



AJMF NEWS

The Newsletter of the Australian Jewish Medical Federation

www.ajmf.org.au | Spring 2017

Presidents Report AJMF (VIC)

With the start of spring our thoughts turn to renewal with blossoms on the trees and the Jewish festivals upon us. It is also time for reflection of where AJMF is at for 2017.

We are very pleased about the successful functions we have held this year. This included an informative dinner meeting, where we heard Dr Linda Schachter speak on Optimising drug delivery to lungs for people with asthma and Dr Daniel Lewis on Managing chronic pain. We are grateful to Mundipharma for their sponsorship of this event.

In July, the current Israeli fellows who are recipients of AJMF scholarships spoke to us about their work and experiences of living and practising in Melbourne. This included Dr Uri Dior at Royal Womens Hospital, Dr Amit Lotan at Florey Institute, Dr Chanan Shaul at Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, Dr Shaul Yaari at Western Health and Dr Nava Shaul-Lotan at Royal Childrens Health. We would like to thank the Ptaznik family for generously opening their home for this evening.

We have two more successful Israeli fellows who have reached our shores. Dr Samuel Moscovici from Hadassah Hospital and Dr Amit Azriel from Soroka Medical Centre. They are both doing neurosurgery fellowships at Royal Melbourne Hospital and we wish them well.

We had a joint function with the Australian Jewish Psychologists and heard Professor Rael Strous from Mayanei Hayeshua Medical Centre in Bnei Brak speak about "Final exit by choice: Halachic perspectives on euthanasia". He quoted Victor Frankl who said that "Between stimulus and response there is a space. In that that space there is our power to chose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom."



Left to Right: Amit Azriel, Miriam Kuttner, Samuel Moscovici, Uri Dior

Our film night was again a very popular function for our members, who enjoyed a preview of the movie "Bye Bye Germany" from the Jewish International Film Festival. The remaining function for the year is our AGM at 7:30pm on Sunday November 26 at Emmy Monash Aged Care. The guest speaker will be Professor Ashley Bush, who will speak on the topic Alzheimer's Disease: The Search for a Cure.

I would like to thank the committee members for their support and work during the year. As always I am indebted to Annette, our administrator, who keeps everything organised. Suggestions for future functions and RSVPs for the AGM can be sent to presvic@ajmf.org.au

Dr Miriam Kuttner



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It was my great pleasure to attend the 3rd International Conference on the Fragile X Premutation, this year held 5th – 7th September at the Mt Zion Hotel, Jerusalem. The meeting was hosted by Dr Shai Elizur and Dr Yoram Cohen from the Fragile X medical group in the highly regarded Sheba Medical Centre at Tel Hashomer. This multidisciplinary group comprises paediatricians, neurologists, obstetricians, geneticists and allied health practitioners who utilise a shared clinical database and run the largest Fragile X clinic in the middle east caring for over 1000 families. Our clinic in Melbourne only has 300 families so we had a lot talk about! As well as locals, this meeting attracts the leading clinical and laboratory researchers from the USA, Europe and around the world who present, discuss, and of course argue (politely) about current approaches to the science and clinical application associated with the gene.

The Fragile X full mutation is the most common known inherited cause of developmental disability and single gene cause of autism spectrum disorders. It causes a range of learning problems, emotional and behaviour problems including anxiety and ADHD. However, the premutation can result in a separate symptomatic clinical phenotype involving specific endocrine and neurological dysfunction known as 'Fragile X associated Disorders' (FXD). These include Fragile X Tremor Ataxia Syndrome (FXTAS), a progressive neurological degenerative disorder which may be confused with Parkinson's Disease, and Fragile X Premature Ovarian Insufficiency which occurs in 20% of carriers (compared with 1% in the general population). There are also a range of premutation associated medical and neuropsychological disorders including anxiety and executive function defects which may affect a subgroup of premutation carriers. FXD has been estimated to affect approximately 10 million people worldwide with approximately 1 in 250 females and 1 in 430 males carrying the premutation.

There is currently much work going on to more clearly elucidate the function of the gene including translational research. We heard presentations from basic science through to the use of existing medications used for other conditions to restore normal function. Data was presented on 'knock-in' drosophila fly and mouse models which are used to study both downstream effects and 'rescue' medications with much promise for the future. Keynote speakers included Prof Paul Hagerman from the MIND Institute in California who presented an overview on FXTAS, and Prof Yonath, the Middle East's only female Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, who presented a fascinating review of the molecular basis of Genetic Code Translation. Other presentations included the use of a new smartphone app developed in Israel with both research and clinical application for neurological disorders, neurosurgical treatments and screening.

