



HADASSAH®
AUSTRALIA

REFLECTIONS

**Rosh Hashanah
2017 / 5778**





As we prepare to celebrate Rosh Hashanah, we look back over the last 12 months at how Hadassah is shaping the future of Israel and how Hadassah Australia is playing its part in powering that vision.

MEDICAL RESEARCH

Prolonging and improving quality of life

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, MS, MND, macular degeneration and diabetes. They are also leading advances in stem cell therapies, regenerative medicine, immunotherapy, ophthalmology, molecular biology and imaging, genomic studies, orthopedics and medical devices.

SOME HADASSAH ACHIEVEMENTS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH:

Multiple Sclerosis (MS)

"I'd forgotten what it was like to be a regular person!" says an MS patient at Hadassah who has regained her independence thanks to the pioneering work of Hadassah's Professor Dimitrios Karussis. His team has developed innovative stem cell research and treatment for MS, which is exciting the world.

Melanoma

Using a cutting-edge immunotherapy protocol, Hadassah's Professor Michal Lotem, head of Hadassah's Centre for Melanoma and Cancer Immunotherapy, cured a patient with stage IV metastatic melanoma who had previously been given only a 5% chance of survival.

JERUSALEM CRISIS INTERVENTION CENTER (JCIC)

Children affected by terrorism and trauma

Children in Jerusalem live with the constant threat of terror as well as living in a city with a 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 PTSD and other trauma-related issues. 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.

GOSHEN

Helping children thrive and realise their potential

Israel's healthcare system is fragmented and paediatricians are relatively ill-equipped to deal with common problems such as attention deficit disorders, developmental delays, behavioural issues and more serious problems like autism spectrum disorders.

Based on the work of Professor Frank Oberklaid of Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital, the purpose of Goshen 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.

In the past 12 months, Goshen has:

- Developed and delivered paediatric training. These graduates are initiating projects in their communities with Goshen's ongoing support.
- 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 two Israeli paediatricians to Australia to train with Professor Oberklaid's team.
- Lobbied the Knesset about changing laws related to early childhood issues.



- Launched the Eich Gadalta website (based on Australia's Raising Children Network website), with 13,400 visitors and an accompanying Facebook page with over 3,200 followers.

In the next 12 months, Goshen plans to:

- Establish two Goshen centres in the Negev and north of Israel.
- Train more paediatricians.
- Lobby the Knesset to increase government responsibility of intervention and prevention of childhood disorders.
- Send more Israeli paediatricians to Australia to train with Professor Oberklaid's team.



MEDICAL CLOWNS

Helping sick children smile

Hadassah's medical clowns help children 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. Head of paediatrics 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."

Hadassah's medical clown program is entirely reliant upon donations.

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. These clowns have assisted children in the diabetes clinic and those undergoing surgery.
- In March, medical clowns delivered Mishloah Manot (Purim parcels) to children on the wards as part of a Purim campaign funded by Hadassah Australia.

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.

PROJECT ROZANA

Creating pathways to peace

Established in 2013 by Hadassah Australia, Project Rozana is committed to building bridges between Israelis and Palestinians through the field of health care. The purpose of Project Rozana is to: train Palestinian doctors, nurses and therapists to build the health capacity of their own communities; treat critically ill Palestinian children as well as children from centres of conflict in the region (such as Syria); and provide transport via respected NGO Road to Recovery from border check point to hospitals in Israel.

In the past 12 months, Rozana has:

- Launched the Bi-National School of Psychotherapy with funding from World Vision Australia, which is designed to upskill Israeli and Palestinian child psychologists to better treat children presenting with PTSD.
- Supported a collaborative research and treatment project between Hadassah and St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital, to treat children with genetic eye disorders.
- Raised funds for Ziv Hospital in Zefat, to treat critically ill children from south-west Syria, where the hospital infrastructure has been destroyed. Without access to health care many of these children would die.

In the next 12 months, Rozana plans to:

- Fund 10 Arabic-speaking paramedics to work as medical interpreters at Hadassah in Jerusalem and Tel Hashomer in Ramat Gan to better serve Palestinian patients.
- Create opportunities for medical students at Al-Quds University in Abu Dis to participate in clinical rotations at Hadassah.
- Support the employment of a full-time Road to Recovery manager to be based in the West Bank to build participation by volunteer Palestinian drivers.



CLOSER TO HOME

Tax relief comes our way

Hadassah Australia has been granted Item 1 Deductible Gift Recipient Status (DGR1) which allows for donors to fund non-capital projects, particularly medical research, without having to identify an Australian collaboration. This is particularly important for individual, family and corporate donors, as well as Private Ancillary Funds (PAF) that are obliged by law to distribute at least 5% of their capital to DGR 1's.

It's an honour!

We are thrilled that Hadassah Australia's President, Ron Finkel AM was made a Member of the Order (AM) in recognition of his long and outstanding service to the community of Australia and Israel.

Events that shaped 2016/2017

2016	July	Starlight Foundation Mission to Israel
	November	2016 Annual Oration with Rev Tim Costello Hero Campaign Peace in Sight collaboration with St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital
	December	Mount Scopus Year 11 students train with medical clowns at Hadassah
2017	March	Visit to Australia by Professor Kobi Pe'er, Head of Ophthalmology Visit to Australia by Professor Eitan Kerem, Chairman of Dept of Pediatrics Purim - medical clowns delivered Mishloach Manot to children at Hadassah
	May	Perth Annual Dinner Visit by Dr Esti Galili-Weisstub, Director of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Hadassah Australia Mission to Israel Hosts International Conference on Trauma and Mental Health in Jerusalem