

# 2020 YEAR IN REVIEW



**HADASSAH.**  
AUSTRALIA

# 2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

In a year of anxiety and stress globally and in our own community, 2020 was a year in which Hadassah Australia reaffirmed its commitment to support the Hadassah Medical Organization in its vision to shape the future of Jerusalem, Israel and the global community.

The mission of Healing, Teaching and Research powers the work of all those aiming to improve the lives of people above and beyond politics, religion and national boundaries. Hadassah's impact in the community, local and national, continues to be felt on many fronts.

With thanks to the Hadassah Australia Board – Philip Zajac, Julian Gillis, Lynda Brest and special international observer Robert Dorfman – staff and volunteers who untiringly work to keep our community informed and engaged with Hadassah's progress, we look forward to expanding our projects in the coming year. Our aim is to deliver benefits to an institution whose medical, humanitarian and community outreach makes Hadassah more than a hospital.



Ron Finkel AM  
President Hadassah Australia



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**HADASSAH**  
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# ACHIEVEMENTS PROJECTS AND CAMPAIGNS

## MEDICAL RESEARCH

### HAMRC Launched

Hadassah is responsible for almost 50% of all clinical research in Israel.

Its researchers have been working on cures and treatments for diseases including cancer, kidney disease, MS, MND, macular degeneration and diabetes. They are also leading the advance on cell therapy, regenerative medicine, immunotherapy, ophthalmology, molecular biology and imaging, genomic studies, orthopaedics and medical devices.

With an eye to augmenting our support for Hadassah's research, we celebrated a milestone in late 2019 with the launch of Hadassah Australia Medical Research and Collaborations Foundation Limited (HAMRC) as a DGR-1 charity. Its sole focus is on the promotion of medical research at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem and medical research collaborations between Hadassah researchers and Australian research institutions. (The inaugural HAMRC newsletter was distributed in November 2020).

Saving lives sooner through the power of collaborative research is the mission of HAMRC. Our primary goal is to improve patient outcomes by accelerating the pace of biomedical discovery and the translation of medical breakthroughs into novel therapeutics and diagnostics.

Through its work, HAMRC supports HMO to:

- Provide world class health care
- Promote excellence in research
- Promote excellence in teaching
- Be a bridge to peace through health
- Promote commitment to community and worldwide medical outreach

The HAMRC is led by Chair Dr Errol Katz, and a board comprising leaders from Australian business, medical, health-sciences and biotechnology organisations, including Scientific Advisory Chair Dr Russell Bassar, Directors Prof Sharon Lewin AO, Dr Phillip Brenner, Ron Finkel AM, Alan Liddle, Lynda Brest and Chair of the Development Committee Dug Pomeroy.

The board oversees HAMRC's mission including the assessment and funding of high-quality medical research collaborations. These will ultimately lead to improved patient outcomes by accelerating the pace of biomedical discovery and the translation of medical breakthroughs into novel therapeutics and diagnostics.

HAMRC believes research collaborations between Hadassah and Australia's researchers can address the gaps in domestic and international healthcare, rapidly advance treatments, and design new preventive models for diseases.

HAMRC is championing international research to cure the most intractable diseases and is working with researchers in Australia and at Hadassah to prepare appropriate projects for bringing to the Australian public for support.



# Chronic Kidney Disease Research

The link between prematurity and the development of chronic kidney disease later in life lies in the number of nephrons babies possess at birth.

In 2020 we launched the priority philanthropic investment project “Chronic Kidney Disease” (CKD) research.

The research aims to prevent premature babies from developing chronic kidney disease later in life by combining Australia’s advanced imaging techniques with Israel’s unique in vivo modelling. Medical advancements have contributed to increasing survival rates for premature babies resulting in higher numbers reaching adulthood. However, research also tells us that in adulthood they will face an extremely high risk of developing chronic kidney disease.

Experts believe that understanding how and why nephron formation is interrupted by premature birth will help to identify drug targets that could increase the number of nephrons in premature infants; improve kidney function and life-long health in individuals affected by premature birth and provide an eventual treatment for adults suffering from chronic kidney disease.

The need to socially distance during 2020 brought with it many challenges and some surprisingly positive outcomes, among them the Webinar. We presented four highly informative and relevant virtual meetings with experts from Hadassah Hospital and Australia.

