

Translational Med Event Highlights Novel Biotech and Cancer Approaches

BIU's School of Medicine in the Galilee held its 2nd annual Translational Research Symposium, which convened 130 physicians and researchers from regional hospitals, along with BIU medical students, for an in-depth view of projects which translate basic research lab findings into meaningful health outcomes for the patient.

Prof. Avinoam Kadouri, CEO of Rainbow Biotechnologies SARL and chief scientific advisor of the bone regeneration company Bonus BioGroup, spoke about how knowledge gleaned in the lab is now being applied in "growing" bones that may in the future be implanted in patients who suffer from shattered limbs. The keynote address, "Principles of Multidisciplinary Cancer Centers," was delivered by Dr. Joseph Rosenblatt, chief of the Division of Hematology/Oncology at the University of Miami, and interim director of the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center of the University of Miami Health System (UHealth).

The Conference offered an op for BIU medical staff to become acquainted with diverse researchers and initiate new collaboration. Stressing that point, organizers Dr. Meital Gal-Tenamy and Dr. Itay Onn maintain that "the success of translational research hinges on close cooperation between the School's research labs and hospital departments."

Outgoing British Chief Rabbi at Med School



Outgoing British Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks and his wife, Elaine, meet with *landsmen* Prof. Michael Weingarten (far right), Vice Dean of the Medical School, and Public Health Prof. Mary Rudolf. "To hear Michael and Mary and to understand what a transformative institution it's going to be, for Israel as a whole... and to see the Jewish values of *kedushat hachaim*, the sanctity of life, and *kavod habriut*, the dignity of every human individual, is just incredible."

Noted MDs Join School's Clinical Staff

Proud of its growing senior clinical staff drawn from six affiliated hospitals in Israel's north, BIU's School of Medicine has recently welcomed into its ranks Prof. Johnny Younis, head of the IV Fertilization Department at Poriya Hospital in Tiberias; and Prof. Tzipora Falik-Zaccai, award-winning founder and director of the Institute of Human Genetics at the Western Galilee Hospital in Nahariya.

Another recent appointee is the School's new director of oncology studies – Prof. Jamal Zidan, who heads the Oncology Institute at Ziv Medical Center in Safed. He is recipient of an award from the Israeli Society for Clinical Oncology and Radiation Therapy (ISCORT) for his research, "Differences in Pathological and Clinical Features of Breast Cancer in Arab as Compared to Jewish Women in Northern Israel."

"White Coat" Ceremony



The School's second annual ceremony marking the "graduation" of 54 students from pre-clinical to clinical studies was held in the presence of BIU Philosophy Prof. Noam Zohar and Prof. Avinoam Reches MD, chairman of the Ethics Committee of the Israel Medical Association, who discussed ethical code and moral challenges.

Innovative Health Promotion in the Galilee

The School's new Project Raphael, headed by Prof. Mary Rudolf, provides seed money and academic support to enable local community and health organizations to develop viable, self-sustaining programs. Safed Mayor Ilan Shohat has welcomed the initiative: "I'm pleased with the collaboration with BIU's School of Medicine to help advance communities in Safed and the Galilee."

The 2013 Raphael award winners include:

- Enosh (NGO which helps people suffering from mental illness) for designing a program to improve lifestyle through hikes, nutrition, physical activity and emotional wellbeing
- The Menachem Begin High School for designing workshops, theatre sessions and community volunteering to enhance self-esteem among disadvantaged pupils
- The NGOs Al-manal and Dugrinet, which train disabled Arab women to deal with health organizations and hospitals to improve access and health care for disabled patients
- Ziv Hospital Child Development Center for bringing US-based "Play Project" to the Galilee, in order to develop communication skills among autistic children
- The Hazor Municipality for adapting "Shared Care," a Canadian system which helps ensure that people with mental health problems receive "joined up" care.

BIU Researchers on Israeli Team to US Robotics Competition

Honing their expertise in robotics, Prof. Gal Kaminka, returning scientist Dr. Noa Agmon and several PhD, MSc and BSc students in the Department of Computer Science have joined with colleagues at Ben-Gurion University, the Technion, Israel Aircraft Industries and Cogniteam (a start-up launched by BIU computer science grads) to contend in a competition run by the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). The Israeli contingent is the only non-American team to receive funding (and thus a "vote of confidence") from DARPA to prepare for the June 2013 competition, which is aimed at developing advanced robotic technology that will aid in saving lives, particularly in search and rescue operations.

BIU Researchers Bring Science to Coffee Shops, Bars and Safari



Talking nano-robots, spintronics, Israeli archaeology, and other intriguing topics over coffee and beer, 27 BIU faculty presented their novel research quests and findings to the community-at-large on National Science Day. Taking part in the nationwide activities organized by the Israeli Ministry of Science and Technology, BIU's veteran professors and outstanding new recruits lectured at 16 exciting venues in Israel's central region, including popular coffee shops and bars, upscale senior living facilities, community centers, high schools and even the Ramat Gan Safari!

