

Hebrew University - Hadassah  
Braun School of Public Health  
& Community Medicine



# International MPH Alumni Newsletter

## SPRING 2021



Illustration: Dr. Nayanjeet Chaudhury



Braun School of Public Health  
and Community Medicine  
Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Hadassah Medical Organization



## Message from Prof. Yehuda Neumark, Director, Braun School

Dear IMPH Alumni,

I write these words on the Muslim holiday of *Eid al-Fitr* which marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan, and as hundreds of rockets continue to rain down on Israel, and the violent insurgency in East Jerusalem and the Temple Mount as well as in several Arab cities and towns across the country continues.

Fifteen years ago, now Israeli President Reuven Rivlin addressed the Israeli parliament on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr with these prophetic words: *"The month of Ramadan is over, and now the Muslim citizens of the country and the entire Muslim world, are celebrating the holiday that marks the end of the month of great fast - Eid al-Fitr. Eid al-Fitr is a holiday of thanksgiving to God. It is a holiday of great joy and hope, of sharing and of praying for forgiveness and mercy. On the occasion of the holiday, we send our greetings to the Muslim community in the State of Israel, our Palestinian neighbors and believers in Islam around the world, and wish them a happy holiday. We all join in the great hope that there will now be a turning point to the protracted conflict; A turning point that will bring an end to pain and sorrow, and we will enter together on a path of understanding, tolerance and mutual dialogue, which are important to all."*

By definition, both (all) sides in a conflict are convinced that their cause is just and their status/rights are being trampled upon or at least threatened by others. The solutions to conflicts cannot be sought by avoiding

disagreement at all costs, but as the Jewish proverb teaches us: "Every argument/debate which is for the sake of heaven will endure, whereas that which is not for the sake of heaven will not endure. What was an argument for the sake of heaven? That of Hillel and Shammai". Hillel and Shammai were contemporaries who lived in the 1st century, and were among the most prominent Jewish scholars. They disagreed on countless issues of Jewish law, but they always maintained the utmost respect for one another and for each other's opinion.

A "debate for the sake of heaven" has been defined as one that seeks the truth [by Maimonides, the medieval Jewish philosopher, physician and astronomer and one of the most prolific and influential scholars of the Middle Ages]. This definition has two cornerstones: truth, and the search for it. One cannot expect that in the course of an argument others will abandon their underlying principle, but, by remaining open, they can gain insight which can enrich their opinion and, through meeting with an alternative point of view, come to a deeper understanding. When a person sees him/herself as in the process of searching and is open to hear and listen to that which the other side has to say, the argument becomes a place from which to grow. [\[https://eng.beithillel.org.il/parshat-korach-not-for-sake-heaven/\]](https://eng.beithillel.org.il/parshat-korach-not-for-sake-heaven/)

Allow me to share with you a FB post from IMPH alumna Ms. Amal Khayat written in 2020 about an incident that occurred in Jerusalem on Al-Mawlid Al-Nabawi (the

prophet's birthday) that targeted Jewish residents, and that is no less relevant today:

*"The biggest enemies of Islam are the ignorant and violent Muslims. Today of all days should be a day of peace, tolerance, forgiveness and kindness. Today, on the memory of our prophet's birthday, we should follow his example; not go around stabbing people, inflicting terror in people's hearts or badmouthing and insulting someone else's religion. On this glorious day, make him proud. Do as you would like done unto you. Invite peace into your lives and invite others in. Be the reason other people respect what you represent, be the sunshine in someone else's cloud or leave them be."*

Amal is an outspoken and active proponent of conflict resolution, who has worked with several organizations including OneVoice Palestine, Kids4Peace, and Yala Palestine, and is a member of Solutions Not Sides and of a regional network of female activists and human rights defenders. Since we met in the IMPH classroom four years ago, a deep mutual respect has developed between us, precisely because although we may not share the same political views (I don't actually know what her political views are nor do I believe she knows mine), we both

yearn for a common better future in this corner of the planet, and we both believe that the way forward in achieving that goal is not through violence.

