



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



International MPH Alumni Newsletter

Spring 2023



International Tobacco Control Workshop, June 2023



SPRING 2023

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Dear IMPH Alumni,

I hope this message finds you well and thriving in your careers. We are nearing the end of the second semester. We have marked Holocaust Memorial Day, our Remembrance Day and Independence Day. We have celebrated Passover, Easter, Eid al-Fitr and Shavuot. Students are working intensively on their course assignments, COPC projects and on their Master theses and papers. As always, the topics of the theses and papers are diverse and significant, covering varied populations, including mothers, children, elderly, migrants and refugees and addressing research questions related to communicable and non-communicable diseases, health services and policy, risk factors and more.



As the spring season brings new growth and vitality to the world around us, it is also a time to reflect on our own personal and professional growth. The unpredictable weather we have experienced in Israel, with days alternating irregularly between cold winter and hot summer, remind us that climate change is not a theoretical concept. Thus, as we work to improve public health, we should acknowledge our responsibility to address the impact of climate change on health and to work towards promoting sustainable and environmentally conscious practices.

Furthermore, we cannot overlook the impact of humanitarian crises, wars, and politics on public health, in Israel and globally. As public health professionals, we must remain vigilant and ready to respond to emergencies, including those caused by conflict or political instability. As we all know, conflict and political unrest can have devastating effects on public health, leading to displacement, trauma, spread of infectious diseases and violation of human rights. It is important for us to work towards promoting peace and stability, as well as developing effective emergency response strategies to address these challenges. You have the invaluable skills and knowledge to make a positive impact on public health, even in the most challenging of circumstances. We are, as always, inspired by the work of our students and alumni.

As you continue to work towards achieving your goals, we encourage you to continue to collaborate, share knowledge and stay connected with the program and with each other. We were so happy to host the International Tobacco Control Workshop, led by Dr. Yael Bar-Zeev, providing the opportunity for some of our outstanding alumni to meet and work together. We are also very excited to start planning our next alumni conference, after a four-year halt due to COVID-19, that will be held in February 2024. We will keep you posted and hope to see many of you with us.

Let us continue to work towards improving the health and well-being of individuals and communities in all settings and to promote social justice and equity for all.

Wishing you all health and safety and hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,
HAGIT HOCHNER
IMPH DIRECTOR

Dear IMPH Alumni,

We have had a wonderful few months with visits from alumni – Anna Schmitt spoke with our current students about her work with indigenous communities in Montana, USA and her family's work with Bedouin women in Israel, an International Tobacco Control Workshop with alumni, an opportunity to hear from you through your recommendations for applicants for the 2023-2024 cohort. Enjoy the photos, the notices of awards and publications in this newsletter!! We are so very proud of you all.

We welcome Shira Nanavati who joined the IMPH team as IMPH Alumni Communications Coordinator! Shira has been in touch with many of you through our WhatsApp groups and LinkedIn. She will be updating our main database over the summer. To this end, we need to hear from you regarding your career development, changes – undertaking doctoral programs – volunteer work you are doing. We are very grateful when you contact us directly with your news. Help us out – send us your info!!



I want to remind you of the Pears Seed Grant Research awards that are available for approved research projects. The awards are open in terms of timing. If you would like further information, please write to me. We appreciate that maintaining a research interest or developing a project can be challenging once you return home. Given the difficulties, we strongly encourage you to use this opportunity to keep your research skills honed!

Wishing you all a good summer – peaceful for those in conflict areas, productive for those in drought-affected areas – stay creative, positive and know we are here for you!

Warm regards,

MAUREEN

IMPH ALUMNI ACADEMIC COORDINATOR

Dear IMPH Alumni,

As this newsletter marks the close of the academic year, it also represents the completion of my first quarter as the new IMPH Alumni Communications Coordinator. I recently moved to Israel with my husband, and three young children from Miami, Florida. I live in Zichron Ya'akov, close to the sea, agricultural land, and many wineries.

Though I am new to the IMPH team, I am not new to Israel, nor to the international development/public health fields. In 2013, I completed my Master's in the Glocal International Development Program, at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. As part of my degree, I did my field work in sexual and reproductive health education in Uganda, met my husband, and the rest is history. I have always had a passion for public health, and I hope to broaden my knowledge base in this field in the future.



In the few months that I have worked with the IMPH team, I have learned about some of the incredible work that the IMPH alumni are doing worldwide. I am in awe of the many degrees, publications, awards and accolades...what an incredibly impressive group of alumni with whom I have the privilege to work!

I look forward to being in touch with you all, getting to know you, and learning about your many successes and accomplishments yet to come.

Thank You!