## Webinars with the Experts from Hadassah Hospital and Australia



9 December 2020:

**9 December 2020:**  
**At Risk: Exploring The Link Between Prematurity And Chronic Kidney Disease**  
Expert and personal insights on the link between prematurity and chronic kidney disease.



7 September 2020:

**7 September 2020:**  
**Coping With Covid: Safeguarding Your Mental Health In The Age Of Covid-19**  
Expert tips and insights from Australia and Israel’s leading mental health professionals.



21 May 2020:

**21 May 2020:**  
**COVID-19: Can we win the War?**  
Dr Norman Swan and panel of distinguished experts in research and vaccine developments discussed challenging questions surrounding COVID-19 and what it means for Australia’s research future.



6 April 2020:

**6 April 2020:**  
**Emergency Medicine Covid-19: The Israel Experience**  
An interactive exchange providing unique insights into COVID-19 management of in Israel.

# Hadassah Ethiopian Nursing Scholarships

## Building individuals and a community

Hadassah Australia adopted a program for young Ethiopian-Israelis designed **to create a novel pathway to a nursing career.** We agreed to fund 15 ‘Achotenu’ (Our Nurse, Our Sister) nursing scholarships at the Henrietta Szold Hadassah-Hebrew University School of Nursing.



According to the OECD Index, the nurse-to-patient ratio in Israel ranked 31 of 35. While this is a disturbing statistic, it demonstrates why the Achotenu program is so important. We believe its success will help to reshape Israel’s sociocultural landscape and provide a clear pathway to economic advancement for many in the Ethiopian-Israeli community.

The Hadassah Ethiopian Nursing Scholarship program enables young Ethiopian-Israelis to

enrol in a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the Henrietta Szold Hadassah-Hebrew University School of Nursing. For many young people, a place in Israel’s internationally recognised healthcare system is a matter of pride as well as providing them with economic security. To be a nurse is to be at the coalface of community health and to represent the very best values Israel offers.



# Goshen

## Advancing children's health, development and wellbeing

The Goshen initiative for improving child healthcare in Israel was introduced after paediatricians and child health workers recognised that the country was not equipped to adequately address children's health and wellbeing in a holistic way.

Goshen's approach is for every child in Israel to receive care beyond the management of diseases. In its 10 years of existence, Goshen has become a leader in community health provision and is continuing to transform the way child health services are delivered to families.

Based on the work of Professor Frank Oberklaid of Melbourne's Centre for Community Child Health at the Royal Children's Hospital, the Goshen program involves training specialists in the early intervention of underlying psychosocial childhood disorders, so that children can grow to become emotionally and socially well-adjusted and become productive members of society. Training has included four Community Paediatric Fellowships at the Royal Children's Hospital, seminars, residencies and workshops for doctors.

Goshen integrates the work of diverse childcare professionals – bringing paediatricians, family doctors and nurses together with psychologists, social workers, kindergarten and school teachers, welfare and community workers.

The four trainees who completed their fellowships at the Centre for Community Child Health are now leading the way with early childhood development in leadership positions at Goshen:



**Dr. Hava Gadassi,**  
Paediatrician, Medical Director



**Dr. Dafna Idan-Prusak, Paediatrician**  
Goshen Community Paediatrician, Northern Region



**Dr. Fuad Alsana, Paediatrician**  
Goshen Community Pediatrician, Southern Region



**Dr. Maya Yaari**  
Research and Evaluation Director

During 2020, Goshen, with its high community profile and an active social media presence, was uniquely prepared to respond to the coronavirus emergency.

Recognising that children make up 30% of the population but are 100% of the future, in the past 12 months, **Goshen has:**



**ESTABLISHED PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN** Goshen, Israel's Ministry of Health, the Bernard van Leer and Yad Hanadiv Foundations, and Lotem Strategies with the aim of transforming Israel's well-baby care.

### CONDUCTED WEBINARS

on its medical and social impact on child health, each of which attracted 100 to 150 paediatricians from all over the country.

### INCORPORATED PROFESSIONAL WEBINARS

into Goshen's ongoing activities dealing with issues such as sleep challenges, breastfeeding, bedwetting, eating disorders and children with special needs.