Israel is decades ahead of other countries in offering routine genetic carrier screening for relatively common conditions such as FXS, Cystic Fibrosis and Spinal Muscular Atrophy. Screening is provided free by the government and taken up by 80% of the female population prior to starting a family. Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD) is a form of IVF also freely available to carriers of single gene disorders, although spontaneous pregnancy with chorionovillous sampling (CVS) has better outcomes. Genetic carrier screening is becoming routine standard of care in Australia, with Melbourne's Victorian Clinical Genetic Services offering this technology for the last 2 years in keeping with current Australian and international recommendations. Screening for FXS is increasingly offered together with screening for other genetic conditions, and increasingly as 'expanded carrier screening' where 100 or more genetic conditions are screened for with a simple blood or saliva test. Our clinic is now offering these tests to both the jewish and general community in response to increasing demand. Israel has 20 years' experience in this area and their clinicians and researchers have published widely. It was extremely inspiring to see the leading role this group has taken in providing academic leadership to international clinicians and researchers in this area.

Dr Jonathan Cohen



In late May of 2017, more than 260 participants from 16 countries attended a wonderful two-day conference on post-traumatic stress (PTSD) in Jerusalem. It happened to coincide with the visit to Israel of American president, Donald Trump- no prizes for guessing which was the more exciting and interesting. This was the first conference of its kind in Israel and was developed through the strong collaboration between Hadassah Hospital and Hadassah Australia. It was a remarkable conference in many ways, not the least of which was the location. Throughout history Jerusalem has unfortunately been a global flashpoint for violence resulting in many people experiencing the stress of conflict and some going on to develop PTSD and other stress-related conditions. We were, in a sense, meeting at this ancient coalface of conflict. Participants from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds attended the conference. The health sector, emergency services,

armed forces and veterans affairs were all strongly represented. It was gratifying to see many local Israeli researchers and clinicians participating in the conference, and I was struck by the depth of local research.

Importantly, conference participants also included Palestinian child psychologists and other therapists from the West Bank and Gaza. I say, importantly, because their communities are experiencing many of the same issues faced by Israelis. A real highlight of the conference was to see that in the area of health, there exist some close, trusting and long-standing relationships between Israelis and Palestinians. These have survived despite the inter-communal challenges over the last 30 years. Perhaps this provides some hope as a way forward amidst the labyrinth of middle east conflict.

The conference was the brainchild of Professor Leon Piterman, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Monash University (Berwick and Peninsula), and Ron Finkel, President of Hadassah Australia, together with Professor Omer Bonne, Head of the Department of Psychiatry at the Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem. Professor David Forbes from the University of Melbourne stepped up to co-chair the event and brought the world's leaders in the field together for an outstanding conference program.

The keynote address at the opening dinner was delivered by Amos Oz, regarded as Israel's most important living author. He spoke about his famous novel *A Tale of Love and Darkness*, and he related his own experiences to the familial aspects of depression and suicide. In his special way, he weaved a narrative which spanned the personal, the political and the emotional. He brought a perspective that one only can achieve in the later years of life after an extraordinary career such as his.

Participants were also treated to a front row seat to observe Yom Yerushalayim celebrations from the rooftop of Beit Shmuel where the conference dinner was held. Ron Finkel joked that the light and fireworks show were planned for us in honour of the conference. We couldn't help but reflect on this unique moment in history; it was exactly 50 years since the Jewish people woke to a reunified Jerusalem.

The plenary sessions were really off the charts, and I had to text my children that today I felt like the dumbest guy in the room! This was not a conference that had presentations just to fill the spaces; indeed, some very critical and timely fundamental debates about the nature of post-traumatic stress disorder were in full flight - how it is diagnosed, what criteria, and how it should be treated were fiercely debated and discussed. What struck me was that the speakers brought a strong scientific base to their arguments, while integrating a very humanistic and clinical perspective based on many years of experience.