Dear Alumni, we are very appreciative of the large number of expressions of concern, support, wishes and prayers that we have received from you over the past days. Sadly, a small handful of Braun School graduates have been posting inflammatory and hate-filled messages and links that serve no other purpose but to widen the rifts and incite to further violence. Such behavior is unconscionable and cannot be condoned in any situation, certainly not one as volatile as that which we are currently experiencing. **As health and public health professionals, we should be spending our time and energy, especially during the Holy days of Eid, on healing differences and bringing peoples closer, rather than contributing to deepening the divide. As graduates of Hebrew University, we can help find solutions toward a more peaceful and brighter future for all of us here in Israel and beyond.**

Eid Mubarak! Celebrate in peace!

**Yehuda**

Director, Braun School



*Early this morning from my balcony, Jerusalem looks and sounds so calm. May it soon be so again!*





## Dear Alumni of the IMPH,

I hope you are all safe and healthy. News from some countries are disturbing and we send all of you our wishes for quiet, post COVID-19, times.

Here in Jerusalem, we managed to have all of our 2020-21 cohort vaccinated early on and returned to in-person studying in class. We even managed to have our traditional trips to the Dead Sea and Eilat, and to Tel Aviv, Akko and Caesarea!

Fortunately, with around 80% of the Israeli population aged 16+ years being vaccinated, we encounter only a few dozens of confirmed cases per day, and we have very few hospitalizations and deaths. Life is almost back to normal, with families reunited and much less social distancing. In the IMPH, COPC workshop, courses,

Master papers and Master theses, and social activities are all back. We were also successful in bringing in Dr. Rene Galera, an IMPH alumnus from the Philippines, to do part of his PhD dissertation in Israel. Welcome Rene!

Our graduation ceremony will take place on September 2, 2021. We hope to have a hybrid ceremony and to have you all participate from near and afar.

Lastly, this year is the IMPH 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and we start planning what will hopefully be an in-person gathering. We are looking forward to seeing all of you!

In the meantime, stay safe and well,

**Ronit**

Director of the IMPH Program

## Message from Dr. Maureen Malowany

### IMPH Alumni Academic Coordinator

Dear Alumni,

Our second semester opened with in-person teaching! We were so grateful to see more than 'faces' on zoom and to be able to interact as real people. As many places have opened for visits or tours, students were able to travel outside Jerusalem and we are booking for Public Health site visits. While we seemed to return to 'normal', as Yehuda has written in his message, Israel's security has become a primary concern. Thank you to all who have expressed support, shared thoughts and prayers for all here.

On the academic side, we are beginning to review files for admission to the 2021-2022 academic year. We appreciate receiving your references for colleagues. As IMPH graduates, you understand well the challenges of our program and we count on you to recommend the very best to study here in Jerusalem.

The public health world lost a giant on December 25, 2020 – Professor Adetokumbo Oluwale Lucas. Professor Lucas was a leading expert in global health with clinical, laboratory and epidemiological experience working on pneumococcal meningitis, histoplasmosis, schistosomiasis, malaria and tetanus. 'Prof' was a guest lecturer at the Braun School in the mid-1970s. His leadership as Director of the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) Geneva was marked by his integrity, humour and commitment to collaboration. We plan to honour his contributions to global public health in a dedicated webinar. From his beginnings in Lagos, Nigeria through posts at Harvard and Ibadan, 'Prof' is remembered



for his dedication to teaching, training, research and public health advocacy. I had the privilege of interviewing him in life during our IMPH Alumni Conference in 2016 on his time with TDR. His was a well-lived life of 89 years. To his family, his former students, colleagues and the public health global community we acknowledge his loss and extend our condolences. As expressed by one of our alumni, "A large baobab tree has fallen."

We understand that many of you have been seconded from your regular duties to support COVID-19 work. We do want to remind you that the Pears Seed Grant Research program is open year-round for submissions. When you are able to return to a short-term research project, we would love to hear from you and receive your application.

Wishing you and your families a safe and healthy world —wherever you are living. Some of you are in a very serious COVID wave, others in complex political unrest. Your courage is admirable.

