



Hadassah International Medical Relief Association, Ltd. (HIMRA)

July 2004

Hadassah International eBulletin

HADASSAH INTERNATIONAL: A BRIDGE TO NATIONS THROUGH MEDICINE

Dear Colleagues...

This has been an awesome year!

The new Center for Emergency Medicine has floors and walls; The Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO), through our Hadassah International connections, cultivated many successful medical cooperative relationships; Hadassah International presented HMO with a \$8.9 million contribution for this year (\$900,000 more than last year!); and we continue to play an ever-growing role in maintaining HMO as a world-class academic medical center!



Nancy Falchuk,
President 2000-2004

You have opened doors around the world: from Shmulik Shapira to Australia, Orley Rotem-Picker to Mexico, Shlomo Mor Yosef to Dubai, Shlomo Maayan to Luxembourg and Switzerland, Esti Gallili and 16 other psychiatric colleagues to Austria, Joshua Schroeder (Hadassah medical student) to medical students all over the world, Iri Liebergal to Canada, and not to mention the more than 200 physicians from America, France, the United Kingdom, and Austria who were hosted by HMO during the second Hadassah/CJP Medical Conference! And these are just a few!

Hadassah International has made the world a little smaller! It's awesome!

And Young Hadassah International! You've got your act together and with your outstanding leadership of Amos Attali, Melissa Kaplan Mandell, and Joslyn Arnon, there's no question you're our future!

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HADASSAH MEDICAL ORGANIZATION

BREAKING NEWS:

Hadassah Says It Deserves Government Help

by Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

Health Minister Dan Naveh--a strong advocate of turning the state and Clalit Health Services-owned hospitals into non-profit corporations--did not have to go abroad to look for a successful model. He saw it up close when recently touring Jerusalem's Hadassah University Medical Center in Ein Kerem, which has managed to excel as such an entity, without any government aid, for over four decades. ...Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) Director-General Prof. Shlomo Mor-Yosef told Naveh that without the generous financial support of Hadassah women abroad, it would not be able to cope, let alone grow, and that the time has come for state aid, which HMO has never received. During a three-hour tour of the medical campus,...Mor-Yosef said a giant hospitalization tower is being planned for 2012, which will mark the 100th anniversary of the Hadassah Women's Zionist Organization of America (HWZOA). The cost of this project will be NIS 150 million, said Mor-Yosef.

Naveh praised Hadassah for running itself efficiently, offering the highest level of medical expertise and research, and serving as an excellent model for the non-profit hospital corporations that he wants to create.

--excerpted from *The Jerusalem Post*, June 6, 2004

BRIDGE TO NATIONS THROUGH EDUCATION

MEET DR. JOSE PIETRO APARICIO, M.D., M.P.H., Honduras GRADUATE OF THE HADASSAH MEDICAL ORGANIZATION'S BRAUN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY MEDICINE



Dr. Jose Pietro Aparicio,
M.D., M.P.H.

Thanks to his Hadassah education, Dr. Aparicio came to understand that public health medicine is not just providing basic health services, like immunizations, at a health center. "It's about improving quality of life in a community," he says.

A general practitioner in Honduras, Dr. Jose Pietro Aparicio always had an interest in public health. He was working for SOS Children's Villages, tending to the needs of orphans in his homeland, when he met an oncologist who told him about the Israeli government's Foreign Ministry program to sponsor the education of physicians from developing countries at the Hadassah Medical Organization's Braun School of Public Health. He went to the Israeli embassy, received information about the program, applied, and was accepted.

Dr. Aparicio greatly valued the broad nature of the educational curriculum. As he says: "It was an eye-opening experience. I realized that public health is a much bigger field than I expected." Thanks to his Hadassah education, he came to understand that public health medicine is not just providing basic health services, like immunizations, at a health center. "It's about improving quality of life in a community," he says. It involves examining the infrastructure, the water system, and the quality of the roads, which may prove an obstacle to health care. He learned, too, that the public health care team needs to include not only physicians and nurses, but engineers, businessmen, and politicians as well. You have to understand "who is defining health policy and who is making the decisions," he adds.

"A wonderful thing about the HMO program," notes Dr. Aparicio, "was its international flavor."

