



**HADASSAH®**  
AUSTRALIA

# **YEAR** IN **REVIEW**

2017-18

## YEAR IN REVIEW 2017-18

**2017-2018 has been one of our most challenging and exciting years since we joined Hadassah International in 2003.**

**It was a year of transition - our first year as a full charity.**



Our new status offers Hadassah Australia opportunities for significant growth and to expand our strategies for delivering on our commitment to support projects inspired by Hadassah that have the potential for major impact in Israel and Australia.

We have re-doubled our efforts to support innovative medical research at Hadassah Hospital; research that is opening options for treatment for hitherto incurable diseases such as MS and ALS. This research could potentially rid the world of these insidious neurological diseases or at the very least halt their progression.

This past year was also a challenging time for the Hadassah Medical Organisation (HMO). Given its proximity to the West Bank, Hadassah is often first responder in situations involving acts of terror in Jerusalem and surrounding areas. But it is also at the forefront of helping children and families deal with issues like family dysfunction, sexual abuse, alcohol and drug abuse, and bullying. These are not unique to Jerusalem, but as the poorest and one of the most conflicted cities in Israel, it can exhaust the people who are charged with bringing about health and hope to a community often short on both.

The way that Hadassah responds to community need demonstrates that it is more than a hospital in the traditional sense. Historically, Hadassah is part of Jerusalem's DNA. It was the first hospital in Palestine to bring a western model of medicine to the people. Its philosophy of treating the medical and psychological needs of patients ahead of their religion, gender, nationality, politics or financial status is now the norm throughout Israel. But it is the way that Hadassah provides outreach to people and communities in need – often well beyond Israel's borders – that marks its essential difference. A difference we celebrate and support.

It gives me great pleasure to present this Year in Review, a snapshot of the remarkable work undertaken by the doctors, nurses, therapists, staff and management at Hadassah, and of the tireless and passionate commitment of the Board, committee members, staff and supporters of Hadassah Australia.

**Ron Finkel AM**  
President Hadassah Australia

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Professor Rotstein, a cardiologist and expert in health management, joined Hadassah Medical Center as Director General in late 2015 after 12 years at the helm of Sheba Medical Center, Israel's largest general hospital. It was a challenging time for Hadassah and most agree that he was the right person, in the right place at the right time, to take over the helm of Israel's iconic medical institution.

## PROFESSOR ROTSTEIN

### Summary of the past 12 months:

I'm pleased to share that we ended the 2017 financial year with additional revenues of approx. NIS 100 million (approx. AUD\$38 million) and we have successfully established a positive cash flow through the end of 2020.

We have made substantial progress replacing outdated and ageing equipment. With the support of our dedicated donors, we have taken delivery of two new PET-CT systems and two new MRIs; we acquired a new laser unit for Urology, an ultrasound unit for Gynecology, and much more.

We have implemented changes to improve the use of existing infrastructure (at both Ein Kerem and Mt Scopus), until we are able to create the additional centers of excellence and facilities that are so desperately needed.

### I arrived at Hadassah with a sense of mission and the challenge to move Hadassah forward.

I genuinely believe that Hadassah's rightful place is as Israel's leading hospital, providing excellent medical treatment, clinical and advanced professional education, ground breaking research and technological development. With your support, I know this mission will come to fruition.





# HADASSAH AUSTRALIA ACHIEVEMENTS: PROJECTS AND CAMPAIGNS

## MEDICAL RESEARCH

### Prolonging and improving quality of life

Hadassah is responsible for almost 50% of all clinical research in Israel, outpacing all other hospitals combined.

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



*Pomeroy Pacific Boardroom lunch*

In October 2017, Hadassah Australia hosted Professor Eyal Mishani, Hadassah's Head of Research & Development who visited Australia's leading medical research institutions and participated in a number of major speaking engagements.

Professor Eyal Mishani oversees the vibrant research and development program at Hadassah. In his professional capacity he designed and established the first Cyclotron-PET/Radiochemistry Laboratory at Hadassah/Hebrew University Hospital in Israel.