Thank you for keeping us informed – IMPH alumni, faculty, staff.

Warm regards,

**Maureen**

IMPH Alumni Academic Coordinator

## Dear Alumni,

Springtime is full of wonders: the current IMPH cohort returned to classes, celebrated the holidays together and travelled the country. We will soon welcome the class of 2021 to our Alumni Community. We are confident that you will welcome them to our IMPH family with your good advice and willingness to network with your brand-new colleagues. We would like to wish them success and good luck in the final stages of their studies here as they approach the end of their second semester, final exams and work on their Masters paper or thesis.

I was excited to discover some sketches made by our very own Dr. Nayanjeet Chaudhury (India|2006), who kindly allowed us to use one of his works for the cover of this newsletter. This features his classmates from IMPH 2005/2006. If you are into arts yourself and would like to share your work with us, please do not hesitate and send it my way.

I write this message in between my first red alert siren in Jerusalem and planning the baking of my cheesecake for Shavuot. I've barely had time to think about the holiday, a lot of friends and alumni have reached out to ask me about the *matzav* in Israel (situation in Hebrew), it's complicated. I'm grateful, though, that our students and alumni have had a chance to experience Jerusalem, to see the connections of the place to real people, to the land and to G-d. I join IMPH team you for your prayers and wishes of peace for all here.

Current political situation and Covid response in the world affects us both as professionals and individuals. I thought this quote from the «Once & Future King.»



T.H. White might provide you with some inspiration during these times:

*«The best thing for being sad,” replied Merlyn, beginning to puff and blow, ‘is to learn something. That is the only thing that never fails. You may grow old and trembling in your anatomies, you may lie awake at night listening to the disorder in your veins, you may miss your only love, you may see the world about you devastated by evil lunatics or know your honor trampled in the sewers of baser minds. There is only one thing for it then--to learn. Learn why the world wags and what wags it. That is the only thing the mind can never exhaust, never alienate, never be tortured by, never fear or distrust, and never dream of regretting...Learning is the thing for you.’»*

You are invited to submit your news by filling out [the form](#), contacting me via [the email](#), or sharing it with your colleagues on our WhatsApp groups. In addition, reconnect with us on [LinkedIn](#).

**Remember that life at HebrewU does not end when you graduate; it continues, grows and thrives.**

Kind regards,

**Ms. Hanna Sloutski,**

IMPH Alumni Communications Coordinator

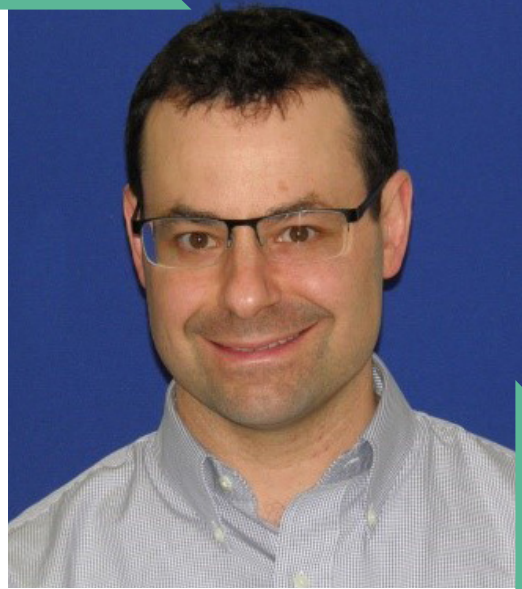
# IMPH Teachers

## Meet Dr. Adam Rose

More than 70 years since its founding, the State of Israel continues to attract immigrants, who come to seek some combination of opportunity, safety, a better life, or the opportunity to live in a Jewish state and contribute to its success. I immigrated to Israel with my wife and four children in July of 2019 from Boston, with no idea that we were about to embark on a year of lockdowns, anxiety, and stress. Thankfully, we did have about seven months pre-Corona to get used to school, to go to intensive Hebrew language courses, and meet new friends. Now we are of course overjoyed to be returning to some semblance of the “normal” life we expected to lead here, and I certainly hope it continues.