Many colleagues from leading centres of learning and research around the world commented to me that this was truly a world-class conference. Prof Arie Shalev from New York gave a wonderful overview for people who were new to the field (like me!); sometimes the most brilliant people make complex things seem simple. Prof Jayashri Kulkarni did Australia proud, giving an inspirational and much needed women's perspective to PTSD, especially in relation to domestic violence. Prof. Richard Bryant provided deep insights on managing prolonged grief, all based on a meticulous set of research data. Prof Mario Mikulincer opened my eyes to the importance of attachment theories and how people really need a secure base to recover, and as a GP this really resonated with me in terms of the great job GPs often do in simply providing a safe haven and secure base for disturbed patients. Prof Alexander McFarlane enlightened us about the prolonged impacts of traumatic stress. Prof Neil Greenberg from the UK and Prof Zahava Solomon gave brilliant papers about the armed forces. Some of the presentations from members of the IDF were a real eye opener, exposing the vast challenges they have in taking care of their young people in extreme combat situations.



Ron Finkel, Amos Oz, Marlene and Abe Zelwer



Brendon Hayman with Grant Blashki

The parallel sessions consisted of very high quality, short (10 minutes was not long enough) presentations about various research projects and intervention projects being undertaken around the world. Quite seriously, many of these presentations would usually be the subject of plenary sessions in their own right, and it would be nice to see more time for these presentations in future conferences.

Australians were overrepresented at this conference, and as is often the case, I met a lot of new Aussies even though we live in the same country. Many Australians made the big effort to attend the conference and were a loud voice even amongst Israelis! I was also proud to discover that Hadassah Australia were the initiator and funder of the beautiful Healing and Environmental Garden at Hadassah Hospital's Mt Scopus campus, where we enjoyed drinks, canapés and jazz on the second night.

To my mind, conferences such as these are a fantastic answer to those who seek to isolate Israeli academics through idiotic boycotts. Interestingly, around the time of the conference, the leading medical journal in the world, *The Lancet*, chose to run an edition dedicated to high-quality Israeli research. This was a real turnaround after they published a highly critical and unfair letter about Israel back in 2014. This about-face followed the editor's visit to Israel where he witnessed first-hand the stellar quality of the medical research community in Israel.

As you can sense, I am very excited about how this conference came together and let's hope it's the first of many. There was certainly interest and demand from speakers and attendees from around the world, and the conference easily could have gone for another day or two. All credit to Ron Finkel for his unstoppable enthusiasm and optimism. Another hero of the conference was Professor David Forbes who leads the Phoenix Centre for Post Traumatic Mental Health at the University of Melbourne and who we tapped on the shoulder in the early days to help with his professional networks. In fact, David ended up co-chairing the conference and was a wonderful leader of the program. Congratulations too to Hadassah Australia who led the conference and who I discovered are also the largest non-government funder of the Jerusalem Crisis Intervention Center, and really laid the groundwork for the conference.

Dr Grant Blashki

Conflict of Interest Declaration

Grant Blashki served on the scientific committee of International Conference on Trauma and Mental Health. He has not received any payment or financial incentives from Hadassah Australia or the Conference.

Doing Israel's Humanitarian Work

A team of Australian Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) specialists and a nurse arrived in Fiji at the end of July, to provide free health screenings and surgeries at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva. This humanitarian medical mission was arranged through the Israeli Embassy in Canberra, with the assistance of the Australasian Jewish Medical Federation. The mission generated a lot of positive press and publicity for Israel in Fiji and around the world.

The Israel Department of Foreign Affairs under the aegis of MASHAV (Centre of International Development & Cooperation) has again sponsored an international aid mission to Fiji in the form of a 10 day ENT mission to Suva. This year's mission was the third of its kind involving our team of two ENT surgeons, an anaesthetist and scrub nurse. Previous missions have been in 2013 and 2014. Israeli aid to Fiji has been significant recently involving such activities as donating solar panels to rural villages for electricity and rebuilding of a whole village after cyclone damage.

This year's mission was particularly significant as it coincided with the installation of the new Israeli Ambassador to the Pacific Islands, Tibor Schlosser, who is based in Jerusalem. Previously the Pacific Islands responsibilities were looked after by the Israel Embassy in Canberra. Now logistics for Pacific Islands issues will still go through staff based in Canberra but are under the responsibility of the ambassador for Pacific Islands in Jerusalem.

We knew this was going to be a special mission as soon as we arrived. After coming through customs at the airport we were met by a crowd of Fijians waving Israeli flags, media photographers and well-wishers wearing "we love Israel" T-shirts.



Our mission, as with any aid mission involves triaging patients for the first day or so and then spending seven days doing surgeries at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva. This year's mission was quite equipment intensive. We brought 12 equipment crates, filled with operating instruments, supplies to be used and given to locals, and one third of a crate of kosher food.