*Prof Eyal Mishani Director Research and Development Hadassah*

**Hadassah is a world renowned leader in the application of stem cells for the treatment of diseases ranging from Melanoma to MS and ALS.**



*Prof. Tamir Ben-Hur (right) with patient Mark Lewis*

## **In the next 12 months Hadassah Australia will support Hadassah projects:**

- Establish the Hadassah Australia Medical Research & Collaboration Foundation (HAMRC) to fund partnerships between researchers at Hadassah Australia-affiliated medical research institutes – for more details go to page 14.
- Through HAMRC, fund short stays of a small number of Australian doctors and medical researchers to visit Hadassah to further professional connections and collaborations – for more details go to page 14.

## Multiple Sclerosis (MS)

Hadassah's MS Center, led by Professor Dimitrios Karussis and his team has just completed the world's first Phase IIb clinical trial using the patient's own stem cells to arrest the progress of this debilitating neurological disease.

The results of this trial could underpin a strategy to cure this disease. Hadassah Australia launched the STEM Neurological Disease (SND) campaign to help fund the pioneering research of Professor Karussis and his team.

**Hadassah Australia has established links with MS Research Australia to ensure that the research at Hadassah is widely supported in Australia.**

As part of our SND campaign we were privileged to host Professor Tamir Ben Hur, Head of the Department of Neurology at Hadassah and Prof Karussis' trial patient, British lawyer Mark Lewis and his partner Mandy Blumenthal.

Their visit to Melbourne and Sydney in March 2018 helped to raise awareness of the work on MS at Hadassah. We are hoping to welcome Professor Karussis later in the year to provide us with a first-hand account of the research and its outcomes.



*L-R: Mandy Blumenthal, Michaela Lew, Mark Lewis, Shelana Silver and Prof. Tamir Ben-Hur*



*Mark Lewis addressing the public forum on his experience of the MS trials at Hadassah*

# JERUSALEM CRISIS INTERVENTION CENTER (JCIC)

## Children affected by terrorism and trauma

**Children in Jerusalem live with the constant threat of terror as well as an unacceptably high incidence of crime, family violence, sexual abuse, and alcohol and drug abuse.**



Dr Esti Galii-Weisstub, Director of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Hadassah – Director JCIC

Their lives are immeasurably better thanks to the passionate work of therapists working for the Jerusalem Crisis Intervention Center (JCIC). Based at Hadassah Hospital, the JCIC is a world leader in providing psychological support to children suffering from PTSD and other trauma-related issues. It also provides outreach to communities in need of support at critical times, such as the war of attrition on Israel's borders with Gaza, Lebanon and Syria.

The JCIC owes its continued existence to the efforts of Australian donors who remain the largest non-government funders

### In the past 12 months, the JCIC has:

- Run workshops for parents to help improve the resilience of children exposed to traumatic events. This has seen an improvement in parent's competencies.
- Trained mental health professionals in regional centres to make them self-sufficient.
- Trained social workers from across East Jerusalem to treat children with behavioural problems, who are considered 'at risk' of committing crime and becoming radicalised.

### In the next 12 months:

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



Working with patients at the JCIC





# GOSHEN

**Helping children thrive and realise their potential**

Goshen delivers on one of Hadassah Australia's core objectives – to assist in the promotion and development of healthcare services to children and families in Israel. The impact that Goshen is having throughout Israel demonstrates that Hadassah Hospital is more than a hospital, by bringing its promise of outreach to the most vulnerable in society.



*Dr Dafna Idan, Dr Maya Yaari and Prof Frank Oberklaid, Founder of Goshen*

The Goshen initiative for improving child healthcare in Israel was introduced in 2010 by Hadassah Australia, based on a model pioneered by Professor Frank Oberklaid AM, Foundation Director for Community Child Health at The Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne.

It recognised that paediatrics in Israel is not equipped to address children's health and wellbeing in a holistic way. The healthcare system is fragmented and paediatricians are often ill-equipped to deal with common problems such as attention deficit disorders, developmental delays and frequent behavioural issues, as well as more serious problems like autism spectrum disorders. The approach of Prof Oberklaid is to train 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.