Sincerely,

SHIRA NANA VATI

IMPH ALUMNI COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Dear IMPH Alumni,

It is with mixed emotions that I bid farewell to the incredible IMPH community as my tenure as the Social Coordinator comes to an end. Over the past 5 years, it has been an absolute honor and privilege to serve in this role, working alongside such a diverse and inspiring group of individuals.

During my time as Social Coordinator, my primary focus was to create an inclusive and engaging environment that fostered meaningful connections among our international students. Together, we organized numerous social events, cultural exchanges, and networking opportunities that not only enriched our academic experiences but also forged lifelong friendships.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support and enthusiasm from each and every one of you. Your active participation, openness, and willingness to embrace new experiences have been the driving force behind our shared success.

As I move on to new endeavors, I am filled with gratitude for the memories we have created, the friendships we have formed, and the invaluable lessons we have learned from one another. I am confident that the IMPH program will continue to flourish and make a profound impact on public health worldwide.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your IMPH journey. It has been an unforgettable chapter in my life, and I will carry the experiences and connections I have made here with me wherever I go.

Wishing you all the very best and looking forward to staying connected as part of the IMPH family.

Warm regards,

Raz Tshuva



INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO CONTROL WORKSHOP



Dr. Yael Bar-Zeev, along with Prof Hagai Levine from the Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine, together with Prof. Robert Schwartz, Executive Director of the Ontario Tobacco Research Unit, hosted the 'MPOWER and Beyond' International Tobacco Control Workshop, June 4-8, 2023, in Jerusalem. This workshop was in collaboration with Cathy Callaway, Senior Director at the American Cancer Association, thanks to a generous donation from Dr. Bruce and Baila Waldholtz, for which we are very grateful.

The workshop offered participants exposure to and experience in the practical application of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC), the MPOWER package, and other evidence-based tobacco-reduction strategies, as well as cross-cutting themes such as advocacy and communications.

The objectives of the workshop were to give participants the opportunity to study and apply tobacco control principles and strategies to their countries of origin. At the end of the workshop, participants were able to explain and apply the WHO_FCTC and MPOWER principles for policy development; target setting; intervention design, implementation and evaluation; and resource mobilization necessary for achieving a significant reduction in tobacco consumption and tobacco related-harms in their selected countries.

The workshop will be the basis for forming a sub-network of IMPH alumni working in tobacco control, for exchange of knowledge, and for future research and public health collaborations. If you work in the field of tobacco control and would like to join this network, please reach out to [Dr. Yael Bar-Zeev](#)

PHOTOS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO CONTROL WORKSHOP



HIGHLIGHTING ALUMNA: DR. JAMILYA SADYKOVA (KAZAKHSTAN | IMPH 2001)

IMPH Alumna, class of 2001, Jamilya Sadykova, was announced as a winner of the 2023 World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) Award, by the World Health Organization (WHO). The WHO celebrated the achievements of five inspiring individuals and organizations from across the European Region. These trailblazers have demonstrated exceptional dedication and innovation in the field of tobacco control, pushing the boundaries to create a healthier, tobacco-free future for all.



Dr. Sadykova is a dedicated and experienced public health advocate who has been supporting the Ministry of Healthcare of Kazakhstan in promoting robust tobacco control measures. Since 2005, she has been intensely involved in impacting changes in the tobacco control landscape in the post-Soviet region as a leader of two organizations: the NGO Smokefree Kazakhstan Coalition (Coalition) and, since 2015, the Eurasian Anti-Tobacco Coalition.

In 2020, Dr. Sadykova led an information campaign and policy dialogues that advocated for a comprehensive set of tobacco control measures as part of the Health Act. The new legislation, adopted in July 2020, included a ban on the display of tobacco products at the point of sale, a total ban on smokeless tobacco, and increased penalties for violating tobacco control provisions, among other strategies. The new legislation became a true tobacco control victory, highly acknowledged by the international community.



Dr. Sadykova received her medical degree from Almaty State Medical Academy, Kazakhstan in 1998, a degree in Social Hygiene and Health Administration, from Kazakhstan School of Public Health, Almaty, Kazakhstan, and an IMPH from the Hebrew University-Hadassah Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine in 2001.

IMPH FACULTY | PUBLICATIONS



Professor Hagai Levine has recently published an article on Israel's decision to end the tax on sweetened beverages which can be found [here](#).

Professor Levine also published an article on marketing of tobacco products on social media. The full text can be found [here](#).

Professor Levine's third recent publication looks at maternal exposure to particulate matter early in pregnancy. The full text can be found [here](#).



Professor Chen Stein-Zamir has recently published an article on childhood vaccination status in a remote fishing community in Cameroon. The full text can be found [here](#).



Dr. Gary Ginsberg PhD, published an article on the health care costs related to extended-interval fixed dosing of checkpoint inhibitors. The full text can be found [here](#).

