



Hebrew University-Hadassah
Braun School of Public Health & Community Medicine
International MPH Alumni Newsletter



Director's Message

Dear IMPH Alumni,

Another semester has come to a close. Our students are completing their exams and working on their Master's papers and theses at a furious pace. They have completed their wonderful COPC projects and presented them proudly to an appreciative audience.

This year we have added a new element to the IMPH. This is a program of site visits to public health facilities, community clinics and institutions around the country. These have included a visit to a primary care clinic in a Bedouin village in the South; Yad Sarah- a voluntary organization providing equipment for rehabilitation and home care; Alyn Hospital- a special hospital for children with disabilities or requiring rehab; the "supportive community" for the elderly, run by the Eshel branch of the JDC; Teva Pharmaceuticals; various health facilities for migrants and refugees in Israel; a community mental health clinic; and a wonderful visit to the mother and child (Tipat Halav) clinic in Abu Gosh, with a fascinating cultural visit to the town's monastery, mosque and community center. Our next visit is to the Magen David Adom- first responders headquarters, and we are also planning a visit to the state Veterinary service.



Visit to MDA

We are very grateful to all those who have made these visits possible (some are Braun School alumni!). Our students have been asked to keep a diary and report on what they observed, the lessons for Public Health, and the elements that can be applied in their own countries. We are very much looking forward to reading these reports and sharing some on our website.

Our students just had their traditional trip to the North of the country, visiting medical, historical and holy sites as well as hiking, swimming, kayaking etc. Once again the region has heated up, not only outside our borders with frightening events in Syria and Iraq but within Israel, Gaza and the West Bank. Our hearts are with all the families who have had to bury their children, and our prayers are for peace and co-existence. We are proud of all our IMPH alumni who are involved in relief work, with refugees in conflict zones and in post-disaster management.

Please take care of yourselves and your families and keep in touch. We hope you are always thinking about younger colleagues or mentees who you think would benefit from IMPH training and would do credit to our program. We look forward to receiving their applications next spring.

Shalom to you all,

Ora Paltiel, MDCM, MSc, FRCPC

IMPH Director

Dear Alumni,

Many thanks for sending us your updated information, personal and career anecdotes. For those who have not yet submitted their updated form, please do! We appreciate your thoughts, prayers and messages of support for Israel over these past and present difficult weeks.

We are very happy to have Reut on the IMPH team and thank her for producing this Newsletter.

Dates are now set for the IMPH Alumni West Africa Regional Meeting, sponsored by the Pears Foundation. We look forward to meeting West Africa alumni from February 8-10, 2015 with our co-hosts at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. Please be in touch with me if I have missed you in the email correspondence. We are now working on the theme for this meeting and I remind all alumni of that region to send me your suggestions as soon as possible.

Wishing you all a peaceful and enjoyable summer.

Regards,

Maureen

Maureen Malowany, PhD., MHIthSc.



Dear Alumni,

It has been almost three months since I joined the IMPH team as the new Alumni Communications Coordinator. We had a busy time here at the Braun School, as semester's end tend to be. I had the pleasure of getting to know this year's soon-to-be graduates, but also met a few graduates, some in person and some online: via emails or our Facebook page and group.

Keeping in touch with over 750 graduates is a challenge. We have lost connection with many of our senior graduates. Much of our success in reconnecting with long-lost graduates and keeping in touch with more recent graduates depends on your cooperation. We are very much interested to know about your career, research and personal life. We would also be very happy to know how your classmates and colleagues are doing! Submitting your update form (attached to this email) will help us reach as many graduates as possible, and help you to connect with each other.

We have recently opened a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/IMPH.HUJI>. Be sure to "like" us! There is also a Facebook page for alumni: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/10958506489/?fref=ts>

I am happy that I got the chance to meet Shulamit just before she retired. I wish her good health and success in her next chapter in life!

Wishing you all a peaceful and pleasant summer!

Reut.

