

“Not only had Hadassah been involved in every conflict in Israel’s short history but for 36 years before that.

“It has saved lives and suffered the loss of its own doctors and nurses, it has celebrated and grieved.

“It has built itself back up after losing its precious assets. But it has never once denied anyone, irrespective of who they are, the right to the best medical care in Israel.

“I learned that in Israel, extraordinary is in fact ordinary.”

Michael Krape
Board Member
Hadassah Australia

AFL Legend visits Hadassah

AFL Legend, Peter Hudson (pictured right with Dr Yigal Shoshany), is a good mate of Andrew Kaye, Professor of Surgery at the University of Melbourne who spends time each year working with counterparts at Hadassah.

On a recent trip to Hadassah Ein Kerem, Peter kicked a goal for collaboration (a passion for Andrew) when he introduced the neurosurgical group. While Andrew and his colleagues save lives, Hudson inspires them. We think we need both.
The Hadassah Chronicles: #8

Hadassah: My View

"With all the excitement of Hadassah and El Al, I’ve been reflecting on where I was 10 years ago."

"I was living in Tel Aviv; the most exciting and vibrant city in the world, but it was a bitter-sweet experience. 2002 was one of the hardest years of my time there. It was the second intifada where so many lives were lost; there were suicide bombings across Israel, and Tel Aviv was no exception."

"2003 was also the year that I visited Hadassah for the first time. As I walked through the corridors to reach a medical appointment I was touched by a scene I had never really witnessed before in Israel. Here were Arab and Jewish doctors and nurses working together, and families sitting side by side sharing medical stories as they waited for their appointments. It was such a stark contrast to what was happening outside the hospital. It filled me with hope."

"Fast track to 2012. In many ways not all that much has changed, but I still harbour my optimism that Israel will live in peace with its neighbours. I draw inspiration from Hadassah for that."

Shelley Sline
Marketing and Communications
Hadassah Australia

The Eighth Decade 1982-1992

The 1980s and early 90s were years of upheaval and challenge in Israel. While wars and conflict are often foreseen, other events that test the very foundation of the State can appear from nowhere. This was the case with the migration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Their sheer numbers swamped Israel, bringing cultural, social and language challenges. For the most part, Israel was unprepared. But this wave also brought some of the world’s most highly educated people, and Hadassah Hospital reaped the rewards.

This wasn’t by luck but by a carefully planned program of professional integration, starting with the training of health care professionals.

Hadassah became the first institution in Israel to accept the immigrants, by setting both Russian and Hebrew courses in dental and laboratory technology, and translating its materials into Russian.

It also trained Russian career counsellors and offered Russian-language occupational materials to immigrants.

Its responsiveness to the needs of this community was acknowledged by the awarding in 1993 of the Human Rights Prize for Excellence in Jewish Education by Israel President, Chaim Herzog.

Four years earlier, Hadassah initiated a two year, full-time, fully funded program to teach Palestinian physicians from the West Bank and Gaza how to improve medical care in their communities.

The commitment to the health and wellbeing of people is consistent with the key pillars on which Hadassah was built: healing, teaching and research.

"Since its founding in 1912, Hadassah has served all the peoples of Israel and beyond," says Ron Finkel, President of Hadassah Australia. "Providing support for Jews from Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union, or Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza, is about our commitment to the humanitarian ideals espoused by Henrietta Soldz a hundred years ago."

"Hadassah treats each person on the basis of their health needs. We are blind to any other consideration, which is something that the world has begun to appreciate when Hadassah was nominated in 2000 for the Nobel Peace Prize."

Eitan Kerem: Changing Family Attitudes

For generations, one Palestinian village east of Jerusalem watched many of their young adults lose their lives to a disabling disease.

It wasn’t until their cry for help was heard by Professor Eitan Kerem from Hadassah Hospital that they learned it was named ‘spastic paralysis’.

This recessive genetic disorder could be stopped, Kerem argued, but at a cost... the villagers needed to abandon their generations-old tradition of intermarriage.

Supported by a Palestinian doctor, Professor Kerem educated the locals about the disease and the need for routine blood tests. Hadassah also made cutting edge medical technology and the latest research available.

Today, thanks to screening and better education, none villagers are marrying outside their family group. The lessons learnt also apply to some Jewish communities, where genetic diseases are still taking some of our best and brightest.

Professor Kerem will be visiting Australia in November speaking at the Hadassah Australia Gala and Dinner. Info and bookings at www.hadassahaustralia.org

ANOTHER ALI TAKES UP THE FIGHT

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Although he is still active, it is his daughter Rashida Ali (one of Ali’s seven children) who has taken the lead in promoting research into the debilitating disease.

Rashida is the author of a book about Parkinson’s disease that she wrote after watching her father interact with her children. She is also a member of the advisory board of BrainStem, an Israeli biotech company developing innovative stem cell therapies for debilitating neurodegenerative disorders such as Lou Gehrig’s disease, Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson’s disease.

On a recent trip to Israel, Rashida met with Professor Dimitrios Karassis, Head of Hadassah’s Multiple Sclerosis Center which has been working collaboratively with BrainStem.