As he explains, his roommate was from Colombia, next door were two doctors from Nigeria, and others on his floor were from China and Kenya. This international exposure, he says, helped lead him to the positions he's held since graduating from the program, as well as his long-range career goal of working for an international development agency.

Immediately after graduation, Dr. Aparicio returned to Honduras to work for SOS Children's Villages once again and started preventive health education programs. About five years ago, he came to the United States and began working on a volunteer basis for "Aid for AIDS," where he served the Latin community in New York. As he relates, there were many HIV-positive illegal immigrants who weren't receiving treatment and his role was to establish a structure to reach out to this patient population. The organization "had a good heart," he says, but did not know how to organize their outreach. Dr. Aparicio also served as a mediator between HIV specialists in the United States and doctors in Latin America to help the latter evaluate and improve their treatment regimens.

Later working with the Gay Men's Health Crisis, Dr. Aparicio consulted with attorneys and helped to write affidavits for Latin American residents undergoing HIV treatment, who were being threatened with deportation.



Photo on left: Dr. Aparicio at work in the SOS Children's Village in his homeland, Honduras.

Photo on right: Pietro Aparicio, M.D., M.P.H., with his 1994-1995 graduating class.



Read more about others whose lives have been changed by the Hadassah Medical Organization and Hadassah International. Check out our sections called "Changing People's Lives" and "In Their Words" on our website: www.hadassah-international.org

MEET DR. JOSE PIETRO APARICIO (continued from page 2)

"We were able to get asylum for many of them," he says, "because if they were sent back, they would be persecuted and stigmatized and not be able to continue their treatment."

At present, Dr. Aparicio works for the Lutheran Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York. His role has been to develop a program to dispense antibiotics with more of a public health interest in mind. A major problem facing the hospital, he explains, is the over-prescription of antibiotics, which not only is expensive, but creates a resistance to the drugs, making them ineffective when truly needed.

In addition, he is teaching Community Oriented Primary Care (COPC) to medical residents at Lutheran Medical, which he learned while in the MPH program at HMO. The COPC program, which tailors health care to the particular needs of the specific community, was created at HMO, first used in South Africa, and later exported to the United States, where Dr. Aparicio says, "it became a big hit." Dr. Aparicio keeps in touch with the HMO professors who were in charge of the COPC program for international students.

Today, Dr. Aparicio's main goal remains international in scope: to help the developing world. Hadassah International takes pride in knowing that Hadassah gave him the foundation and intellectual tools for his medical journey in the field of public health.

Editor's Note: The 28th graduating class of the Braun School of Public Health included students from 14 countries: India, Kenya, Russia, Tanzania, Khazakistan, El Salvador, Moldavia, Mongolia, Colombia, Georgia, Uzbekistan, Macedonia, Uganda, and China.

HADASSAH MEDICAL ORGANIZATION

BREAKING NEWS:

ARAB AND JEWISH STAFF RECEIVE RECOGNITION

The Hadassah Medical Organization presented awards to outstanding HMO staff in March. The following are some of the award recipients:

*Lamis Shibli, an Israel Bedouin social worker, raised in a village near Tiberias, for her diligence and dedication in treating patients

*Members of the staff of the HMO Family Room, who have the task of informing families of their loved one's status following a terrorist attack

*The Plumbing and Maintenance Unit, comprised of Arabs and Jews, in recognition of its team work



WHAT'S COOKING IN THE CARDIAC LAB?

In HMO's Cardiac Laboratory, researchers have synthetically produced substances that are very similar to those found in marijuana, which are known to positively affect blood pressure and heart rate. The Heart Institute has initiated studies with laboratory rats to test the kind of effect these synthetic drugs will have on the heart following a heart attack, as well as how they can protect the heart from further damage.

Editor's Note: HMO news is excerpted from *Hot Off The Press*, *The Jerusalem Netletter*, and Hadassah Press Releases

HADASSAH MEDICAL ORGANIZATION BREAKING NEWS:

MAYORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD TOUR HADASSAH

For the first time, 28 mayors from 17 countries visited The Hadassah Medical Center in May as part of the official program of the International Conference of Mayors held annually in Jerusalem. In tune with the theme of this year's conference, "The Role of the Mayor in Times of Crisis," the mayors and their accompanying staff toured the Trauma Unit and HMO's "Preparedness Route," which consists of a series of stops that illustrate the mechanisms Hadassah has in place for mass casualty events.