In July 2020, I started as an Associate Professor at the Hebrew University School of Public Health. I am trained in Internal Medicine and practiced primary care part-time for almost two decades in the United States. I also have a masters’ degree in Health Services Research (HSR) – research on how the health system functions and how it can be made to work better. While I continued to practice clinically part-time until 2019, the majority of my time has been spent on research, often in conjunction with mentoring junior researchers.

For 11 years, I worked in the Veterans’ Health Administration, which provides healthcare for about 9 million military veterans and has great data and funding mechanisms to support HSR. More recently, I spent three years working at the nonprofit RAND Corporation as a physician health policy researcher. While both jobs tended toward



practical and applicable sorts of research, the VA career still focused almost entirely on what is called “investigator-initiated research”. At RAND, on the other hand, my work was a mixture of investigator-initiated research and contracted program evaluations for the US Government.

Over the course of this career, I had an opportunity to do research on a wide variety of clinical areas – anticoagulation, hormone therapy, schizophrenia, diabetes, ischemic heart disease, pain management, addiction, and much more. As an internist, whose clinical career brought me into contact with all of these areas, I was happy to pursue such a wide variety of topics. This is typical for a health services researcher – many of whom are comfortable working on a wide variety of clinical topics (often with help from content experts).

The methods of HSR are extremely varied, and often must take into account the “messiness” of real-world data and observational studies. Over the years, I added a number of skills to my “toolkit”, including large database studies, quantitative/



qualitative mixed methods research, and implementation science. I also used other HSR-relevant research methods with help from methods experts, such as machine learning and cost-effectiveness analyses.

Throughout this time, my abiding interest has been in finding ways to measure the quality of care that is received by patients, and then finding ways to improve that care. Quality measurement is a discipline unto itself, with its own experts, methods, and literature. I have often been involved in the early stages of designing potential quality measures for conditions that have previously lacked them. My largest project in this regard was a 10-year arc of research for the VA, where we designed and implemented quality measures for outpatient oral anticoagulation therapy. This work led to major changes in how the VA manages such therapy.

It is now my privilege to bring this experience, and this passion, to the great tradition of public health education and research that already exists at Hebrew University. As a teacher, I have greatly enjoyed designing and teaching courses in topics near and dear to my heart, including Introduction to Health Policy, Quality Measurement in Healthcare, and co-teaching a Research Forum for Masters' students doing their theses. For me, as I suspect it is for all the teachers at the School of Public Health, the topics I teach (Health Policy, Quality Measurement) are not merely abstractions, but rather topics that have come alive for me throughout my 20-year research career. My aim as a teacher is to also make these topics come alive for the students – to show them that these ideas are in fact the shared language we can all use to discuss important topics in health

services delivery. Ultimately, society must deliver health services in a way that reflects our shared priorities, be they explicit or implicit. These ideas give us a framework to discuss what these priorities are, or should be, and the extent to which we are fulfilling them.

I also try to give my students a sense of how 50+ years of HSR has informed these ideas, and continues to inform them, through empirical investigation. I too have participated in an ongoing research dialog with these ideas, and I am thrilled to continue my journey as a researcher, and now as a teacher, here in my new home, Israel.

**It is now my privilege to bring this experience, and this passion, to the great tradition of public health education and research that already exists at Hebrew University.**

While my prior experience with HSR was in the United States, I try to emphasize in my teaching those ideas that transcend differences between health systems. Since arriving, I have greatly enjoyed meeting the students and the faculty at the Braun School – to the extent that I have been able to meet them! I'm obviously looking forward to more face time with my colleagues and students going forward.

My hope is that, after a period of adjustment to my new surroundings, I will find that the second half of my career as a researcher and teacher of HSR (here in Israel) will be just as fulfilling as the first half has been.