### DESIGNED AND UPLOADED VIDEOS AND INFORMATION

sheets in Hebrew, Arabic, Russian, English, French and Amharic to the Eich Gadalta (How You've Grown!) website for parents and grandparents about how to occupy children at home, juggle insufficient devices for distance learning, manage screen time, maintain child safety during the pandemic, eat healthily and handle financial and mental stress during lockdown.

### UPLOADED ARTICLES, VIDEOS AND ACTIVITIES

to the website for parents to help deal with stress, anxiety, social distancing and other effects of the coronavirus.

### DEVELOPED AND DELIVERED PAEDIATRIC TRAINING

and continuous medical education courses in developmental-behavioural paediatrics for practising paediatricians working in community clinics and maternal health centres.

### DEVELOPED AND DELIVERED WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS

and for staff at Maternal and Child Health Centres as well as health and well-being toolkits for parents and educational staff.

Established additional Goshen centres in the south and north of Israel and created awareness of the resource-rich Goshen Eich Gadalta website with Israel's southern Bedouin communities.

In the next 12 months, Hadassah Australia will support **Goshen's plans to:**

### ASSIST 34 HEAD NURSES

with Tipat Halav (Mother and Child Health) centres from across Israel who completed a one-year leadership program to implement a professional framework over the next years throughout Tipat Halav.

### TRAIN MORE PAEDIATRICIANS



# Medical Clowns – Dream Doctors

## Helping sick children smile

Hadassah's medical clowns help children to feel more at ease and less fearful about their hospital experience. This makes it easier for medical staff to provide their services, freeing up time to perform other essential tasks. They also reduce parental anxiety.

In an amazing first in Israel and the world, Hadassah Medical Clowns were given permission to undertake their daily shifts within the Corona wards during 2020. It was with great pride that DuSH, the Head Clown at Hadassah, reported that his team continued to meet the challenge of making their work impactful and relevant during the most difficult days. teachers, welfare and community workers.



DuSH believes that it is in this COVID-19 space where there is so much fear that the medical clowns can make the biggest difference of all. In the corona virus wards, patients are separated from those they love and deprived of the everyday comfort of human touch, a warm embrace – even the simple joy of a smiling face (because in these wards, all smiles are covered by masks). But with the love, humour and humanity of the medical clown team they were able to help the patients face the COVID-19 monster.

In the past  
12 months:



Hadassah Australia's contribution to the medical clown program has resulted in maintaining the number of clowning hours per clown per week.



The clowns adopted the new COVID-19 hospital procedures in their special, humorous way to assist staff, patients, their families and all other visitors.



They contributed to the morale of the hospital staff through their positive spirit, optimism and dynamic presence.



Realising very quickly that the risk of infection and contamination had to be minimised, the medical clowns worked verbally and physically without balloons or musical instruments, and without playing games with patients.



Underwent special COVID-19 training to enable entry into the corona wards and led ventilation workshops for nurses who were rostered for the corona wards to create ways to emotionally process and understand the pressure of their new work.

In the next  
12 months:



Hadassah Australia plans to raise funds to increase the number of hours that medical clowns can spend in the emergency room and intensive care unit.

*Give them smiles*



# Jerusalem Crisis Intervention Center (JCIC)

## Providing urgent psychological support

Children in Jerusalem live with the constant threat of terror as well as living in a city with an unacceptably high incidence of crime, family violence, sexual abuse, and alcohol and drug abuse. Hadassah's JCIC is there to help, being a world leader in providing psychological support to children suffering from trauma-related issues.

Trauma and violence did not diminish during 2020 and indeed, throughout the ongoing COVID-19 crisis the team of dedicated Hadassah psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers from the JCIC worked tirelessly to cope with the increased demands for their professional services.



Dr Esti Galili-Weisstub,  
Head of JCIC

Over 14 years since its inception under Dr Esti Galili-Weisstub, the JCIC, an outpatient services division of Hadassah's Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, has provided accessible public mental health services to young people. They can receive vital early screening, short-term intervention, tailored crisis intervention plans and appropriate therapies.



2020 was a tough year for mental health – isolation, quarantining, family stress. In the past 12 months, the JCIC pivoted to online work with individuals and groups and worked to help alleviate the worst traumatic and difficult psychological effects of the pandemic on clients. The faculty of the JCIC includes clinical and rehabilitation psychologists and clinical social workers, specialising in psychotherapy, family therapy and infant psychiatry.

