



Dear faculty members, students, Galilee and Golan community, and friends,

I hope this message finds you well, despite the personal and professional challenges we all face due to the ongoing war.

Despite these difficulties, I am pleased to share, as you will see in this newsletter, that we are thriving and continuing to innovate in our research, teaching, and medical fields. The camaraderie and mutual support within our academic community here in the north are sources of great strength, allowing us to maintain a solid presence at the Faculty and across all affiliated medical centers, even in these trying times.

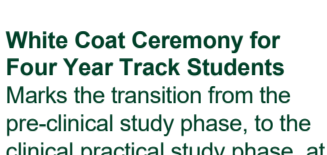
Last month, we secured several significant research grants. These achievements are not only the result of the remarkable efforts of the award recipients but also a testament to the advancement and leadership of our entire faculty in medical research. Alongside these successes, there are moments of disappointment for those who, despite their best efforts, did not receive funding for their original research proposals. It is crucial, however, to rebound from these setbacks, analyze the feedback, and continue to move forward.

While the future may seem uncertain, I am confident that we will overcome these challenges and achieve great things ahead. In collaboration with medical and community leaders, we are developing a plan to position the Faculty as a regional hub of academic excellence. Further details will be shared soon.

Yours sincerely,  
Prof. Orly Avni, Dean



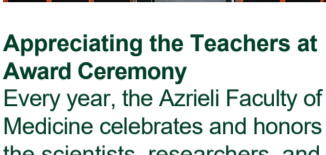
### What's New at the Faculty



**White Coat Ceremony for Four Year Track Students**  
Marks the transition from the pre-clinical study phase, to the clinical practical study phase, at the northern hospitals affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine and at community centers in the Galilee.  
[Read more](#) →



**Sex and Gender Aware Medical Conference**  
The first conference of its kind in the north on sex and gender aware medicine was held, with an emphasis on the periphery..  
[Read more](#) →



**Appreciating the Teachers at Award Ceremony**  
Every year, the Azrieli Faculty of Medicine celebrates and honors the scientists, researchers, and doctors who teach at the Faculty.  
[Read more](#) →



**"From Academy to Industry in One Week": Unique Workshop**  
One of the aims of the Azrieli Faculty of Medicine is to mentor and train the next generation of researchers. Some will have roles in academia, and some will transition to industry.  
[Read more](#) →



**Students and Faculty Stand with Wounded of the Majdal Shams Attack**  
Students initiated a visit to the Ziv Medical Center in Safed to meet with and give gifts to the children of Majdal Shams who were injured in Hezbollah's criminal shelling of the village.  
[Read more](#) →



**Reaching Out to Community Youth: Summer Science Activity at the Faculty**  
The Faculty always tries to be an active partner in the local community and lead to positive changes in the region. .  
[Read more](#) →



**Council for Higher Education Grant to Procure New Microscopes**  
The Azrieli Faculty of Medicine will be welcoming in the coming months, three new microscopes that will be located in the scientific equipment center.  
[Read more](#) →



**New at the Faculty: Advisor to the Dean for Arab Sector Affairs - Dr. Youssef Awani**  
Dr. Youssef Awani has been appointed as advisor to the Dean, Prof. Orly Avni, for Arab Sector Affairs.  
[Read more](#) →

### Conferences and Visits

On August 12, 2024, the Mayor of Safed, Mr. Yossi Kakon, visited the Faculty accompanied by the Deputy Mayor, Rabbi Nachman Gelbach; the director general of the municipality, Mr. Gil Goldstein; director of education, Mr. Moti Cohen; director of the budget department, Mr. Moshe Medar and other senior officials.

The purpose of the visit was to become acquainted and set goals for future partnership, for the well-being and future of the city of Safed.

The Dean of the Faculty Prof. Orly Avni presented the Faculty's activities regarding medical education, research, and the vision for the development and expansion of the Faculty.