# Highlighting Alumnus - Mr. Kandarp Talati (India|2017)

## Dear Friends and Family,

A degree in MPH was never thought of, but it just happened with an IMPH at the Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine. I was possibly destined to experience the uniqueness of the IMPH program, its truly international offering, and more than anything else – Israel, Israelis, their culture, their past and present, and their futuristic aptitude! I was on an expedition and I was blessed to pursue the IMPH+ - the IMPH program, be a panellist at the Indian Market Access Cocktail organized by the Pears Foundation, attend a joint event addressed by the Prime Ministers of India and Israel, and befriend with local Israelis, who later visited India and I also get to meet them again while attending the 7th International Jerusalem Conference on Health Policy in September 2019. I wholeheartedly express my gratitude to my associate, mentor, friend, and IMPH Alumni Ajay Phatak for convincing me to pursue this course and giving a strong reference; and also to the extended IMPH family for believing in my application and considering my candidacy for the program!

The IMPH experience helped me immerse myself in the technical know-how of public health in the developing country context, enriched by the 'ToolKit' and classroom discussions with friends from the far East, Eurasia, Middle East, Africa and Latin America. The program also helped nurture my persona and work-life aptitude, which in turn helped me engage in a multitude of projects immediately upon graduation. I was engaged with two of the Indian Council of Medical Research funded grants upon my return, and the third one starting mid-2018. These studies were in the domains of road traffic injuries and child health. In May 2018, I also joined the Parul University in my hometown of Vadodara, India as Mentor for Interdisciplinary and Action Research and facilitated setting up of a dedicated research unit named Center of Research for Development (CR4D).

Research-wise, we were able to present the study findings at the world's leading conferences including the European Academy of Paediatrics (**EAP**) Congress and MasterCourse, Ljubljana, Slovenia (Oct'17); 9th Annual Consortium of Universities for Global Health (**CUGH**) Global Health Conference, New York, USA (Mar'18); 4th World Trauma Congress, San Diego, USA (Sep'18); 7th Congress of the European Academy of Paediatric Societies (**EAPS**), Paris, France (Oct'18); Pediatric Academic Societies (**PAS**) Meeting in Baltimore, USA (Apr'19); 20th EFORT Congress in Lisbon, Portugal (Jun'19); and EAP Congress & Master Course in Porto, Portugal (Sep'19); among others.

Alongside busy research engagements, I also started exploring the potential opportunities of much talked about technologies like data sciences, machine learning and artificial intelligence in public health, with special focus on developing country contexts and solving some of our basic challenges like malnutrition. Some three years of efforts lead



to the identification of research questions and conceptualization of these technological applications in the development of open-access portal using Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) datasets towards understanding of local epidemiology and piloting evidence-based, targeted public health interventions. The [oral paper](#) related to this concept was presented at the 7th International Jerusalem Conference on Health Policy in Jerusalem, Israel (Sep'19) and has recently won a three-year research funding worth ₹5.3 million (US\$72,000) from the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi. This also marks the first interdisciplinary research funding for the Parul University, underlining joint efforts by the CR4D, Parul Institute of Medical Sciences and Research and Faculty of Engineering and Technology. Another abstract presented at the Jerusalem Conference on the subject of tele-dermatology for epidemiological research, which was awarded an 'Outstanding ePoster,' also got [published](#) in a PubMed-indexed journal.

At this juncture in my academic and professional career, as the role of public health has now been locally recognized amid the COVID-19 outbreak, I'm looking forward to further equip the 'ToolKit' either with an enrolment to a PhD program or through an academic research position to serve the larger Global Health community.

Wishing a sincere commitment to the service of people and happy health to everyone reading out the Spring 2021 edition of the IMPH Alumni Newsletter!

With Warm Wishes,

**Kandarp Talati**

IMPH 2016-17

Email: [kandarp.talati@gmail.com](mailto:kandarp.talati@gmail.com)

# From IMPH to PhD

## Meet Dr. Rene Galera (Philippines|2013)

I am the second of four siblings born to Rene and Clarissa. I am a Public Health practitioner in the Philippines with degrees in Molecular Biology and Doctor of Medicine from the University of the Philippines. I was able to successfully complete the IMPH program and my Master's Thesis under the very able guidance of Dr Hagit Hochner and Professor Yechiel Friedlander in 2013.

