



Newsletter
The Azrieli Faculty of Medicine
Jan 2025 | #87
Tevet 5785

The Azrieli Faculty of Medicine warmly embraces the hostages who were recently released from Gaza, and prays for continued optimistic news regarding all of the remaining hostages still being held in Hamas captivity.

What's New at the Faculty



New Academic Course for Students: Delivering Scientific Presentations and Peer Feedback
Dr. Nomy Dickman and Prof. David Karasik are leading a unique and important course aimed at equipping graduate students with essential skills for research and beyond—presenting scientific work to an audience and providing and receiving feedback. In this course, students practice effective science communication in small groups. [Read more](#) →

פסטיבל דוקאביב נגיד מעלות תרשיחא, הפקולטה לרפואה אוניברסיטת בר אילן, HOT8 ו-PROVIDE חברה להפקת סרטים נאים להזמין אתכם להקרנת הבכורה של הסרט "בית ספר לרפואה" (בוקי)

הקרנה מתקיים בצפת. אוניברסיטת בר אילן, הפקולטה לרפואה בר אילן, חניון סודר 8, צפת. תזיה: הסרטיה צפת

Premiere Screening of the Film "Medical School"
The Faculty of Medicine hosted the exciting premiere screening of the documentary film "Medical School," created by Udi Kalinsky and Revital Oren as part of the Docaviv Galilee Festival. The film follows three faculty students—Itay, Adi, and Eldad—on their personal and professional journeys through medical studies, revealing the challenges and dreams along the path to becoming doctors. [Read more \(in Hebrew\)](#) →

Spotlight on Research

The End of the Antibiotic Era
The Clinical Microbiology, Immunology and Infectious Diseases Research Laboratory, headed by **Professor Avi Peretz**, investigates infectious diseases that are the most common in hospitals and particularly in the Galilee, caused by bacteria such as Clostridioides difficile and Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori). We characterize bacterial virulence factors and antibiotic resistance, and host's immune response to pathogens and develop rapid methods for bacterial identification in clinical samples.



One investigated bacterium is H. pylori, which causes chronic gastritis and is prevalent in ~50% of world population. There is a great challenge in this bacterium treatment due to its high antibiotic resistance rates, and this is the reason why the world health organization included H. pylori in the list of bacteria with high priority for antibiotic research and development. Since the bacterium is difficult-to-culture, there is a limited data on antibiotic resistance and treatment, which includes 3-4 antibiotics, is empiric.

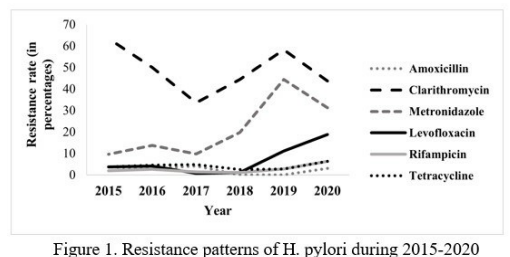


Figure 1. Resistance patterns of H. pylori during 2015-2020

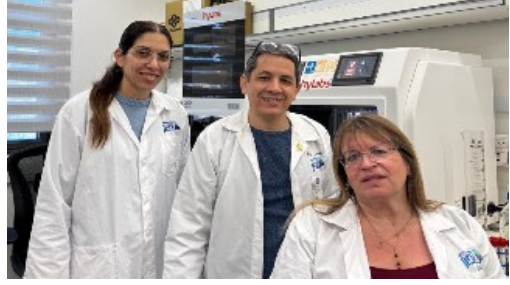
Our recent study screened 540 isolates who were recovered from gastric biopsies during 2015-2020, and found high resistance rates to clarithromycin (46.3%) and metronidazole (16.3%) that are both a first-line treatment. There was a significant increase in resistance rates of levofloxacin and metronidazole during the years. Additionally, resistance rates to some antibiotics were higher among bacteria recovered from Arab population, as compared to Jewish population. The study indicate on the importance of monitoring resistance, the need for guidelines update and the urgent need for new treatments.

[Read more](#) →

Awards



Congratulations to **Dr. Sivan Spitzer** upon receipt of a EU-IHI grant from the European Union aimed at developing an innovative platform to improve medication adherence among patients with cardio-metabolic conditions. CAREPATH brings together researchers from six European countries, in collaboration with leading pharmaceutical companies. [Read more](#) →



Congratulations to **Prof. Avi Peretz** and the Tzafon Medical Center on receipt of a grant from the Israel Innovation Authority for the establishment of The Tzafon Data and Bio-Bank in collaboration with the Azrieli Faculty of Medicine. This will not only be the first biobank in northern Israel but also a unique repository that will integrate bacterial samples alongside biological specimens. [Read more](#) →



Congratulations to **Prof. Michael Blank** on receipt of an Israel Cancer Association grant - Investigating novel regulatory mechanism of p38a MAPK axis in cancer and chemoresponse.



Congratulations to **Dr. Kobi Maman** on receipt of a grant from the Israel Cancer Association. His research will focus on the "hit-and-run" mechanism of the Helicobacter pylori bacterium, which underlies its carcinogenic potential. The study aims to connect DNA breaks that occur shortly after infection with long-term chromosomal changes that play a significant role in the development of gastric cancer among those infected.

Promotions and Appointments



Congratulations to **Dr. Said Abozaid** upon his appointment as clinical senior teacher



Congratulations to **Dr. Jonia Amer Alshiek** upon her appointment as clinical senior lecturer.



Congratulations to **Dr. Nasib Dally** upon his appointment as clinical teacher.



Congratulations to **Dr. Helana Jeries** upon her appointment as clinical lecturer.



Congratulations to **Dr. Moshe Matan** upon his appointment as clinical lecturer.



Congratulations to **Dr. Nir Tsabar** upon his appointment as clinical lecturer.

Press Exposure

[jpost.com: Teaching Israel's socioeconomically disadvantaged to avoid diabetes \(Dr. Sivan Spitzer\)](#) →

[Jewishbusinessnews.com: EU Funds €22M Project to Boost Heart Disease Medication Adherence with Bar-Ilan University Scientists \(Dr. Sivan Spitzer\)](#) →

[מבט נהריה והגליל המערבי: דר' כמאל אבו ג'בל נבחר למנהל מחלקה פנימית במרכז הרפואי לגליל](#) ←

[news08.net: ספרת הסוכרת בגליל יוצאת בקמפיין מיוחד \(פרופ' נעים שחאדה\)](#) ←

[חדש בגליל: הפקולטה לרפואה זכתה במענק של 22 מיליון יורו \(ד"ר סיוון שפיצר\)](#) ←

[כאן תרבות: בקרב הפריימטים הקדומים, לידת תאומים הייתה נפוצה מאוד. \(ד"ר אלון ברש\)](#) ←

[ידיעות אחרונות: נגיף HMPV מתפשט בסין \(פרופ' אבי פרץ\)](#) ←

[מבט נהריה והגליל המערבי: 70 תוצרים של מחקרים ו-45 פוסטרים: שבוע המחקר של המרכז הרפואי לגליל](#) ←

Upcoming Events

14.2.2025 - Bar-Ilan U. Open House

24.2.2025 - White Coat Ceremony טקס חלוק לבן Three-year Track שלתי שנת

[To the full Events list](#) →



Get a glimpse of the recent Azrieli faculty and researcher academic publications, updated weekly, [here](#).