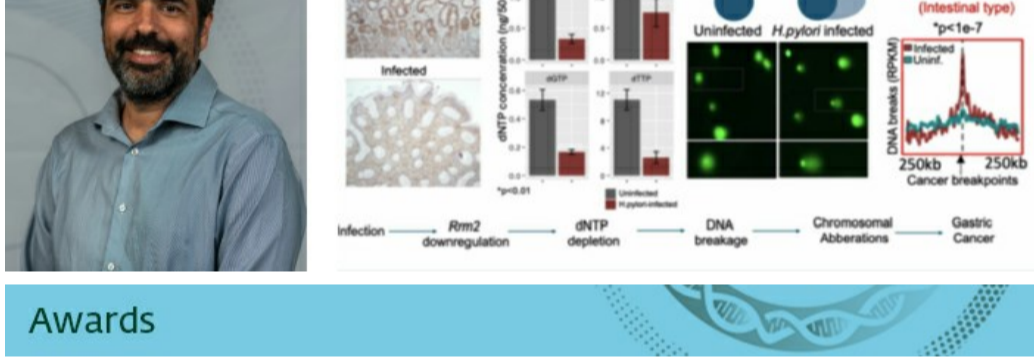
The guests toured the premises and met Dr. Alon Barash head of the anatomy department, as well as researchers Prof. Omry Koren and Dr. Shai Bel.

The shared goal of both the Faculty and the city is to attract as many high-quality teachers as possible who will contribute to the local fields of education and training.

Issues such as the establishment of local daycare for the children of Faculty students as well as a student village on the outskirts of the city, were discussed.

### Spotlight on Research

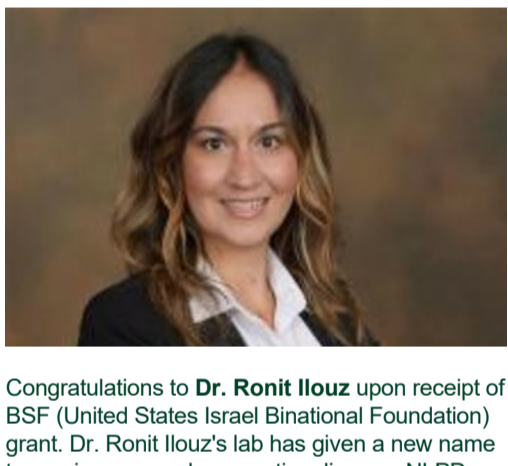
**Genomic Instability and Cancer: Dr. Yaakov (Kobi) Maman**  
Dr. Maman's lab investigates molecular processes that compromise genomic stability and their implications in cancer development. An ongoing study in the lab, led by Dr. Hadas Sibony-Benayami and the students Rose Jbara, Tania Shubash Napso and Layan Abu-Rahman, explores the impact of Helicobacter pylori (H.pylori) infection on the integrity of the host cell's genome and on the formation of persistent chromosomal aberrations that contribute to gastric tumorigenesis. The study reveals that H.pylori infection disrupts the synthesis of nucleotides – the essential building blocks of DNA – by downregulating RRM2, a key player in nucleotide metabolism. This depletion of nucleotides interferes with DNA, leading to the accumulation of DNA damage. Interestingly, these DNA damage sites reflect hotspots of chromosomal abnormalities observed in gastric cancer patients. In a follow-up study, funded by the Israeli Cancer Research Fund (ICRF), Maman's lab plans to harness these molecular insights to develop tools for early diagnosis of precancerous events following infection and to identify potential therapeutic targets.



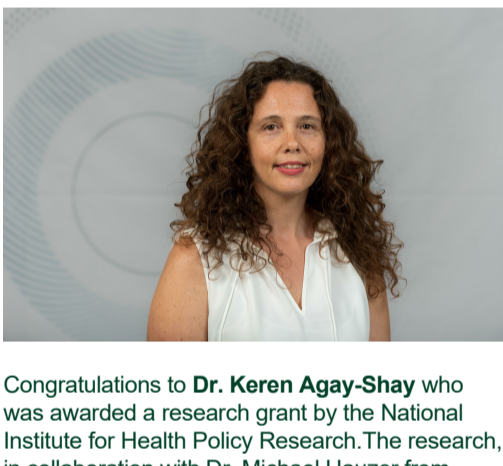
### Awards



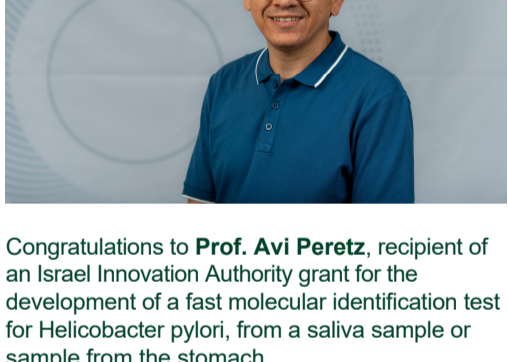
Congratulations to this year's Israel Science Foundation grant recipients: **Dr. Shai Bel, Prof. Michael Blank, Prof. Jacob Bornstein, Prof. Meital Gal-Tanani, Dr. Hanna Keren, Prof. Itay Onn, Dr. Nir Qvit, Prof. Jean Soustiel.**