New Encryption Technique to Tone Down Eavesdropping

Eavesdroppers beware: an innovative concept for stealthy fiber optical communications has been devised! Award-winning Prof. Zeev Zalevsky, head of the electro-optics track in BIU's Faculty of Engineering, and Prof. Dan Sadot of Ben-Gurion University, have created an encryption technique that spreads the transmissions below the "noise" level, resulting in a signal that only authorized users can decipher. This novel invention causes a would-be eavesdropper to detect only noise. The researchers have prepared a simulation prototype, and are now in the midst of patenting their method. This research is conducted as part of the PhD studies of Tomer Yeminy, who is jointly supervised by Profs. Zalevsky and Sadot.

Locust: A Plague for Some, A Kosher Culinary Treat for Others



With a swarm of locust infiltrating Israel from Egypt just days before Passover, two BIU researchers have been hotly pursued by the media outlets to offer their take on the *kashrut* of these typically unwelcome visitors. Rabbi Dr. Ari Zivotofsky (pictured), a brain research scientist who is also an expert on the kosher laws of exotic animals, maintains that both the Bible and Talmud say that locust is kosher. Expounding, he notes: "The only issue is that Jews from eastern and northern Europe have not seen them in over 1,000 years and don't have the knowledge on how to distinguish which species are kosher." However, he concludes, "Mediterranean and Yemenite Jews certainly preserved those traditions." Also interviewed was Prof. Zohar Amar of the Martin (Szusz) Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology, who is arguably the world-expert on the subject and has authored a book, *Locust in Jewish Tradition*, published by the Bar-Ilan University Press, which provides historical accounts and oral traditions of the eating of locusts among Jewish communities throughout the Diaspora.

Congrats to Dr. Ron Adani

One of BIU's outstanding and youngest lecturers (he's only 26!), Ron Adani just completed a PhD in Computer Science! Here he poses with his doctoral advisor, Prof. Sarit Kraus, world renowned for her research in Artificial Intelligence.



Rackman Center Frees “Chained” Women

In March, the Ruth and Emanuel Rackman Center for the Advancement of the Status of Woman scored another important victory: it helped gain freedom for an *aguna* of 17 years. “We received her case in October 2012 and in just five months did what lawyers haven’t been able to do in 17 years,” recounts Atara Kenigsberg, an attorney and the Center’s executive director.

Each year the Rackman Center, via its Legal Aid Clinic for Women and Family Affairs, represents some 30 women (half of whom are *agunot*) in the Rabbinical Courts. “We have nearly a 100% success rate,” says Kenigsberg, who emphasizes that “we never give up; we do whatever we can, offering representation and support with all our heart, and empowering women to act.” Clinic director, attorney Osnat Karplus-Galam was recently highlighted in the news after her client’s recalcitrant husband escaped from the Rabbinical Court in the middle of proceedings. The man – who has refused a divorce for over a decade and was jailed for more than five years – has yet to be found but the Rackman Center is in hot pursuit of a fair resolution of this case.

BIU Joins Forces with Defense Ministry to Upgrade Teaching

BIU’s newly launched “Nachshonim” Program trains discharged IDF officers to fortify the nation’s educational system through pursuing careers as top-flight teachers and management. Some 20 outstanding officers have enlisted in the first class of “Nachshonim,” which targets the best and brightest for an intense four-year BA-MA track that will also net them a teaching certificate. A joint effort of BIU’s Churgin School of Education and the Israeli Ministries of Defense and Education, this novel program – initiated by the School’s former deputy director Dr. Shimon Ohayon – cultivates former army leadership for positions at the helm of Israeli education, where they can strengthen the ranks and the quality of teaching. “Each of them could have easily been accepted to just about any one of the prestigious faculties,” said a School spokesperson. “An officer is a leader, and we see them as reinforcements that will integrate into significant management positions in the education system.”

Getting a Handle on Social Anxiety

Cyber bullying hurts as much as bullying in the schoolyard. That was one of the findings of Israeli researchers presented at the international workshop, “Social Anxiety and Reactivity to Interpersonal Stress: From Basic Science to Science-Based Interventions.” Drawing 40 top world experts in the field, the event was organized by BIU’s Leslie and Susan Gonda (Goldschmied) Multidisciplinary Brain Research Center together with the Hebrew University and the National Science Foundation. Prof. Eva Gilboa-Schechtman, one of the event organizers and member

of both the BIU Psychology Department and the Gonda Center, discussed her research, which shows that social ostracism can lead to physiological effects, potentially resulting in hormonal changes in the body. Other speakers included Prof. David Clark of Oxford University, who discussed the far-reaching economic consequences of social anxiety manifested in the loss of many work days; and Prof. Murray Stein of the University of California, a partner in the formulation of criteria for social anxiety disorder.