Working together with Prof Eitan Kerem, Chairman of Hadassah's Department of Pediatrics and Dr. Hava Gadassi, from Hadassah's Center for Pediatric Community Medicine, training has included seminars, residencies and workshops for doctors as well as three Community Paediatric Fellowships at the Royal Children's Hospital, with support from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute and funding provided by Hadassah Australia and AUSiMED. The 2017-18 fellows were Dr Faoud Al-Sana, Dr Dafna Idan and Dr Maya Ya'ari.

## **In the past 12 months, Goshen has:**

- 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.
- Sent three Israeli paediatricians to Australia to train with Prof Oberklaid's team – see above.
- Further improved and enriched its Eich Gadalta website (based on Australia's Raising Children Network website), resulting in increased visitation and Facebook followers.

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

- Train more paediatricians at The Royal Children's Hospital and Hadassah
- Establish additional Goshen centres in the south and north of Israel



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Head of Pediatrics at Hadassah, Professor Eitan Kerem said,

**“I have witnessed time and again the medical clown’s ability to reduce anxiety and stress in children, both before and during procedures.**

**In many cases, medical clowns help children avoid sedation before undergoing procedures. I cannot stress enough the importance of this program and its continued support.”**

## MEDICAL CLOWNS

### 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, thereby reducing costs through efficiencies achieved.

Hadassah’s medical clown program is entirely reliant upon donations as the hospital is not funded by the government or health services for this program.

#### In the past 12 months:

- Hadassah Australia’s contribution to the medical clown program has resulted in an increase of 10 hours of clowning per clown per week. This has assisted children in the diabetes clinic and those undergoing surgery.
- In March, medical clowns delivered Mishloach Manot (Purim parcels) to children on the wards as part of a Purim campaign funded by Hadassah Australia.
- The first Purim partnership with Starlight Children’s Foundation resulted in the delivery of Mishloach Manot and the provision of Purim entertainment to sick children and their families at children’s hospitals in Sydney and Melbourne.

#### 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, dental clinic and intensive care unit at Hadassah Hospital.
- Hadassah Australia will expand the Purim program to once again partner with Starlight Children’s Foundation at children’s hospitals in Sydney and Melbourne.



*Clowns at Hadassah delivering joy and mishloach manot*





Sydney Children's Hospital Starlight volunteers in a Purim Spiel for the kids



Monash Children's Hospital Starlight Captains with Ron Finkel and Ruth Rosen and the mishloach manot



## PROJECT ROZANA @ HADASSAH

**Building bridges between Israelis  
and Palestinians through health**

**Hadassah has  
demonstrated  
time and again  
that health can be  
a bridge to better  
understanding  
between Israelis  
and Palestinians.**



*Prof Jayashri Kukarni – Monash, Prof Arik Shalev – Columbia, Prof Omer Bonne – Hadassah  
at the International Trauma and Mental Health Conference*



*Dr Eitan Kerem Chairman Dept of Pediatrics with  
Fellow, Dr Mohammed Majed Rabee Skafi from  
Hebron, who is working in Hadassah's Pediatric  
Intensive Care Unit*

Hadassah, and the health sector generally, are positive examples of broad scale contexts in which Israelis and Palestinians can get to know the 'other'. Hadassah's mission of outreach and engagement has been the inspiration for Project Rozana, an initiative of Hadassah Australia.

### Hadassah Australia, through ProjectRozana@Hadassah, supports Hadassah Hospital by:

- supporting volunteers who provide free transport (via respected NGO Road to Recovery) for Palestinian children from checkpoints on the border of Gaza and the West Bank to Hadassah;
- addressing identified gaps in Palestinian health capacity by training Palestinian doctors, nurses and therapists at Hadassah so they can return and build the health capacity of their own communities;
- providing funding to cover the cost of treating critically-ill Palestinian children from the West Bank and Gaza at Hadassah, along with children from centres of conflict in the region (such as Syria).

**Hadassah's mission of outreach and engagement  
has been the inspiration for Project Rozana, an  
initiative of Hadassah Australia.**



**In the past 12 months,  
ProjectRozana@Hadassah has:**

- Supported the Hadassah-based Binational School of Psychotherapy to upskill Israeli and Palestinian child psychologists to better treat children presenting with PTSD.
- Funded Hadassah Hospital's Pediatric Urology team to perform surgery on a 15-year-old Palestinian girl needing a sexual differentiation disorder operation.