The need to put children's oral health first in Israeli debate on water fluoridation

Prof. Harold D. Sgan-Cohen, Dept. Community Dentistry, Hebrew University-Hadassah Schools of Dental Medicine and Public Health

An editorial was recently published in "*Community Dental Health*", the official journal of the British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry and the European Association of Dental Public Health, with the above title. The authors wrote that "A possible dental public health crisis is looming in Israel. As many as 70% of the Israeli population are currently supplied with optimally fluoridated water and oral health studies carried out in Israel over the past decade have demonstrated the benefits". In 2002 an average of 1.39 teeth with dental caries were found in fluoridated areas compared with 1.83 in non-fluoridated ones. The national mean caries level was 1.66. Ten years later, in 2011/12, a study, commissioned and financed by the Israeli Ministry of Health, reported an average national caries level of 1.17 (again with a significantly lower level in fluoridated areas). The decline was predominantly attributed to water fluoridation and the use of fluoride dentifrices. Moreover, the recent study showed a marked effect of fluoridation on socio-economic position (SEP) inequalities. Among children residing in non-fluoridated areas, a level of 1.52 teeth with caries was found among low SEP groups, compared with 1.20 in higher SEP groups. This gap was almost eliminated in fluoridated areas! Fluoridation appeared to be a socio-economic equalizer.



Prof. Harold Sgan-Cohen

Despite these fluoridation success stories, this important public health measure could be under threat following the decision of the current Health Minister *not* to renew regulations that obligate national water fluoridation. Israel's Supreme Court had been petitioned by anti-fluoridationists, based on claims of ineffectiveness, potential side effects, environmental damage and civil rights. The Court found no basis for any of these allegations.

The Minister of Health met with leaders from the Ministry of Health, academic leaders and the Head of the Israeli Association for Pediatric Medicine. In addition, a stern letter was sent by academic leaders from the Hebrew University (Public Health and Dental Schools), the Tel Aviv University, The Arab Dental Association in Israel, etc. All experts pledged commitment to the major public health contribution of water fluoridation. Despite these protests, the Minister refuses to budge from her decision, which appears to be based on political and not scientific or judicial bases.

Whilst Israel may be about to move away from mandatory water fluoridation – essentially a political decision – there is a strong case for Israeli health professionals, local authorities and water suppliers to voice their concern and opposition to this move. More and more water in Israel is currently desalinated. In desalinated water there is no natural fluoride! Following the Minister's directive, we may be faced with a dire and unprecedented human experiment regarding the effect of **no** fluoride in our water! The Israeli public health community needs to do everything possible to at least demand evidence based data before implementing such a drastic and distressing move. All those concerned with public health promotion must demand that we "Need to put children's oral health first in the Israeli debate on water fluoridation".

Highlighting IMPH Alumni

Dr. Eli Schwartz (Denmark;USA, 1973/1974, schwartz@ohsu.edu)

Dear Reut, Dear Maureen,

Thanks for your messages and Greetings from Portland Oregon, USA. It was a great pleasure to meet you and Dr. Neumark recently in Jerusalem. I had the great honor of being invited to present two papers at the First Nazareth Conference on Dental Public Health of the Arab Dentists' Association in Israel, which was held in May 2014 in Nazareth, at which I also paid tribute to the great education I received in your International MPH program.

Forty years ago I graduated from that program. I traveled from Denmark, my home country, and joined in Jerusalem a select group of colleagues from among others The Philippines, Thailand, USA, Germany, Israel, and Colombia. The group was also truly interdisciplinary, several decades before this concept became a rage in health educations. We were three dentists, several doctors, pharmacists, psychologists, environmental health officers, and others. The education we received by Professors Kark, Abramson, Epstein, and others was unique at the time focusing on concepts in public health theory and practice in community health care, which were decades ahead of similar education programs in other societies. Admittedly, at the time it was felt like just hard work and study. Not until I had returned home did I recognize the value of this and that many of the problems and issues we discussed during our classes were indeed relevant in our own health care services.