Over the years, I have worked with the UP Department of Clinical Epidemiology, Philippine Department of Health (DOH) and the World Health Organization providing technical assistance in areas of strategic planning, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, program and project management, policy development, adoption, implementation, monitoring and research, quality management, supply and logistics management, capacity building and development, and partnerships towards universal health care.

I am currently one of the Nutrition Specialists of UNICEF Philippines tasked to provide focused technical assistance to the DOH and the National Nutrition Council (NNC) on Nutrition, particularly the First 1000 days and the prevention and treatment of all forms of malnutrition especially during emergencies and disasters. To date, my most significant legacy to my country consists of the finalization and adoption of two national laws relevant to maternal, infant and young child nutrition, 6 national policies on health emergency management and nutrition, and the development and publication of relevant guidelines, training manuals and studies.



*Teaching Filipino mothers how to use a Mid-upper Arm Circumference tape at home so they can monitor their child's nutritional status*

## **Why did you take the IMPH program? What sparked your interest in it?**

While I was working for the DOH-Health Emergency Management Staff, one of my supervisors, Director Carmencita Banatin, commented on my unique background – the combination of molecular biology and biotechnology, medicine, and work experience in public health. She inspired and supported me to pursue a Masters degree because according to her, it provided her with perspective and structure in her day-to-day work. She introduced me to Dr Estrella P. Gonzaga, or Doc Trelle as we fondly called her, who was a Professor in the De La Salle Health Sciences Institute College of Medicine and one of the most sought-after consultants providing technical support to the DOH on strategic planning and policy development. Being an IMPH alumna herself, Doc Trelle strongly recommended that I consider submitting an application as she shared with me her rich experience and better appreciation of epidemiology when she completed her IMPH in 1981-82. Speaking from the heart, both Dr Banatin and Doc Trelle have been instrumental in my public health journey and both of them even prepared letters of recommendation as part of my application. Sadly, Doc Trelle quietly passed away last 23 March 2014.

When I read about the program, what struck me the most was its heavy emphasis on equipping the potential student with the necessary tools – be it in epidemiology, health promotion, or special topics like demographics or crisis management – in preparation for future leadership roles. Furthermore, the APHEA-accredited program was taught in English and it also offered a generous full scholarship for applicants which are two very important considerations for students and young professionals coming from lower-income countries.

## **What was the most valuable part of your program? What one skill, lesson, way of thinking, etc have you found the most valuable and why?**

I have said this before and I think it still is very much relevant today - the International Masters in Public Health (IMPH) Program of the School has helped me understand better the linkages among assessment and diagnosis of a patient's condition, the understanding of the molecular pathogenesis of a disease, the provision or even development of effective and evidence-based preventive and therapeutic interventions, and the quality improvement of health systems.

One skill: Incorporating and communicating evidence and key messages to decision makers be it in print or in person – This skill was honed again and again as we wrote and presented papers, proposals, and research work. Being able to crystallize and translate a piece of evidence to decision makers and leaders enabled me to get policies and budgets approved and programs established that are meant to save lives and prevent diseases.

One lesson: A deep appreciation and respect for epidemiologists and research specialists – I am glad that I learned from the best teachers on how to calculate/estimate risk and odds and how to interpret them. As I delve further into the field, I am humbled by how much I still have to learn.



One way of thinking: Because of the rich experience and perspectives of my IMPH cohort, whenever I am faced with issues or problems, I am always assured that there will always be a solution. I just have to look at the issue from another perspective and if at that time, I am not equipped to do so, I know that I can reach out to my IMPH classmates if and when I need help.