Professor Karassis is overseeing clinical trials at Hadassah. "The amazing work being done..."
The Hadassah Chronicles: #9

Hadassah: My View

"Like the two hemispheres of the brain, Magen David Adom and Hadassah enjoy a remarkable relationship that is working for the entire community of Israel. Our cooperation has been close and ongoing since MDA's founding in 1930, following the Palestinian riots in 1929. Today, MDA provides Israel's mobile emergency medical services including its blood plasma services, and operates a modern fleet of more than 900 ambulances employing the latest technology. MDA also established a quick cardiac survival system with mobile cardiac rescue units, which is ahead of any other country in the Middle East.

"We have a special relationship with Hadassah Hospital. Together we established an urgent care team and high-risk infant ambulance service, which has resulted in the saving of many young lives. There are many occasions when we have stood together with Hadassah in some of the most difficult situations around the world. Through our combined expertise we have brought hope, together with humanitarian aid, to communities in need. "We are honoured to be involved with Hadassah's centenary celebrations in Israel and to share in the celebration of Hadassah Australia's decade of dedicated service.""

Glyais Lipson
Co-President Victoria Magen David Adom

The Ninth Decade: 1992 - 2002

While the previous decade saw a remarkable 'gathering of the exiles' with the arrival of Soviet Jews, the decade from 1992 saw a modest increase in the number of Australians making aliyah. Most were professionals who, at some time, being 'absorbed' into the Hadassah community.

They were privileged to have a previous generation of medical doctors to guide them. Among them was Dr Stanley Korman, who had arrived with his family a decade earlier to start a fellowship in pediatric gastroenterology. Their arrival coincided with some of the most significant innovations in healthcare, many of which were driven by Hadassah.

In 1992, Hadassah opened Israel's first rapid response trauma unit to treat victims of accidents and terrorism. It became a model for how other communities in Israel and beyond worked to treat victims.

HADASSAH AUSTRALIA GALA DINNER 2012
19 Nov. at Leonda. BOOK NOW: www.hadassahaustralia.org

A young life rescued

Jerusalem is very much a city under siege - politically, socially and religiously. Stories about disenfranchised youth are all too common, with many ending up under the care of the Jerusalem Crisis Intervention Center (JIC), which is founded by Hadassah Australia.

One recent case involved a 15-year-old boy who was at risk of suicide. His challenging behavior included roaming the streets at night drunk with friends, and dropping out of school. His religious parents were appalled. 

He was referred to the JIC and through their intervention and treatment, which included intensive family therapy, was able to voice his fears. It was only during therapy that he revealed he had been subjected to ongoing sexual abuse by a family friend. With his parents' agreement, he spent the summer holidays at his grandparents providing a much-needed separation.

The JIC supported the boy's move to a school for gifted children. He is now back in the family home and excelling academically, socially and emotionally.

Doctors at Hadassah have developed a radical experimental procedure for severely depressed patients that could offer them hope after years of failed treatments. The treatment, which has a 70% success rate, should eventually find its way to Australia.

Doctors implant a device called a brain pacemaker, which uses electrodes to send precisely calibrated electrical pulses into the patient's brain. Hadassah is the first hospital in Israel to employ the treatment, known as Deep Brain Stimulation, as part of an international clinical trial.

Four Israeli patients are taking part in the trial. Treatment is being conducted on patients who suffer from severe clinical depression that has not responded to drug or behavioral therapy in the past.

"A precondition for being accepted into the study is failure of at least three different drug treatments and failure with electroconvulsive therapy," says Professor Benjamin Lehri, head of the Biological Psychiatric Unit at Hadassah. The participants are all in their 20s and 30s. The treatment involves neuromodulation in which patients are fitted with two metal-compound electrodes that are inserted into symmetrical areas of the brain, located in the frontal area, that are known to affect mood regulation.

"While researchers are still unclear as to precisely why the procedure works, they are pleased with the results so far.

"The operation requires only a five-day hospital stay, including both pre- and post-operative care. Patients are sent home two days after the implant. The electrodes remain in the patient's brain for life. Follow-up appointments are originally scheduled every two to three weeks, then every few months, and eventually, just twice a year.

HOPE FOR DEPRESSION SUFFERERS

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jewishnews
The Hadassah Chronicles: #10

The Tenth Decade: 2002–2012

"My greatest good fortune was that I was injured in Jerusalem...not Afghanistan or Iraq...and that I was treated at Hadassah Hospital!"

On the first anniversary of her injury, Irish spoke about this in a letter to Professor Shlomo Mor-Yosef, then Director General of Hadassah Hospital. She said, "I was very impressed with the equal treatment that all patients received, regardless of their religion or ethnic background. That was another very soothing aspect to being treated at your hospital."

Over the last year we have celebrated the course that Hadassah Hospital has taken, from Henrietta Szold's first infant health service in 1912 to today becoming a world leader in the delivery of health and medical research. It is a powerhouse with a human touch.