I believe the start I got through the MPH program set me up for my subsequent international career. After working at the University of Copenhagen and the Department of Health in Denmark, I went on to work in Public Health at The University of Hong Kong, research administration in the International Association for Dental Research in USA, Population Oral Health at University of Sydney, Australia, to my present position as Chair and Professor at the School of Dentistry, Oregon Health & Science University, Portland OR, USA. Although my focus is oral health it has been fascinating to be part of the development which has incrementally recognized common risk factors between general health and oral chronic diseases, and has initiated a conversation of the prevention and health promotion methods that help people achieve improved overall HEALTH. Presently, I am contributing to many local public health efforts which have become especially relevant with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act in USA ranging from early childhood caries prevention to school based health center programs to geriatric oral health programs. Oregon is one of the states that has decided to coordinate all care for Medicaid members in regional, community based organizations. Thus, physical, mental, and dental health is being addressed from one administrative approach under a global budget, and some of the early outcome metrics seem to be very encouraging.

The last forty years have been fascinating from a Public Health perspective with a convergence of health problems and health related issues between countries that used to be stratified as developing and developed. The global demographic trends, the increased burden of chronic diseases, and the impact of social determinants on health and disease regardless of a country's wealth has brought international public health in focus. I feel fortunate to have been part of this community for so long and for having had such a conspicuous start to my career. Thanks to you all.

Eli Schwarz, KODDDS, MPH, PhD, FHKAM, FCDSHK, FRACDS, FACD

Professor & Chair , Department of Community Dentistry
School of Dentistry, Oregon Health & Science University



Dr. Eli Schwarz with Prof. Yehuda Neumark and Dr. Maureen Malowany .



Dr. Rene Gerard Galera , Dr. Ronit Sinnreich, Ms. Edna Jospe-Perez., Ms. Esther Polen-Molard .



Left to right: Dr. Hagit Hochner, Dr. Rene Gerard Galera , Prof. Ora Paltiel, Dr. Ronit Sinnreich, Prof. Yehuda Neumark.

Congratulations!

With great pride and pleasure we congratulate our IMPH graduate, **Dr. Rene Gerard Galera** (Philippines, 2012/2013, rene.galera@mail.huji.ac.il), upon receipt of The Hebrew University-Hadassah Faculty of Medicine Award for his MPH outstanding thesis at the Faculty Prize ceremony on 7 July 2014. Rene's thesis focused on "Interaction Effects between Obesity-Related Genetic Variants and Diet on Body Mass Index". We were so happy to welcome Rene back to Jerusalem.

Congratulations also to our Israeli MPH graduates (2014) who also received the Faculty of Medicine Award for an outstanding thesis:

Mr. Gabriel Katan-Burlac: "Towards an eHealth Policy: A Descriptive and Analytical Study of the Utilization of Information & Communication Technology in the Israeli Community Health Care Delivery System".

Ms. Esther Polen-Molard: "Post-Thrombotic Syndrome after central venous catheter use in pediatric cancer survivors: An observational cohort study".

Congratulations also to two Braun School faculty members for receiving awards for their achievements:

Prof. Yehuda Neumark, Director, Braun School, for the Faculty of Medicine Award for Pre-Clinical Teaching Excellency.

Prof. Jeremy Kark received the Faculty of Medicine Emeritus Award for his continued activities in research and tutoring of MD, MSc, MPH and PhD students. Since his retirement, Prof. Kark has published/co-published over 25 articles in prestigious journals.

Farewell Shulamit!

Mrs. Shulamit Amir volunteered in the Braun School for almost 20 years. The newsletters our graduates received since 2000 were just a part of her hard work to keep alumni in touch with the school and with each other. On June 9th we held a farewell lunch for Shulamit, who is now retiring. Some of our graduates also wanted to express their appreciation for her excellent work:

Narmada Acharya (Nepal, 1997/1998, AcharyaN@unaids.org): “Dear Shulamit, I wanted to thank you for connecting us through the newsletter. I wish you all the best for your future endeavors and a successful personal life”.