*Dr Guy Hidas, Director Pediatric Urology Hadassah who led the gender reassignment surgery team*



*Dr Matthew O'Meara from Sydney Children's Hospital at the Pediatric Emergency Medicine Workshop held at Hadassah*

**In the next 12 months,  
ProjectRozana@Hadassah will:**

- Fund Hadassah Hospital's Pediatric Urology Department to undertake 10 gender reassignment surgeries for adolescents from the West Bank.
- Fund Patient Navigators to support Palestinian patients and caregivers at Hadassah who will also assist the hospital's medical and nursing staff through the provision of translation services.
- Provide top-up funding for the Binational School for Psychotherapy at Hadassah.
- Fund a Speaker's Tour in Sydney and Melbourne for Dr Mushira Aboo Dia, Senior Obstetrician/ Gynecologist at Hadassah Hospital.
- Support Hadassah Hospital's effort to save the lives of Syrian children suffering from life-threatening and complex heart abnormalities through the collaboration with the Israel Defense Forces' Operation Good Neighbor.





## EVENTS THAT SHAPED 2017-2018

Hadassah Australia's President, Ron Finkel, received an Order of Australia in recognition of his "significant service to Australia-Israel relations, to the Jewish community, and to business and commerce."

### KEY VISITS AND EVENTS:

- Visit to Australia by Professor Eyal Mishani, Head of Research & Development at Hadassah
- Visit by Dr Esti Galili-Weisstub, Director of the JCIC at Hadassah
- Visit by Professor Tamir Ben Hur, Head of Department of Neurology at Hadassah
- Visit by Mark Lewis, British Lawyer and MS patient at Hadassah and his partner, Mandy Blumenthal
- Hadassah Australia Mission to Israel – professional and volunteer leadership visited Hadassah to better understand its scope, programs and projects
- Perth Annual Fundraising Dinner for JCIC
- Hadassah Oration in Sydney with Justice Michael Kirby as the Keynote Speaker and Professor Les White as the 2017 Tikkun Olam Award recipient
- International Trauma and Mental Health Conference in Jerusalem with participants from 16 countries supported by Hadassah
- Two-day Hadassah Australia strategic planning session

## COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Hadassah Australia has established formal and informal agreements and partnerships with a number of key medical research organisations in Australia to further the ties between these institutions and Hadassah Hospital research across a range of departments.



GARVAN INSTITUTE OF  
MEDICAL RESEARCH

BAKER HEART & DIABETES INSTITUTE

FLOREY INSTITUTE OF NEUROSCIENCE  
& MENTAL HEALTH

MS RESEARCH AUSTRALIA

MURDOCH CHILDREN'S  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE



## INTO THE FUTURE

# SHORT STAY VISITS TO ISRAEL PROGRAM

Hadassah Australia is seeking to raise a minimum of \$60,000 per annum to meet the target of at least 15 Short Stay visits to Israel over three years.

The aim of the program is to engage medical researchers and clinicians who are shaping the direction of medical research in Australia and whose professional influence is recognized globally. When appropriate, invite them to visit Israel on their way to or from medical or scientific conferences in Europe.

#### We will:

- Introduce them to Hadassah, its scientists, research and uniqueness
- Promote research collaborations that will benefit both countries
- Build a pool of highly regarded individuals in academic and medical circles who will speak about Israel as an open, tolerant and democratic society

A Hadassah short stay includes three nights/four days in Israel including meet/greet at Ben Gurion Airport; transfer to and from Tel Aviv or Jerusalem; three nights' accommodation; a half day guided sightseeing tour and a prearranged itinerary of professional meetings with Israeli colleagues in their field of interest organised by the Israel Australia Chamber of Commerce.

## HADASSAH AUSTRALIA MEDICAL RESEARCH & COLLABORATIONS FOUNDATION (HAMRC)

With Hadassah's outstanding achievements in medical research, the initiative is designed to codify this area of the hospital's work and expand its footprint in Australia and Israel.