Following the tour, the entire delegation joined Hadassah physicians from different countries for lunch. Dr. Laston Chikoya, a native of Zambia who will become the first neurosurgeon in his homeland when he completes his residency at HMO, met with the mayor of his hometown, Kigali. Head of HMO's Neurosurgery Department Professor Felix Umansky, originally from Argentina, sat with the mayors from South America, while Dr. Koby Assaf, head of the Department of Emergency Medicine, conversed with the English speakers.

TINY HEARTS

Rabua was born in Bethlehem four months ago with a hole in her heart.

Under normal circumstances, she would have died. But last week, she was lying comfortably in her small cot, with all the machines and monitors attached, in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Hadassah Ein Kerem. Among her roommates were a baby from Nablus, a baby from Hebron, and a baby from Jenin—all with congenital heart abnormalities. Without the specialized surgery and superb post-operative care at Hadassah, these tiny patients would have died, too. Now they will all have normal lives as a result of the new project funded by the Tuscany Regional Council, facilitated by the Peres Center for Peace, and expertly handled at Hadassah University Hospital, Ein Kerem. The 2 million euro grant from the Italians will provide health care for hundreds of tiny children who can't get advanced healthcare from the Palestinian Authority.



SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

She would attract attention anywhere, with her bright mischievous eyes, her joy in life and her open friendliness. But in the Bone Marrow Transplant day-care unit of the Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem, this three-year-old particularly stands out. The youngest patient by at least 20 years, she is all smiles, giggles and cooperation among the more silent, gray-faced adults battling their way back to health.

"She cheers us all, every time she comes in, no matter what procedure she has," says the unit's acting head nurse Jocelyn Rosen. "So, with her third birthday, we decided to do something extra special for her."

Unit staff didn't have far to look for the 'extra special.' They called in the clowns. That is, the professional hospital clowns who have been at work at Hadassah for the past two years, bringing fun and laughter to sick children to help ease the stress of serious illness. "With the clowns (and if anyone knows how to make a party, it's our clowns!) we simply gave a little girl a wonderful surprise party -- and in doing so, everyone of us there, patients and staff alike, felt stronger and more hopeful," says Rosen.

Editor's Note: The HMO Clown Program was initiated by donors in Switzerland, and our Hadassah International Units in France and the United Kingdom are now raising funds for it.



HIMRA HEARTBEATS:

♥ HADASSAH MEXICO:

In an effort to promote commercial exchange and awareness about The Hadassah Medical Center's scientific achievements, Hadassah Mexico Director Ethel Fainstein proposed and organized a visit to HMO by representatives from the Israel-Mexico Chamber of Commerce in coordination with the Israeli Embassy in Mexico. The representatives were briefed by Neurosurgeon Dr. Jose Cohen and Raphael Hofstein, Chief Executive Officer of Hadasit, HMO's research and development arm. They also toured the Trauma Unit and met with two non-Jewish Mexican physicians studying at Hadassah, who had wonderful things to say about their educational experience.

The President of the Chamber of Commerce, Mrs. Fainstein reports, was most favorably impressed by HMO.

♥ HADASSAH FRANCE:

The residence of the Israeli Ambassador to France, H.E. Nissim Zvili, was the setting for a gala fundraising dinner sponsored by Hadassah France. Participants were treated to a piano recital by the three young sons of Hadassah Germany President Professor Thomas Ruzicka. The 130 attendees also heard a presentation by European Parliamentarian Francois Zimeray, who recently took a delegation of 160 parliamentarians to Israel. Mr. Zimeray noted that he has led a campaign to hold the Palestinian Authority accountable for funds contributed by the European Union.

Thanks to an auction of medical equipment, jewelry, and sculpture, the event yielded over 145,000 Euros, earmarked for rehabilitation, pediatrics, and the Hadassah Clowns Program at the Hadassah Medical Center (which brings in clowns to cheer up the hospitalized children).