### **Tell us about the work you've been doing after graduation.**

Within 2 months after my IMPH Graduation, the Philippines suffered three major disasters one after another – a human-induced conflict in September, an earthquake in October, and one of the strongest supertyphoons recorded in history in November. UNICEF Philippines urgently needed a Nutrition in Emergencies Officer to provide technical assistance to the National Government as part of its emergency response and recovery efforts. I was fortunate enough to have been selected and provided the needed support while also learning more about nutrition over the two years. Through analysis of the nutritional status of children affected by one of the worst typhoons experienced by the country in 2013, our team was able to document how well our emergency response interventions worked in decreasing the prevalence of severe acute malnutrition. Together with increasing capacity and demand from the communities we worked with, this study helped us to advocate for the development and adoption of DOH Administrative Order 2015-0055 or the National Guidelines on the Management of Acute Malnutrition.



*Teaching a health worker in Papua New Guinea how to correctly identify acute malnutrition in children*

Since February 2015, my new role as Nutrition Specialist expanded to go beyond emergencies due to pressing needs and changing priorities brought about by the different forms of malnutrition in the country. Through evidence-based advocacy from 2015 to 2018, I was able to help convince our legislators of the gravity of childhood stunting as a public health emergency and its economic impact on the Philippines. This led to the passage of Republic Act 11148 or “Act Scaling UP the National and Local Health and Nutrition Programs through a strengthened, integrated strategy for maternal, neonatal, child health and nutrition in the first 1000 days of life” last 29 November 2018. This law hopes to strengthen systems and scale up nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions across the nation aiming to reduce childhood stunting and all forms of malnutrition. In early 2019, DOH requested UNICEF to help support them in the drafting of its Implementing Rules and Regulations and I led the writing team, seated at the policy table with experts from national government agencies, professional societies, NGOs, and the academe, discussing evidence and strategies and building consensus until the final document was signed and launched on 2 May 2019 as a guide for all Local Government Units and program managers. I also provided technical support to the National Government as the country grappled with the effects of COVID-19.

**Do you think this pandemic will inspire people to think about public health differently? How so?**

Yes, definitely. Given the far-reaching health and economic effects of the pandemic, I think that people and governments have come to realize that sound emergency preparedness, resilient health systems, evidence-based preventive and therapeutic interventions, and timely and proper risk communication are key components in responding to any crisis especially one of global concern. Over the last year, we all saw how a few very well-known and cost-effective public health interventions like wearing masks, keeping a minimum distance, properly washing hands, and getting vaccinations have repeatedly become the topic of discussion of both powerful world leaders and humble community members. It will be up to us public health practitioners to ensure that these healthy discussions are enriched and expanded further so we can trigger sustainable improvements and investments in strengthening our systems.

**What’s next for you?**

Under the supervision of Dr Hagit Hochner and Prof Yechiel Friedlander, I am hope to analyze and understand the causal pathways of obesity and metabolic syndrome by looking at the various diet, lifestyle, and genetic factors.



### Hebrew University of Jerusalem places #64 in the world rankings

Hebrew University of Jerusalem rose one spot to No. 64 among the world's top universities and remains the top-ranked university in the Middle East, according to the new Global 2000 List by the Center for World University Rankings (CWUR).

Hebrew University rose on the list on the strength of improved quality of education, alumni employment and quality of faculty.

For the full article, [see here](#)

### Research News

#### HUJI Bites: Combatting Malaria with Dr. Anat Florentin

[Here](#) Dr. Anat Florentin discusses her ground-breaking research concerning Malaria.

#### Holocaust Survivors More Likely to Die of Heart Disease, Cancer Than the Individuals Who Did Not Live Under Nazi Occupation

Dr. Hagit Hochner and Dr. Iaroslav Youssim from the School of Public Health found that Holocaust survivors suffer higher death rates from heart disease and cancer compared to the rates in the corresponding population group exposed to different life circumstances.

