PERIODIC UPDATE #23

Period of August 3-16, 2020

Share what’s happening; please send me updates for the next newsletter.

CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

Reminders:

- Opening page has link to the health declaration necessary for daily entrance to campus, for easy access.
- Urgent updates can be posted on the English Faculty of Medicine opening page.
- Feel free to send me relevant information to post.

GRANTS/מענקיים

Congratulations to:

Dr. Ronit Ilouz on her receipt of a research grant from BSF for “Behavioral and cellular characterization of PKARIB mutation associated with a neurodegenerative disease.”

Dr. Meital Gal Tanamy on her receipt of a research grant from the Ministry of Science and Technology for "עיצוב חיסון סביל למחלת קוביד 19 על ישי הכללת רפרטוארי נוגדנים המחלימים".

STUDENT BODY UPDATE/חיי המתקדמים

From a student representative:

Due to Corona, many students are now isolated. First year pre-clinical studies are taking place remotely, via Zoom. Third and fourth year students are studying for final exams. Third-year track first year students have effectively had to forfeit vacation. Masters and doctoral students are continuing in the labs, but with precautions of course. All end of year activities have been cancelled. The new student union is working hard to plan for next academic year.
**Medical School Exams/מבחנים**
We wish our students success on their exams. Coming up: Pediatrics, OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination).

**Donor Recognition/תרומת**
Last week a very inspiring donor recognition Zoom meeting took place between 6 medical school students and UJIA representatives (the donor was unable to make the meeting). To protect the privacy of the donor and recipients, we will not mention names, but below are a few heartwarming comments by the students (two of whom were ill, with Corona):

- **This has been a challenging period, but I do my best to keep to routine.**
- **With all the uncertainty and lack of control, we have to think short-term for now.**
- **Demands much self-discipline in order to remain focused; this is a lesson for life.**
- **One of the most exciting aspects about this period is that we are learning along with the experienced doctors, all of us together.**
- **I feel like we will be an entry in the history books.**
- **Corona came suddenly; it affected me emotionally too.**
- **The department head was like a tutor, he was so good! An old-time doctor. He could just look and touch the patient and make a diagnosis.**
- **The Zoom classes were excellent, in all aspects. (There was consensus about this.)**

Another donor/student meeting is scheduled for this week, with social distancing.

**PhD Seminars/סימינר תואר שלישי**
Organized by Dr. Shai Bel. These seminars are part of the tradition of celebrating PhD students’ ending this important chapter in their life; participation is obligatory.

- **Exploring the Role of Scc3 Subunit in Cohesin Activity - Anjali Pathania, supervised by Dr. Itay Onn**

**Researcher Profile/הכור את התומכת**
We would like to profile a researcher each week, starting with Principal Investigators. If you would like the opportunity to “Toot Your Horn,” please be in touch with Alissa.burstein@biu.ac.il. A few sentences will suffice!

**Student Profile/הכור את הסטודנט**
We would like to briefly profile a different student each newsletter. If you can think of a student – graduate or medical – who would like to share a few details with us, please have them be in touch with Alissa.burstein@biu.ac.il.
This week we open with Lee Azoulay, the new head of the student union. Lee, 29 years of age, comes from Ramat Yishai but currently lives in Nahariya. He served in the elite IDF Egoz Unit. Before commencing with his studies, Lee was employed in the field of security in Vienna then travelled to India, Nepal, and Thailand for half a year. He returned to Berlin, only to ultimately begin his medical studies in Prague. After three years there, he decided to complete his studies at Bar-Ilan U. He is a second year student in the three-year track. When asked how Corona has affected his studies, he pointed out that the clinical studies were put on hold for two months. However, this proved a golden opportunity for volunteering, most especially in the most critical Corona-testing realm with Magen David Adom, at first in patients’ homes, then in the drive-throughs. Volunteers were also instrumental in delivering medicines and food to the elderly, and in assisting hospital staff in the Galilee. He has not seen his family, for fear of transmitting the disease. When asked what he likes most about his studies, Lee shared, “Medicine has no boundaries. Every few weeks we go to a new department and are exposed to new worlds – intellectual, patients, colleagues. Every day we give of ourselves for the good of society, which makes the field so special. In the future I hope to go to work every day with a smile, knowing that I am in a place where I can fulfil my potential.”

Website: What’s New? (medicine.biu.ac.il/en)
- Ohad Ronen: Case for staged thyroidectomy (Head Neck).
- Conjunctivodacryocystorhinostomy (CDCR) success rates and complications in endoscopic vs non-endoscopic approaches: a systematic review (Int Forum Allergy Rhinol).
- Yumna Busool Abu Eta, Shireen Hamed Azzam, Raneen Shehadeh Mashour: Predicting factors of ocular hypertension following keratoplasty: Indications versus the procedure (Eur J Ophthalmol).
- Mycoplasma and Ureaplasma carriage in pregnant women: the prevalence of transmission from mother to newborn (BMC Pregnancy Childbirth).

Faculty News (https://medicine.biu.ac.il/en/faculty-news)
- Covid-19 Research Presented at Ministry of Health

Media Exposure (https://medicine.biu.ac.il/en/media)
- JPost: Coronavirus did not go away in the summer – here’s what we know
- HaAretz: Many Israeli Health Care Workers Reluctant to Get Coronavirus Vaccine, Survey Says

REMEMBER: All Periodic Updates are now online/תנורוליאר באתור