



Dear Faculty, Students, and Colleagues,

Spring has sprung... Passover is just around the corner... And in our hearts, we pray for the safe return of all of our hostages by Seder night, the Festival of Freedom.

Meanwhile, the storm continues. But as a Faculty, we remain committed to ensuring a sense of security for each and every one of us, maintaining mutual respect for the rich cultural diversity that we meet on a daily basis. Through it all, the calm that we attempt to maintain at home is allowing us to continue training scientists and physicians and advancing research, as you will see in the attached newsletter.

With great excitement, we inaugurated the third center in our Galilee network—this time, dedicated to the study of rare genetic diseases and cancer. This Center will foster collaboration between physicians and researchers, enabling a deeper understanding of these conditions, the development and enhancement of treatments, and, ultimately, offering hope and support to patients and their families. And there is more to come—six additional centers are on the way! Stay tuned for updates. Soon, we will also launch a call for proposals for internal research grants for physicians and researchers collaborating within our research centers. These initiatives are part of our broader effort to promote health equity and strengthen the medical infrastructure in northern Israel.



We have launched exhibitions, celebrated the White Coat Ceremony for our three-year program cohort, marked International Women's Day, opened the "Career Café" club for our research students, presented our strategic plan to the Council for Higher Education, held a thesis conference for our medical students, and honored our creative, outstanding, forward-thinking, and brilliant faculty members. It's all here for you to explore!

In our next issue: "Teddy Bear Hospital" and the launch of our Alumni Club.

And in the meantime, we wish our Muslim colleagues a joyous and light-filled Eid al-Fitr!

Yours sincerely,
Prof. Orly Avni
Dean of the Azrieli Faculty of Medicine

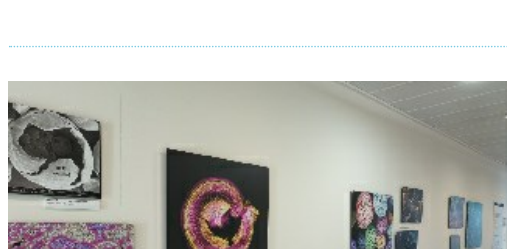
What's New at the Faculty



Women Are Changing Reality – Right Here at the Faculty of Medicine!
In honor of International Women's Day, the Faculty participated in a fascinating discussion on gender policy, disparities, and challenges – but also on resilience, growth, and opportunities.
[Read more](#) →



30 Medical Students Receive Their White Coats and Begin Clinical Training
Thirty medical students proudly received their white coats, signifying a pivotal milestone as they move from classroom-based learning at the Faculty to practical, patient-centered education in affiliated hospitals and community health centers across northern Israel.
[Read more](#) →

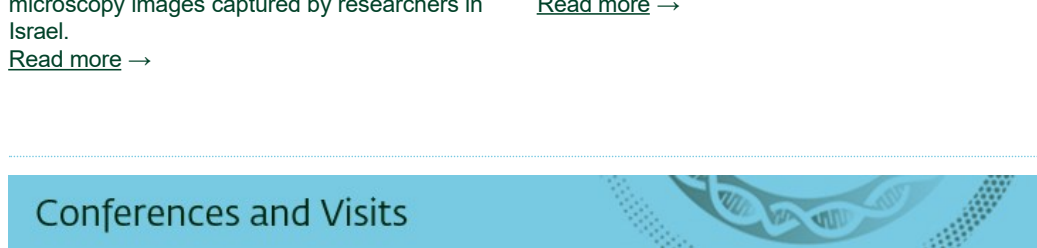


A "Microscopic" Exhibit at the Faculty!
The Faculty of Medicine is currently hosting a "traveling exhibition" of the Israel Society for Microscopy, showcasing a stunning selection of microscopy images captured by researchers in Israel.
[Read more](#) →



New! Coffee and Career Club
Informal monthly meetings have commenced, for students to learn about how to publish, apply for post-docs, opportunities in industry - and more.
[Read more](#) →