Guillermo Troya (Ecuador, 1979/1980, gtroya@yahoo.com): “I would like to thank Shulamit, not only for keeping us informed about the most recent events at the IMPH Program/Braun School of Public Health, but for her passion and commitment, over the years, in contributing to maintain an international network of Public Health Professionals that has contributed to strengthen our links with our Alma Mater, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

...We thank Shulamit for keeping us together. All the best to Shulamit in her new endeavors.”

Dolf Sutherland (Ghana, 2007/2008, dolf@sutherland@yahoo.co.uk): “Shulamit Amir was the pivot of our newsletter I pray for her as she begins her retirement to stay healthy.”

Prof. R.P.Pathak (Nepal, 1983/1984, rppathak@gmail.com): “My heart felt appreciation to Shulamit Amir for her contribution and all the best wishes for her future endeavors.”

Rina Hakimian (Israel, 1997/1998, rina.hakimian@hhs.gov) “Dear Shulamit, Many thanks for all of your help before, during, and after my studies. My experience at Hebrew University—Hadassah was outstanding and I am so grateful to you and the staff there for the education and the wonderful collegiality. Wishing you and your family all the best. Kol tuv!”

Dr. Daria Llenaresas Manalo (Philippines, 1997/1998, darsky1566@yahoo.com): “Though we have not met, in person I want to thank you for sending updates of the IMPH activities and alumni. Whenever I received email from you, I reminisce the time of our 1997-1998 batch. We really had fun in Israel. I hope that you will still be in touch. Thanks and regards.”

Dr. Eliab Seroney Some (Kenya, 1988/1989, esome14@yahoo.com): “I wish Shulamit Amir all the very best in her life and thank her most sincerely for her volunteer service.”



Shulamit with two of her children



Prof. Neumark presenting Shulamit with a note of appreciation. (See next page)



Dear Shulamit

Writing words of parting to someone who has been such a warm and integral part of the school's landscape for so many years is not easy.

For our international alumni you were the point of contact with their alma mater and it didn't really matter whether they called you "Samir" or "Shulamit". The Alumni Newsletters that you produced served as a vital link between our graduates and the school, and for many of them it was the only link.

The frustration you expressed when you did not have sufficient material to produce the next Newsletter on schedule was difficult to bear because you shined a mirror on our inadequacies and we felt like we were failing you personally. Now we know that punctuality was ingrained into you as a child, so these delays must have been truly difficult for you. Yet, you never gave up and your gentle perseverance always paid off, albeit sometimes later than sooner.

Your persistence, your ever-outstretched hand, your optimism despite hardships, serves as a role model for all of us.

As we move forward into the digital age of communication with our alumni, we will cherish the lessons you taught us and look back with very fond memories on the years of dedicated support that you gave to the IMPH Program and to the School.

Thank you from all of us. We look forward to sharing with you good news about our alumni and seeing you at graduation for many years to come.

With our deep respect and love,

The IMPH Team

Our Graduates write:

Guillermo Troya (Ecuador, 1979/1980, gtroya@yahoo.com): “It was through this network of newsletters that Elizabeth Ponce and I renovated our friendship. Elizabeth noticed my name, among those receiving the newsletter, some years ago and, since then, we have maintained electronic correspondence. Elizabeth works for "ENFANT du MONDE", an international NGO that supports the improvement of children's health all over the world with WHO technical cooperation, through the Infant, Family WHO framework (I.F.C.), which is similar to our Community Oriented Primary Health Care approach that we learned at the Braun School. Elizabeth put me in direct contact with ENFANT du MONDE and we recently facilitated a WHO-ENFANT du MONDE mission to Suriname, where I work, to explore the possibility of joint technical cooperation in support of national efforts in Suriname for the betterment of the children in this country. Very soon, we will formulate/ implement an I.F.C. project under the coordination of the Ministry of Health of Suriname with the participation of the Civil Society, Academia and other national stakeholders and the support of WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA.”