IMPH ALUMNI | PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Miguel Reina Ortiz, Ecuador, IMPH 2011

Congratulations to Dr. Miguel Reina Ortiz, who published an article on the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of Japanese university students. The full text can be found [here](#).



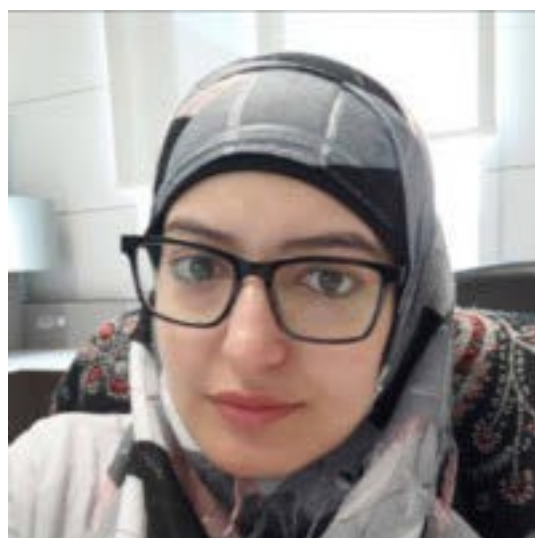
Saranchuluun Otgon, Mongolia, IMPH 2008

Congratulations to Saranchuluun Otgon, who published an article on sociodemographic predictors of flourishing among older adults in rural and urban Mongolia. The full text can be found [here](#).



Amal Khayat, Palestinian Authority, IMPH 2017

Congratulations to Amal Khayat on publishing two articles on the subjects of tobacco control: the first about PMI's IQOS and cigarette ads in Israeli media, the full text can be found [here](#), and the second, about IQOS and cigarette advertising across regulatory periods and population groups in Israel, full text can be found [here](#).



IMPH ALUMNI | CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. Sangwe Clovis Nchinjoh, IMPH 2021

Congratulations on receiving the Sabin Vaccine Institute's 2023 Rising Star Award for his achievements in improving immunization coverage in communities overlooked by traditional vaccination campaigns.



Dr. Nayanjeet Chaudhury, India, IMPH 2006

Dr. Chaudhury was appointed to lead the implementation of a World Bank contract for Ramaiah Medical College (RMC) and the Ramaiah International Centre for Public Health Innovations (RICPHI). The project focuses on capacity- building of medical officers, nurses, and program managers at all levels across all districts on techno-managerial and leadership skills. RICPHI has entrusted the project under the leadership of Dr. Chaudhury, who also serves as the director of RICPHI.



IMPH ALUMNI | CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. Michael Budzi, Cameroon, IMPH 2022

Congratulations to Dr. Michael Budzi on recently starting a new position with the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) in Cameroon. Dr. Budzi will serve as a Program Analyst with a clinical research program called "Design, Analyze, Communicate- Africa." The program aims to improve access to information on clinical trials carried out in Sub-Saharan Africa.



Dr. Jonathan Abel, Kenya, IMPH 2013

Congratulations to Dr. Abel, MPH, PhD, who joined the CLEAN-Air (Africa) Global Health Research Unit as a Post- Doctoral Research Associate. Dr. Abel will guide a comprehensive suite of epidemiological studies by providing epidemiological/statistical advice on study design, data collection, data analysis, and dissemination.

Dr. Hawi Kidanu Kebede, IMPH 2022

Congratulations to Dr. Hawi Kidanu Kebede on her recent marriage. Your IMPH family wishes you a lifetime of happiness!



If you have any news or updates you would like to have featured in the Newsletter connect with us via email: hebuimphalumni@gmail.com, Twitter @HebUIMPH, LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram @imph.huji or our google form. If you don't see your updates featured here, you will definitely see them in the upcoming Newsletter.

Stay Connected



One of the many ways we connect and engage with our alumni, students, colleagues and friends is through social media. While we enjoy sharing news, photos, and fun facts with you, we also love receiving your photos and stories. You are doing incredible work that is worth sharing. We are thrilled to increase IMPH engagement on Twitter, and we are back on Instagram. Please explore the many ways you can connect and engage with each other and the students on our social media!

- Follow us on [Instagram](#) and tag @imph.huji
- Follow us [Twitter](#) and tag @HebuIMPH
- Follow our [LinkedIn](#) updates, posts, and tag us in your content
- Connect with us via [Facebook](#)
- Use #IMPHLikeNoOther, #IMPHAlumni, #IMPH_Huji
- Use our google form to send us updates, photos, achievements

Do you have a new research study, grant, award, or other achievements that you would like showcased on our social media platforms? You are invited to submit your news via email, or share it with your colleagues on our WhatsApp/WeChat groups.

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



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