The objective of HAMRC is to raise funds for medical research at Hadassah and fund medical partnerships with Australian medical research institutes and companies, and support exchanges, fellowships and research projects. HAMRC will also offer grants to scientists, medical and health specialists, organisations and institutions for education and training, or to conduct research to further HAMRC's objectives.

It is hoped that HAMRC will raise awareness and support the funding of research into mental health disease, neurological diseases, autoimmune disease, diabetes and melanoma.

#### Two projects that will benefit from HAMRC funding:

- A partnership between Hadassah and the Florey Institute of Neuroscience & Mental Health in vascular dementia (VaD). VaD accounts for approximately 20% of all dementia cases, although it is recognized as a risk factor for other types of dementia. It is present in up to 50% of Alzheimer's disease cases. Hadassah Australia and AUSiMED have supported this research to date. \$225,000 over three years is being sought to continue this initiative.
- Proposed partnership with Garvan Institute of Medical Research into genetic causes of immune dysfunction. The project will investigate 11 patients in Israel, 1 in Australia with a recently-defined inborn error of immunity due to mutations in the gene LRBA. Bone marrow transplantation is currently the only avenue for a cure of this rare genetic disease, but has not been universally successful. Studies estimate up to 15% of the population is affected by autoimmune disease. We wish to investigate LRBA deficiency as a model of both immune deficiency and autoimmunity. We believe the disease mechanisms underpinning LRBA deficiency will be relevant to other diseases.



## 2018 CAPITAL WORKS CAMPAIGNS



# THE FULL CIRCLE CAMPAIGN

## 360° of Healing: Round Building

Hadassah Australia will support a major new capital works project at Hadassah, enabling us to help create new centres of excellence and attract more patients from across Jerusalem, Israel, and the world.

Since 1960, the population of Jerusalem has tripled. The medical demands on Hadassah Hospital's Ein Kerem campus have also grown exponentially. The proposed refurbishment of the Round Building will significantly enhance the services of the hospital's internal medicine, outpatient surgery, ophthalmology, maternity, oncology, and dermatology departments.



The reimagined Round Building helps ensure Hadassah will remain a world-renowned healthcare leader and a global destination for advanced care, continued innovation, and cutting-edge research.

The Round Building dates back to 1961 when the Ein Kerem campus was built after the original hospital on Mt Scopus fell to the Jordanians during the War of Independence. It was only in 1967, after the Six Day War that Mt Scopus returned to Israeli sovereignty. Hadassah International is mounting a major fundraising campaign to renovate, enlarge and reinterpret the Round Building to turn the future of medical excellence and innovation into an everyday reality.

### Priority 1: Round building infrastructure

- 200 new beds will significantly increase the number of patients the hospital serves.
- 17 renovated operating rooms with state-of-the-art equipment will improve efficiency and reduce waiting times for surgery.
- New construction will strengthen the building's infrastructure and protect the hospital from earthquakes.
- Safe rooms on each floor; along with new critical safety features, will protect patients from conventional, biological, or chemical attacks.

### Priority 2: Medicine and care

- Upgrades will allow Hadassah to expand treatment offerings and provide more comprehensive services.
- Renovation will break down barriers between research and clinical services to accelerate the "bench to bedside" process.
- Larger rooms will give patients more privacy and reduce the risk of infection.
- Reconfigured and improved interior space on each floor will allow doctors and nurses to respond more quickly to patients.

### Priority 3: Learning

- A new state-of-the-art Simulation Lab will feature multidisciplinary facilities, resources, and capabilities for teaching.
- Numerous simulation spaces within the Lab will provide medical and nursing students with the opportunity for intensive, hands-on clinical training.

## THANKS TO YOU

This has been an exciting and eventful year for Hadassah Australia and we want to thank you for being part of our journey.

We value your support and invite you to continue assisting us on this vitally important mission to support Hadassah Hospital and its wonderful projects and programs.

All of our projects need funding – your donation will make a difference where it matters.

Thank you again and we look forward to partnering together in 2018-19.

## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



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