### In the next 12 months:

Hadassah Australia will continue to support JCIC's training and workshops for professionals and parents.

# Rehabilitation Centre - Mt Scopus

## What a difference a year makes!



Architect's vision of the new Rehabilitation Center at Mt Scopus



During 2020, despite the pandemic, the construction of the new Jerusalem Rehabilitation Center at Hadassah Mt Scopus progressed considerably from deep holes in the ground to the actual foundations and spaces for a state-of-the-art facility.

Construction continued to move quickly and we understand that within two years Jerusalem residents will have access to a unique centre for the city.

The centre is a joint initiative of Hadassah and the Government of Israel and we are proud to be an active partner in the fundraising for this important and timely service.

In the words of Dr Tamar Elram, Director of Hadassah Mt Scopus: "The new Rehabilitation Center at Mount Scopus will help people regain hope and their physical capabilities... restoring their independence and dignity."



# HADASSAH HIGHLIGHTS

## MS Research And Treatment

### A Step Closer to a Cure

The search for a cure for Multiple Sclerosis (MS) took a step closer thanks to exciting developments reported from Hadassah Hospital in November 2020 – a way to effectively ‘freeze’ the progression of the disease.

The man credited with this advance is Professor Dimitrios Karussis, Head of Hadassah’s Multiple Sclerosis Center. Prof Karussis and his team developed an innovative stem cell treatment that will impact a disease that affects close to 2.5 million people worldwide.



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The Hadassah team partnered with NeuroGenesis, which received a license from Hadassah’s technology transfer company, Hadasit, to assist in the process of commercialising the technology.



The results of the placebo-controlled, randomised double-blind trial found that treatment not only halted progression of the disease but led to improvement in neurological ability. These were published in Oxford University’s peer-reviewed journal Brain.

Hadassah Australia has been a long-term supporter of Prof Karussis and his research into this insidious disease. In March, 2018 we hosted eminent British lawyer and Hadassah advocate, Mark Lewis, who was part of a trial at Hadassah run by Prof Karussis. His remarkable story was revealed in a 2017 BBC documentary. Mark was the keynote speaker at our STEM Neurological Disease campaign, set up to raise funds for MS research at the hospital.

This trial provides encouraging results and suggests the potential for a new approach that may not only slow down the progression of the disease but even induce improvement and promote repair mechanisms in progressive MS. After meeting with the US Food and Drug Administration and sharing data from their first trials, Hadassah and NeuroGenesis intend to launch a multicentre Phase III trial in the US, Europe and Israel, and then start the application process for approval.

Hadassah Australia pushed for Australia to become a local trial site as well.

## 2020 The Year Of Coronavirus

### HADASSAH AT THE FOREFRONT

With daily updates from the hospital of the small initial numbers then the frighteningly rising numbers of patients in the Outbreak departments at Hadassah’s two campuses, Israel faced the COVID-19 challenge in 2020 with optimism and professionalism. Many wonderful stories of doctors, nurses and other staff adapting to the difficult situation, giving their all, showing their compassion and inspiring others to live, particularly those in critical or serious condition, many of whom were on ICU ventilators or heart-lung machines.

One such story came early in the piece, in April 2020, from Dr Ahmad Naama, Senior Emergency Physician at Hadassah Ein Kerem.

“There are moments here at Hadassah Ein Kerem when words are unnecessary. Moments of a pained sigh or strained breath. It’s already a few weeks now that our daily lives are comprised of these moments.

Moments of corona. Some are harder, others more optimistic. All suspected of being sick, those displaying the symptoms are brought here. The symptomatic. That’s what everyone calls them.

We move among them, from bed to bed in the biological trauma unit apart from our regular trauma area, among patients, their conditions varying in severity, including serious. Treating, supporting, calming, empathizing and mainly waiting for the test results. Positive or negative? Their faces question each time we’re near.

This war belongs to us all. Arabs, Jews, religious, secular. In Israel, abroad. This plague doesn’t take root in origin or nationality. Through the masks, it doesn’t check in whom you believe. It attacks everyone. And this everyone? This everyone includes those fighting it. Arabs, Jews, religious, secular. Our team at Hadassah includes them all. Treats all. We don’t distinguish between language, customs or skullcap.