♥ YOUNG HADASSAH FRANCE:

A French comedy premiere was the setting for 300 guests of Hadassah France, who were warmly welcomed by Young Hadassah volunteers. Adding to the enjoyment was the fact that one of the characters in the film entitled *Marriage Mixte* is modeled on the life of Hadassah France President Sydney Ohana—a plastic surgeon with a clinic in the Trocadero section of Paris. The character is actually named Sydney and there is a cameo appearance of the clinic and Ohana's daughter. In addition, the film's director, Alexandre Arcadi, and the famous television host, Nikos Aliagas, were in the audience. The event, so well-attended that some people had to sit on the stairs, raised about 4000 Euros.

♥ HADASSAH SWITZERLAND:

Forty members of Hadassah Switzerland attended an exciting private viewing of an extraordinary collection of early 20th century paintings and sculptures at the home of its owners, Werner and Gabrielle Merzbacher. Entitled "The Joy of Color," the exhibit includes paintings by Chagall, Picasso, Kandinsky, Miro, Ernst, Kirchner, and Klee. Mr. Merzbacher guided the guests through his home and spoke to them about his art, replicating a presentation he gave at the Royal Academy in London.

Following the tour, Bea Birnbaum, Hadassah International Director of Development for Europe, updated participants on The Hadassah Medical Center's cutting-edge medical work. She notes: "This was a successful event because people were enchanted by what they saw and interested in what they heard. In addition, the evening was profitable because there were few costs."



Hadassah Switzerland leadership, with Bea Birnbaum, thank Gabrielle Merzbacher

SPECIAL REPORTS:

HMO PILOT PROJECT HEALS THE HEALERS

Professor Shlomo Mor-Yosef, Hadassah Medical Center Director General, realized that his emergency team of medical professionals would benefit from some introspective time away from the hospital setting, explains Rita Avramov, head of Social Services at HMO. Therefore, he approached Ms. Avramov about developing a workshop for the emergency team that would strengthen their personal and professional resilience, which is continually challenged as they treat trauma victims day after day.

The two-day workshop, held at a beach resort outside of Jerusalem, aimed to give the emergency team the chance to explore how their heavy professional responsibilities affect their personal and family life, as well as to develop managerial skills. The workshop, reports Ms. Avramov, proved tremendously beneficial as the physicians, nurses, and social workers got in touch with their work style, feelings, and psychological needs.

HIMRA VOLUNTEER SHARES MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE AT ARAB UNIVERSITY

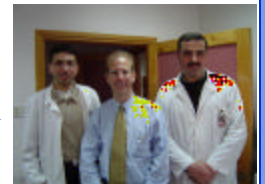
Last March, Hadassah International volunteer Dr. Robert Entel was in Jerusalem attending our annual Conference with 250 other delegates. While there, however, he also gave a lecture to physicians and medical students at Al-Quds University Medical School in the Arab West Bank City of Abu-Dis. How did that come about?

Last November, while visiting Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem during a Hadassah Medical Solidarity Mission to Israel, he met fellow radiologist Dr. Majed Dwaik, who invited him to present a lecture during his next visit to Israel. The presentation at the Medical School came off without a hitch, Dr. Entel reported. The approximately 100 Arabs in the audience were most interested in the cutting-edge information he shared with them. Following Dr. Entel's talk, Dr. Dwaik, who turned out to be the personal physician of Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat, invited him to his hometown of Ramallah. Aside from giving Dr. Entel a tour of the city, he also took him to see Arafat's compound.

The two physicians even discussed Arafat's medical problems. For Dr. Entel, this visit fulfills the mission of Hadassah International, serving as a bridge to other nations through medicine!



Palestinian medical students listen to Dr. Robert Entel at Al-Quds Medical School in Abu Dis



Dr. Robert Entel with x-ray technicians at ArabCare Hospital in Ramallah

Bat Mitzvah Celebration:

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GIVING

Zoe Lillian, a young American girl living in Paris with her family, was celebrating her Bat Mitzvah. One way she chose to mark this milestone was to invite her guests to make contributions to the Hadassah Medical Center, in hopes of raising \$2,000 for the new Center for Emergency Medicine. She's already raised over \$8,000 for HMO, her mother, Deborah, reports. And contributions are still coming in!

Dear Colleagues..