Conferences and Visits



New at the Faculty: Center for Research in Genetics and Malignant Diseases
This month the Azrieli Faculty of Medicine inaugurated a new research center, headed by Prof. Itay Onn, Prof. Tzipora Falik-Zaccai, and Dr. Kobi Maman. The center aims to foster collaborations between Faculty researchers and physicians in affiliated hospitals, integrating clinical knowledge with research.
[Read more](#) →



Council for Higher Education Visit
The Faculty was delighted to host the executive team of The Council for Higher Education (CHE). Their visit provided an opportunity to showcase our academic excellence, medical innovation, and commitment to advancing healthcare in the region.
[Read more](#) →



Medical Cadets Present Their Final Research Projects at 2025 Galileum Conference
Program students once again participated in Galileum's Science and Technology Research Paper Conference, which has been held annually for the past 11 years. This year, the conference was hosted at the Azrieli Faculty of Medicine in Safed.
[Read more](#) →

Spotlight on Research

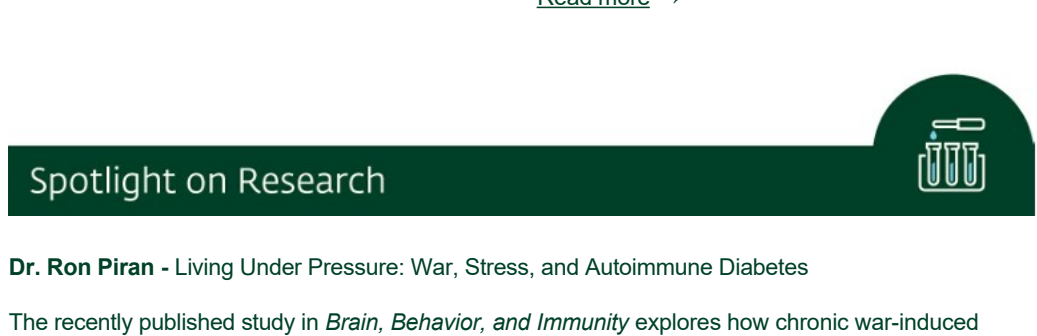
Dr. Ron Piran - Living Under Pressure: War, Stress, and Autoimmune Diabetes

The recently published study in *Brain, Behavior, and Immunity* explores how chronic war-induced stress accelerates the onset of type 1 diabetes in NOD mice.

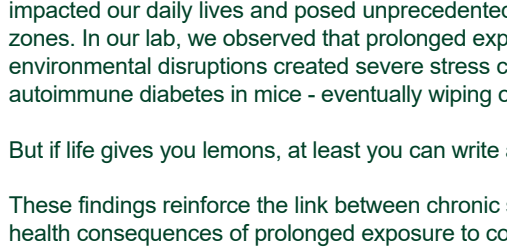
The war between Israel and Hezbollah, which began immediately after October 7, 2023, significantly impacted our daily lives and posed unprecedented challenges for researchers working in conflict zones. In our lab, we observed that prolonged exposure to sirens, explosions, power outages, and environmental disruptions created severe stress conditions, leading to an accelerated onset of autoimmune diabetes in mice - eventually wiping out the entire cohort.

But if life gives you lemons, at least you can write a paper about them.

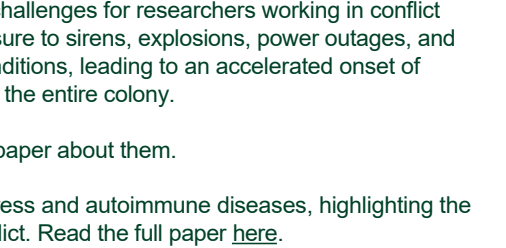
These findings reinforce the link between chronic stress and autoimmune diseases, highlighting the health consequences of prolonged exposure to conflict. Read the full paper [here](#).



Awards



Congratulations to **Dr. Liron Rosenkrantz** upon being selected as one of the Rising Stars of the Association for Psychological Science (APS) – the only scholar from Israeli universities to be included in this prestigious list! Congratulations too on receiving a grant from the BIU Brain Research Center, together with Prof. Reuma Gadassi-Polak, for their research on cognitive biases in autism and depression.