For now, we’re covered from head to toe, moving from bed to bed. Our patients are suffering from fever or breathlessness and all that I hope is that they can see our eyes. This reflects everything we want to tell them.”

Some of the remarkable Hadassah staff who are in a fight of their lives to bring calm and hope to their patients.

### COVID-19 | Together We Live

COVID-19 is the deadliest health challenge the State of Israel has ever faced. And it is Hadassah, Israel’s oldest and most trusted hospital that is bearing much of the weight.



# 2020 MESSAGE

As the last night of the year drew closer, Jorge Diener, Executive Director of Hadassah International, wrote:

“Some things are not meant to be forgotten. Maybe we wish they could be, but they just cannot. As we approach the end of the most challenging year of our collectivives, most people want to delete the memories of the year that passed. And rightfully so. Because who wants to look back at the eyes of those we lost, at the sights of empty cities, crowded hospitals, struggling hospital staff. In the year we become one truly global tribe, the stage was a gray one and we had to follow the sirens that led us to the backstage, every now and then.

Every year's end, at those last minutes followed by the first early seconds of the new one, I feel a curtain coming down and immediately another one opening. But this time, the year is not ending today. Because as much as we want it to end, it will take a bit longer to be behind us. Hopefully, the longest year of our lives, will be over in a few months. 2021 is not more than a number marking nothing else but the passing of time. Without the fanfare of fireworks, celebrating countdowns and dress-to-kill parties, this moment will be extraordinarily different than all others we remember.

This past year like in an invading alien movie, we had to physically move away. Move away from people, move away from dangerous particles, move away from our own lives to adapt. For many, adapting was beyond their reach, or else, they just could not. Most found



Jorge Diener,  
Executive Director Hadassah International

ways to adapt for survival. Some adapted in ways that went beyond survival, finding ways to do amazing things. We all did the best we could. The memories of the times we are living will be with us for a long time. Remembering is a way to keep learning and growing. When I look back, I see much compassion, inspiration, and courage.

Thus, we will celebrate tonight a celebration of hope. We will award ourselves to our resilience, our endless belief that we would overcome. Tonight, as we reach that intersection of time, the glasses of champagne will cheer us up and help us wish for the best of ourselves to come, for the world to heal and for our humility to give us another chance.”

*Happy New Year!*

## Hadassah Healing Garden

The healing effect of nature

In an article published in the December 2020 issue of Israel 21C, Hadassah's Healing Garden was named as one of the beautiful 'hidden gardens' of the city.

Spending time outside in a garden can positively affect our emotions and improve our sense of wellbeing.

That is the concept behind the Healing and Environmental Garden at Hadassah University Medical Center's Mount Scopus campus.

This garden was developed with the support of Friends of JNF Australia, led by the Jack and Robert Smorgon Families Foundation, “to meet the physical, psychological, social and spiritual needs of the children and adults treated at Hadassah,” and especially children and youth with chronic illnesses.

Water elements contribute to wellbeing in the Healing and Environmental Garden at Hadassah-Mount Scopus.

The beautifully landscaped space includes green lawns, flowerbeds, a vegetable garden, medicinal herbs, a wooden promenade, an observation deck and a small amphitheater, as well as colorful playground equipment.

“The healing effect of nature, together with the relaxing sounds of running water, will contribute to the health of those who visit this garden,” said Jack Smorgon AO, at the inauguration of the Garden in June 2014.



A play area in the Healing and Environmental Garden at Hadassah-Mount Scopus. Photo: courtesy



Water elements contribute to wellbeing in the Healing and Environmental Garden at Hadassah-Mount Scopus. Photo: courtesy



# THANK YOU...

2020 was a strange, tough and eventful year for Hadassah Australia and the global community and we thank all our supporters for being part of our journey.

Deeply rooted in a love for Israel and its people, we live the values and vision of Hadassah's founder, Henrietta Szold, to inspire excellence, provide the highest health care standards, research, scholarship and practices in Israel and be a bridge to peace, forging links between peoples of all nationalities, races and religion who come to its doors for healing.

We value your support and invite you to continue assisting us on this vitally important mission.

Special thanks to our major program supporters and sponsors.



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# HADASSAH MORE THAN A HOSPITAL

“ONE AMPOULE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS!”