Maria Creciun Browne (Moldova, 2002/2003, mcreciun@gmail.com): “My educational and cultural experiences at Braun School of PH&CM are one of the best in my life. I remember the year spent in Israel with sweet memories. Plan to return to visit again one day. Thanks to the school and wonderful people over there.”

Nelson Aulestia (El Salvador, 1979/1980, rafanel62@gmail.com): “There are many reasons why I am so grateful for all the things I learned in the MPH International Program, especially for the research skills that enabled me to contribute to the development of a school as a healthier place where children can happily learn and develop as integral Human Beings. By the way the name of my school is "Leonidas Proaño". He was a catholic bishop who worked with the indigenous people and promoted the Theology of Liberation and human values here in Ecuador. Best wishes for the MPH International Program, The Faculty, the Staff Members and the Students.”

Ksenia Kubasova (Russia, 2012/2013, kskubasova@gmail.com): Once again I realized how blessed I was to study at the Braun School of Public Health. I decided to find a job in South East Asia and it took me awhile to find a job outside of my own country. No doubt that it would have taken me much longer had I not contacted IMPH alumni of this region. Dr. Chalermchai Chaikittiporn, the Dean of the Faculty of Public Health at Mahidol University, Thailand connected me with his colleagues in Thammasat University. He also was really supportive during my stay in Bangkok. So since July 2014 I am officially employed at the Faculty of Pubic Health in Thammasat University. It is amazing how the Braun School of Public Health connects people all over the world! Also I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. Yehuda Neumark, Prof. Maureen Malowany and Reut Kramer for all the assistance! And please stay safe in the Holy Land!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our alumni **Samita Giri** (Nepal, 2011/2012, samita.giri2009@gmail.com) and **Chandra Mandil Yagal** (Nepal, 2012/2013, c.myogal@gmail.com) who got married recently!

We wish good health and happiness to the beautiful couple!



Visit to the School

In the past few months we had the pleasure of welcoming some of our graduates for a delightful visit to the School. They talked about their year in the program and how their studies contributed to career choices and opportunities.

Dr. Eli Schwarz (Denmark;USA, 1973/1974, schwarz@ohsu.edu) visited us on May 2014. He was in Israel in order to take part in the First Nazareth Conference on Dental Public Health of the Arab Dentists' Association in Israel.

Dr. Nickolay A. Kryuchkov (Russia, 2008/2009, nkryuchkov@clineg.com) visited on March 2014 while on a vacation in Israel. Dr. Kryuchkov is the CEO of Clinical Excellence Group in Moscow.

Ms. Zarina Iskhakova (Tajikistan, 2008/2009, Zarina.iskhakova@undp.org). Zarina is the HIV Treatment and Care Coordinator at the HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Control Programme with the United Nations Development Programme. Zarina was in Israel for a short-course in her work area.



Prof. Yehuda Neumark with Dr. Zarina Iskhakova.



The Joseph H. and Belle R. Braun
School of Public Health and Community Medicine
The Hebrew University-Hadassah Faculty of Medicine

Invitation

GRADUATION CEREMONY

39th International
Master of Public Health
Monday, September 15, 2014 at 16:00

Welcome Reception at 15:30
Ceremony 16:00

In the Robert Saligman Auditorium of the
Hebrew University of Jerusalem-Hadassah
Faculty of Dental Medicine, Ein Kerem Campus

R.S.V.P. Tel: 02-677-7115

Fax: 02-643-1086, email: pam@hadassah.org.il



Epidemiology Exam Question:

When you drink Whiskey over ice, it can cause heart problems,

When you drink Rum over ice, it can give you liver disease,

When you drink Vodka over ice, it can cause kidney failure,

When you drink Gin over ice, it can cause mental problems.

Should you, as a public health official, lobby for warning labels on ice?