Congratulations to **Dr. Ronit Ilouz** upon receipt of BSF (United States Israel Binalational Foundation) grant. Dr. Ronit Ilouz's lab has given a new name to a unique neurodegenerative disease: NLPD-PKA.  
[Read more](#) →



Congratulations to **Dr. Keren Agay-Shay** who was awarded a research grant by the National Institute for Health Policy Research. The research, in collaboration with Dr. Michael Hauser from Clalit Health Services and doctoral student Galit Tadmor, is entitled "Climate Change and Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM) - Greenness as an Adaptation Strategy."

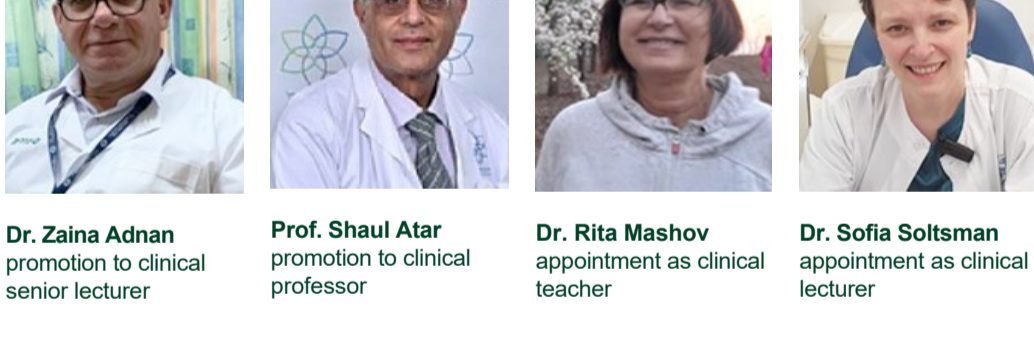


Congratulations to **Prof. Avi Peretz**, recipient of an Israel Innovation Authority grant for the development of a fast molecular identification test for Helicobacter pylori, from a saliva sample or sample from the stomach.



Congratulations to **Prof. Michael Edelstein** upon receipt of National Institute For Health Policy Research grant to study parental attitudes towards routine childhood vaccines pre/post Covid-19 in Israel and the UK.

### Promotions and Appointments



**Dr. Zaina Adnan** promotion to clinical senior lecturer  
**Prof. Shaul Atar** promotion to clinical professor  
**Dr. Rita Mashov** appointment as clinical teacher  
**Dr. Sofia Soltsman** appointment as clinical lecturer

### Press Exposure

[jpost.com: Israeli-Druze pharmacist becomes doctor, rejoins IDF with a mission](#) →

[Dr. Yusuif Awani, g-news.co.il](#) →

[\(Prof. Avi Peretz, doctoronly.co.il\)](#) →

[\(Dr. Ron Piran, haaretz.co.il\)](#) →

[מעריב: שילוב ממצא הרוקח הדרוזי הפך לרופא ועולה על מדים](#) →

[השיא נשבר: 98 סטודנטים בטקס "חלוק לבן" בפקולטה לרפואה – בין מקבלי החלוק לוחמים שהשתתפו במלחמה \(gnews.co.il\)](#) →

### Upcoming events

September 5, 2024  
**Launch of Center for Immunology and Infectious Diseases.**  
[Read more](#) →



September 19, 2024  
**The 2024 Microbiome Israel Workshop in memory of Eli Hurwitz z"l**  
[Read more](#) →



October 9-10, 2024  
**Annual Research Retreat**  
The event will focus on student research, and will offer them a unique opportunity to present their research to the academic community. There will also be lectures and poster sessions. The event is open to faculty researchers, doctors, interns, graduate students, and medical students.  
[Read more](#) →  
[Register](#) →



**מתעניינים בתארים מתקדמים במדעי הרפואה או הבריאות? בודקים לנגיט המדע של הפקולטה לתרפומים בגליל - חגיגה של מחקר לתארים מתקדמים**

[To the full Events list](#) →

### Academic Publications

Get a glimpse of the recent Azrieli faculty and researcher academic publications, updated weekly, here.