A couple of weeks ago I was privileged to attend the Hadassah Centennial events in Jerusalem on behalf of our Australian donors and supporters. Together with more than 1200 delegates from North and South America, Europe and New Zealand I experienced a whirlwind of hospital tours, presentations, meetings, parties. Embedded in the various speeches and presentations were a couple of quotes that really caught my attention. One was from Professor Zvi Kornreich, the Hospitals Director General, who said, "Hadassah is synonymous with excellence" — an observation that we almost take for granted.

The other was a comment from HIE Daniel Shapiro, US Ambassador to Israel, who referred to Hadassah's "quality of care and equality of care." This telling comment speaks volumes about what I call the Hadassah difference — perhaps its most striking feature and one that underscores the everyday at Hadassah: people of all races, colours, creeds and cultures, living and working side by side, blind to the differences that the rest of the world seems so intent on focusing on.

They are doctors, nurses and office workers, adults, children, the elderly and the newborn; ultra-orthodox Jewish men and observant Muslim women; secular Israelis and Palestinian Arabs, with no flag waving or slogan chanting or marching. To me THIS is Hadassah, a single institution where the quality of care is indeed matched by the equality of care.

And one that I am proud to serve.

Martin Sperling
Executive Director
Hadassah Australia

Imagine walking down the corridor of a hospital and coming face to face with actors from "Desperate Housewives", "The West Wing", "Breaking Bad", "Law & Order: Criminal Intent" and..."The Sopranos"?

Would you call for a psychiatrist or an autograph book?

This is what happened when members of Hollywood's Creative Coalition visited Hadassah Hospital. The Creative Coalition is a not-for-profit charity for the arts and entertainment community. Founded in 1999, the organisation is dedicated to educating its members about issues of public importance. It uses the power and platform of the arts and entertainment communities in award-winning public service and advocacy campaigns.

The group which included Joe Pantoliano ("The Sopranos"), Patricia Arquette ("Medium"), Richard Schiff ("The West Wing") and producer Howard Melzer ("Crazy Heart") met Professor Dimitros Karoussis of Hadassah's Department of Neurology. They were briefed on the latest advances in stem cell therapy and Karoussis' groundbreaking treatment for ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

Members of the delegation also toured the Department of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, where young cancer patients are being treated. They saw first-hand Hadassah's policy of equal treatment and opportunity for all among the patients and the equally multi-ethnic staff.

SAVE A LIFE, SAVE THE WORLD

When the family of a 38-year-old man who suffered a fatal stroke requested their son's organs be donated, Israel's National Transplant Center sprang into action.

Finding no suitable kidney transplant candidate in Israel, the search was extended to the Palestinian Authority.

How did the donor's family react?

According to a family spokesperson, they ran nuns in accordance with the Talmudic teaching that whoever preserves the life of a single human being preserves an entire world.

A 41-year-old man from Bethlehem received the kidney after four years on dialysis.

The successful procedure was conducted at Hadassah Ein Kerem. Ironically, the kidney previously transplanted from his mother was rejected.

"This donor's family told the doctors at Hadassah that they were grateful for the special privilege," says Ran Finkel, President of Hadassah Australia.

"One can only hope that the path to peace between Israel and its Palestinian neighbours will be advanced through such actions across sects.

FROM HOLLYWOOD TO HADASSAH

Patricia Arquette

"LIKE US" ON FACEBOOK www.hadassahaustralia.org

Hadassah: My View

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Martin Sperling
Executive Director
Hadassah Australia
“Dare to dream, and when you dream - dream big”

Henrietta Szold was a woman of extraordinary vision and determination. When she visited Palestine in 1913, she witnessed first hand the extreme poverty, starvation and disease that afflicted the region. On her return to the US she founded Hadassah, a volunteer women’s movement whose core objective was to improve the lives of the people of Palestine.

Hadassah’s first mission was to send two nurses to Palestine to provide pasteurized milk to infants and new mothers, and to eradicate trachoma, an easily cured eye disease that was robbing thousands of sight. By 1918, Hadassah had sent an entire medical unit, composed of 45 doctors, nurses, dentists and sanitary workers, bringing Western-style medical care to the region for the first time. These early efforts formed the basis of modern Israel’s healthcare system, which today includes some of the world’s leading research and treatment hospitals, and schools of medicine and nursing.

By the mid-1930s, Henrietta and Hadassah were instrumental in organising the rescue of thousands of children from Europe’s developing tragedy and bringing them to safety in Palestine. By the time the State of Israel was established Hadassah had grown to be the primary hospital in Jerusalem, and during the War of Independence suffered the loss of nearly 80 of its finest administrators, doctors and nurses when one of its convoys was ambushed on its way to Mt Scopus.

In the years since, through wars, intifadas and terrorist attacks, Hadassah Hospital has continued to be the key provider of emergency medical services in the entire Jerusalem region serving the sick and wounded, without regard for race, religion or ethnic origin.

Today, Hadassah Hospital boasts two world-class medical centres, at Ein Kerem and Mt Scopus, with further plans for expansion. Hadassah remains an integral part of the fabric of Jerusalem. People from countries throughout the Middle East turn to Hadassah for hope and help. The opening in 2012 of a $600 million, state-of-the-art 15 storey hospital tower has further enhanced Hadassah’s position as one of the most advanced medical centres in the world, as it continues to give life to its mission of healing-teaching-research.