Congratulations to **Prof. Avi Peretz** on winning the University's Influential Research Survey. Prof. Peretz's research led to the development of a rapid diagnostic test for the Helicobacter pylori bacterium, making a significant contribution to the field.



Congratulations to **Nadav Toledano, Dr. Shai Bel, and Dr. Gassan Moady** upon receipt of Bar-Ilan University's Outstanding Lecturer Award for 2025.
[Read more](#) →

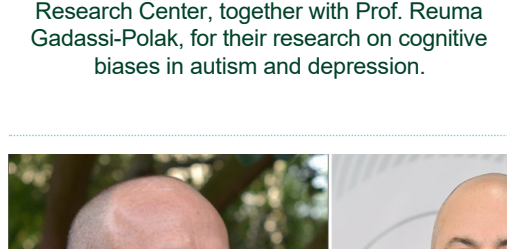
Promotions and Appointments



Congratulations to **Dr. Noam Fuchs** upon his appointment as clinical senior lecturer.



Congratulations to **Prof. Wisam Sbeit** upon his appointment as clinical lecturer.



Congratulations to **Dr. Khetam Hussein** upon her promotion to clinical associate professor.



Congratulations to **Dr. Tawfik Khoury** upon his promotion to clinical associate professor.

Press Exposure

ידיעות טבריה: פריצת דרך דרמטית: ב"צפון" החלו לבער השתלות של לב מלאכותי. (פרופ' עידו בירתי) [newshaifakravot.net](#): בשורה טובה לסובלים מסוכרת (ספרת הסוכרת בגליל) כאן ד': ד"ר עאנני ניסוף זרה הצפון: פרופ' נימר עאסי [medi-cal.co.il](#): פנים חדשות במרכז בריאות הילד של כללית במגדל העמק: ד"ר צופית הקסנר-ארלימן מבט לגליל ולגולן: 30 סטודנטים לרפואה קיבלו השבוע חלוק לבן

עיתון שחרית: מרפאה חדשה בשכונת הבוסתן בחצור הגלילית (בוגר ד"ר תמר קליש) ידיעות אחרונות: מתמחים בסיכון: סטרס. מעט שינה ושימוש בממריצים (פרופ' עידו בירתי) [israel21c.org](#): Arab vaccination rates in Israel found comparatively high (Dr. Jumanah Essa-Hadad, Prof. Michael Edelstein)

Upcoming Events

2.4.2025 - Graduate Degree Open House at Ramat Gan Campus - See [here](#) for more details

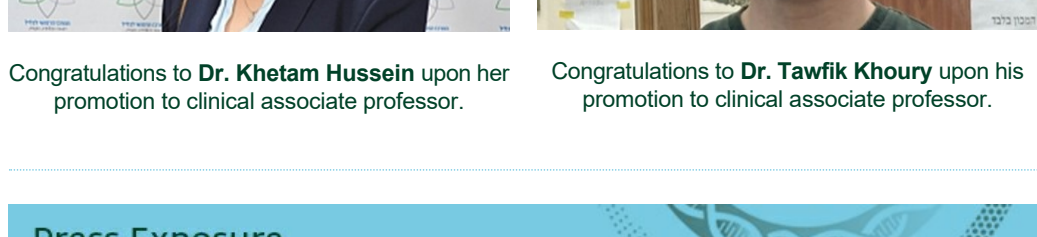
7.4.2025 - Faculty Seminar (Medical Sciences) - Prof. Sivan Korenblit (BIU): Genetic strategies towards improving proteostasis and healthspan - lessons from C. elegans

21.4.2025 - Preclinical and Clinical Course Coordinator Retreat

23.4.2025 - Faculty Seminar (Health Sciences) - Prof. Khitam Muhsen, School of Medicine, TAU

28.4.2025 - Faculty Seminar (Medical Sciences) - Prof. Shay Ben-Aroya (BIU): TBA

[To the full Events list](#) →



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