Moscow Megillah Showcased at BIU



Documenting the history of Russian Jewry from exile through immigration to Israel, the “Moscow Megillah” makes its debut at an international conference hosted by BIU’s Rena Costa Center for Yiddish Studies on the subject, “The Moscow Purim – in Memory of Those Killed in the Kingdom: The Creators of Yiddish in the Soviet Union.”

120 Scholars Meet at BIU to Explore Jewish Lit & Culture

A three-day literary fest featuring 120 researchers from 16 different countries, BIU’s conference, “Around the Point: The Languages, Literatures, and Cultures of Jews” focused on a wide sweep of Jewish literary and cultural wealth – Ladino, Judaeo-Arabic, Yiddish, Serbian, Russian, French, Italian, Modern Hebrew and more. Organized by the Joseph & Norman Berman Department of Literature of the Jewish People, the Conference commenced with remarks by Israel Prize laureate Aharon Appelfeld and closed with the keynote address by another laureate Dan Miron, on “New Trends in the Study of Jewish Literatures.” A unique gathering, the conference brought together researchers of works by Jewish authors in both Jewish (e.g. Yiddish, Ladino) and non-Jewish languages (e.g. Russian, Polish). Thus it achieved one of its underlying goals: to unite scholars who study not only “Jewish literature” (with its varying definitions about what that constitutes) but the more diverse and encompassing “literatures of Jews,” the creative genius of Jewish authors, connected in this or another way with Jewish historical consciousness and memory.

BIU Goes Green

Now its official: Bar-Ilan University has been declared a "green campus." After a thorough examination, the Israeli Ministry of Environmental Protection found that the University meets all the requirements for "green" status. Environmental courses are offered to students in the Faculty of Law and the Department of Geography and Environment, with intro courses available to all. The Ministry's accreditation committee was pleased to learn about the proactive legal activities of the BIU Environmental Clinic as well as Student Union initiatives such as recycling and carpooling, which help safeguard the environment. The Environmental Clinic – established in 2001 by law Prof. Oren Perez, an authority on environmental policy and regulation – is currently headed by attorneys Galit Ofer and Hadar Yuhas-Peled who work with Prof. Perez to advance issues of sustainability and of environmental justice throughout Israel. (Visit the Clinic's new website at <http://envclinic.biu.ac.il/en/>)



Bar-Ilan welcomes the Jewish month of *Nissan* with the traditional "*Birkhat Halllanot*" (Blessing of the Trees). Students, academic faculty and other University employees gather with Campus Rabbi Shlomo Shefer near blooming fruit trees on the BIU grounds to recite the prayer.

BIU Well Represented in Israel's 19th Knesset

More than 15% of Israel's 120 Members of Knesset have taught, studied (or both) at Bar-Ilan University. Among the 47 new MKs are three distinguished BIU faculty members: Att. Karin Elharar (*Yesh Atid*), director of BIU's Legal Clinics; Dr. Aliza Lavie (*Yesh Atid*), senior lecturer at the School of Communication; and Dr. Shimon Ohayon (*Likud-Beitenu*), deputy director of the Churgin School of Education. They are taking leave of their academic posts to serve as official members of the Israeli government.

Other MKs with a BIU academic connection span the spectrum of Israeli politics and include Justice Minister Tzipi Livni (*Hatnua*) who holds an LLB; Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Ofir Akunis (*Likud-Beitenu*), who received an MA in Political Studies; Deputy Minister of Transportation Tzipi Hotovely (*Likud-Beitenu*) who has an LLB and LLM; Shaul Mofaz (*Kadima*), who has a BA in Economics and Business Management, and MA in Business Management; Nachman Shai (*Labor*) who obtained a PhD in Political Studies and Communication; Michal Rozin (*Meretz*), who has a PhD in Gender Studies;

Avraham Michaeli (*Shas*) who holds a LLB; and Ibrahim Sarsur (*United Arab List*), who received his BA in English Literature.

BIU Students Take Their Pick of Good Deeds



Forty Bar-Ilan volunteers dispatched by the BIU Student Union pick vegetables for the needy at a moshav up north as part of Israel's recent nationwide "Day of Good Deeds."

Experiencing Israel

Riding on camels and trekking through the wilderness, along with enriching Jewish and general studies, and an *Ulpan* for improving Hebrew skills, participants in BIU's



Israel Experience program enjoy a broadening gap year in Israel. Many of the teens also volunteer with Israeli humanitarian projects such as "Save a Child's Heart," working with children from developing countries who are recuperating after surgery in Israel.

Tuning into the Insights of Holocaust Survivors

A BIU brain science student has found a creative way of "bridging between the Holocaust generation and Israel's future generations." The granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, Naama Winetraub has embarked upon a special initiative to pass on the wisdom of survivors through song. She has enlisted volunteers to interview survivors, and is incorporating their messages into a series of songs, to be written by a well-known lyricist. "I think it's hard to appeal to the young generation on this subject and I believe that music is a great way to achieve that," says Winetraub, who hopes to produce a video clip as well.