Continued from page 1

And, all that press! You've been proactive in reaching out to all media, presenting the remarkable story of HMO despite the threatening anti-Semitism and anti-Israel press. No wars, politics or religious differences have deterred you from showing the world the very best of Israel and you have shown it with the universal language, medicine.

But, the very best personal moment for me this year occurred the weekend of June 25th when you surprised me with a party in Paris. Surrounded by so many of our Hadassah International European presidents, old and loyal friends from France, and beyond, I was hoping to have the opportunity to thank each of them for making my volunteer life and role as your President such a pleasure. I have replayed that Sunday evening over and over, and I am so touched by everything that happened—the video, the poetry, the loving words; however, you cannot imagine my shock, and delight, when you brought out, from hiding, one by one, Bernice Tannenbaum, Shlomo Mor Yosef, and Audrey Shimron! You even had them in a separate hotel! How did you manage to keep it from me? Danielle, Bea, Bernice, June, Joslyn, Michele? How?

But the best was yet to come. Shlomo likes to say that HMO is in my soul. It is. And nursing at HMO is my passion. And so, when you chose to give me the gift of the "Nancy Falchuk Nurses Scholarship Fund" I was stunned. To know that so many of you cared about me and about Hadassah! Thank you to everyone who played a role in this wonderful honor. I appreciate the many country and individual donations to this scholarship fund. You are terrific, a real family. And, I have already spoken to Orly Rotem-Picker, the Director of Nursing at HMO, who is looking forward to helping me decide how this generous gift can be used! Awesome.

I have been a volunteer with Hadassah International for more than 15 years, and your president for four. Now, as is the Hadassah way, I will take on another Hadassah role, and you will have another leader. And you are really going to enjoy working with Marlene Post! Many of you know her, as she was a former National President of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America. You will be formally introduced to Marlene in our next *e-Bulletin*, but I can tell you she's awesome. You're in for a special time with Marlene; she's intelligent, sophisticated, fun, energetic, willing to take risks, and always sees the glass as half full. Our kind of leader.

So, now, as I take on the Hadassah portfolio of the Head of Development, I look back at my wonderful years with all of you. I'll never be far away, as family should always stay in touch. You are remarkable volunteers, who through your Hadassah work, have cared and helped to make the world a little better place in which to live. I'm so fortunate to have gotten to know so many of you so well.

My very deepest gratitude to my friends, Danielle, the ultimate professional who has made me look good all these years, and to Bea, who never sees an obstacle, but an opportunity and, fortunately, has been with me from the very beginning. Joslyn, Young Hadassah is your success story. To Joyce Wishnick, always helpful and willing, and to Nydia, honest, accurate, and thorough, my deepest thanks to all of you for your tolerance, affection, and loyalty.

To my Hadassah International colleagues in NY, and to our International Presidents and staff around the world, you are what have made Hadassah International come alive and thrive. You have made us Awesome.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you.



HADASSAH INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

JUNE 2004

June 15

Honorable Steve Bracks, MP, Premier of Victoria, Australia, joined by delegation of 10 people, visits Hadassah Medical Organization

June 20

Physicians from Lombardia, Italy visit Hadassah Medical Organization

June 26-27

Hadassah International European Presidents/Leaders Meeting
Paris, France

June 27

Young Hadassah France
Disco Event

June 29

Chilean Parliament Members visit Hadassah Medical Organization

JULY 2004

July 2

Hadassah Luxembourg NGO is sponsoring a benefit concert with Les Maitres Chanteurs (association of judges and lawyers from the Paris Bar association) at the Nouveau Theatre de Luxembourg

July 29

Hadassah Nice Cote D'Azur Beach Party fundraising event
Nice, France

AUGUST 2004

Young Hadassah International World Wide Walk
Paris, France
(date to be announced)

NOVEMBER 2004

November 19

Young Hadassah International World Wide Walk
Jerusalem, Israel

The events listed above are among the many events organized by Hadassah International Units worldwide. For an updated listing of events consult the Hadassah International website: www.hadassahinternational.org and click on "Calendar." Please send news of your upcoming events to: international@hadassah.org.

Hadassah International Medical Relief Association, Ltd. (HIMRA) is a network of dedicated volunteers founded on the principle that advancement and cooperation in medicine and science transcend politics, religion, and national boundaries.

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