[Link to the study](#)

[Article in The Times of Israel](#)



*a trip to the North. IMPH 2021*

# Wednesday School Seminars Calendar

## PUBLIC HEALTH WEBINAR PROGRAM SEMESTER 2 - 2020/2021

**Seminar Coordinator: Dr. Hagit Hochner**

**Time:** Wednesdays, 12:00-12:50 (Israel Time)

**Location:** Seminars via Zoom (or face-to-face if pandemic permits)

Date	Speaker	Affiliation	Title of talk	Language of the talk
2/6/21	Dr. Neora Alterman	Postdoctoral fellow, Braun School of Public health, Hebrew University of Jerusalem-Hadassah	Perinatal exposures and outcomes during childhood in the UK	English
16/6/21	Dr. Raanan Raz	Braun School of Public health, Hebrew University of Jerusalem-Hadassah	Climate Change for Non-Environmentalists: Where we are, how we got here, and where are we heading?	English

## Graduation Announcement

### Save the Date

The Hebrew University-Hadassah Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine cordially invites you to the

### Graduation Ceremony of the 46<sup>th</sup> Class of the International Master of Public Health

**Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 at 15:30**  
**Ein Kerem Campus, Jerusalem**

The 46<sup>th</sup> IMPH Graduation Class comprises 22 students from:  
Cameroon • China • Democratic Rep. of Congo • Ethiopia • Fiji  
• India • Kenya • Malawi • Myanmar • Nigeria • South Sudan  
• Tanzania • The Philippines • Turkey • Uganda • USA





# Alumni News

## Congratulations

Congratulations to **Dr. Javkhlanbayar Dorjdagva** (Mongolia | 2007) and Dr. Enkhjargal Batbaatar (Mongolia|2008) on publishing their article «Mass testing for COVID-19 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia: “One door-one test” approach» in The Lancet Regional Health Western Pacific, 2021.

See the full text [here](#).

Congratulations to **Dr. Jonathan A. Abuga** (Kenya|2013) on publishing his systematic review article «Premature Mortality, Risk Factors, and Causes of Death Following Childhood-Onset Neurological Impairments: A Systematic Review» in *Frontiers in Neurology*, 2021.

See the full article [here](#).

Congratulations to **Mr. Mordechai Pavlovsky** (USA | 2005) for starting a new position as Chief Medical Officer and Head of Operations and Innovation at Sutter Health | Aetna.

Congratulations to **Ms. Suzanne Wilner-Minc** (USA | 2007) for starting a new position as Humanitarian Support Staff at Culmen International.



Congratulations to **Ezekiel Danjuma** (Nigeria | 2020) for starting a new position as COVID-19 Vaccine Logistics and Supply Chain Officer ESA region at World Health Organization.

He writes: «*My public health career began in 2008 when I was engaged by the World Health Organization as a Local Government Area Facilitator to support the Global Polio Eradication Initiative... In 2019, an IMPH alumni, Rilwan Raji, shared the application link to the Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine and suggested I apply... The IMPH program has prepared me for greater responsibilities ahead. The lectures, assignments and group work, the COPC workshop empowered me... After my graduation on September 9, 2020, I returned to Nigeria, and am presently a Logistics and Supply chain consultant, supporting WHO East and Southern Africa region in the COVID-19 vaccine roll out. I coordinate Vaccine logistics and supply chain in the 20 countries of East and Southern Africa. An international consultancy I got because of the MPH training from the prestigious Hebrew University of Jerusalem. My supervisors are proud of me in their team*».



Mazal tov to **Dr. Hans-Michel Pierrot** (Haiti|2017) upon his recent marriage! All our best wishes to the newlyweds!

Congratulations to **Dr. Vinita Sharma** (Nepal|2011) on winning CPDD Travel Award for Early Career Investigators.

## Alumni on the Covid Front Lines

Enjoy the new issue of [Scopus Magazine featuring](#) IMPH Alumni from all over the world share their own experiences, successes, and challenges fighting COVID-19 in a photo essay.

## Dr. Josephine Ojiambo (Kenya | IMPH'89)

**Dr. Josephine Ojiambo** shares with us the amazing story of the first local Bahá'í temple in Africa opening its doors:

"We witnessed the inauguration of this house of worship at the home of my Late Aunt Ruth and Late Uncle Peter. This House of Worship stands as a place where people of all faith may gather at their home in Matunda Soy, Kenya".

This is the story of achievement and devotion to unity and peaceful coexistence. You can read and learn more about the opening ceremony [here](#).