A highlight of this year's surgeries included a laryngotracheal reconstruction on a two-year old Fijian girl for which we had to fly in Associate Professor Rob Berkowitz. Rob gave willingly of his time cancelling his local commitments at the spur of the moment to come



and help out.

Dr Ed Pudel, ENT Head and Neck surgeon, managed to perform quite complex surgery including sinonasal surgery and a total laryngectomy and neck dissection for invasive thyroid cancer whilst Dr Michael Gordon, ENT and otologic surgeon, performed the bulk of the ear surgeries including removing a number of large and dangerous cholesteatomas.

We were backed up by an excellent anaesthetist, Dr. Mark Fajgman, who is able to cope with anything. The hardest worker though must have been our scrub nurse Gail McNaught who needed to organize everything before a case, work through the case and then sort out everything after.

Overall this year we performed 21 major surgeries. In conjunction with all of this we found ourselves on the media quite a bit with local journalists constantly interviewing us. Team members also found themselves on the local television breakfast show on 2 mornings.

Whilst all of this was going on, we had opportunities to take part in ceremonies and meetings with the new ambassador in the evenings which was quite a privilege.

It has been a great honour to be involved in such an aid mission and particularly to be able to work with such skilled and able colleagues.

The visit would not have been a success without the support of a number of individuals and organisations.

We would like to thank sponsoring companies and their reps including:

Karl Storz, Zeiss, Endotherapeutics, Medtronic, ENT Technologies, Balance Medical, Smith & Nephew, AshMed, Masada Hospital and the team there, as well as the AJMF for assisting with logistics.

Dr Michael Gordon & Dr Ed Pudel (ENT Surgeons)

Biomedical research student elective | Technion

Erika Strazdins received a Student Scholarship through the NSW branch of AJMF

My elective at the Technion Institute in Israel complemented my medical education and extended my experience as a researcher. In no other discipline has research been more pivotal today than the field of immunology, with the opportunity to directly translate laboratory findings into better outcomes for patients with autoimmune diseases, cancers, and immune deficiencies. My elective term gave me the unique opportunity to be on the cusp of this revolution under the supervision of Professor Natan Karin in the department of immunology. I was particularly excited to negotiate melanoma as my research area. Apart from melanoma being a highly relevant disease in Australia due to its prevalence and affinity with the outdoors, I am also familiar with some clinical aspects of melanoma from my general practice and plastic surgery rotations. Fear about the rapidity of the disease and its limited treatment options was a common theme from the patient narratives I encountered in my clinical placements. Their fear was a powerful emotion, which together with my curiosity about the biology of melanoma which underlies its aggressiveness motivated me to undertake two months of biomedical research in the field of melanoma cancer immunology.



Performing operations on mouse models of melanoma at the Technion

Throughout my studies I have been inspired by clinicians who are researchers, as they devote their lives to improving the health of others both through their patient care and academic pursuits. From early on in my medical studies I have sought research opportunities with the desire to contribute to patient care through an academic channel. An elective at the Technion gave me the unique opportunity to be part of a pioneering research team in immunological research. Focussing on molecular aspects of cancer biology was challenging for a medical student who has been trained to see the patient as a whole. However, during intensive periods I remembered those patients with melanoma I saw clinically in Australia, and was excited to be taking concrete steps to improving the lives of patients with melanoma through this research. As part of my time there I was specifically involved in identifying factors which influence the survival of a subset of tumour-promoting cells. By monitoring the effect of various molecular signals on these malignant cells I was able to identify factors that could help us understand why melanoma tumours are so

aggressive. I was also able to apply my critical analysis skills to the development of a systematic review of the current body of literature on these cells, as it is a challenge for scientists to keep up with the pace of this new knowledge. This elective has provided a strong link to understanding how research can be translated to better patient care, and has only strengthened my passion for medical research. It is my hope that I will be able to pursue this in future with the prospect of a joint project between Israel and Australia, or a PhD at the Technion in order to contribute to patient care beyond personal clinical interactions.

While it felt like I only scratched the surface in the field of immunology and cancer research, I developed deep relationships with Israeli researchers. In particular I worked closely with the PhD and masters students in Professor Karin's laboratory, who I have come close to convincing to come to Australia for their post-doctoral studies! In addition, I had the privilege of meeting doctors working in Israel's healthcare system. It was inspiring to hear their stories about the exceptional healthcare they deliver to patients in Israel and contrast this with Australian practice. It was a privilege to promote the values of the Australian Jewish Medical Federation in fellowship, exchange of knowledge, and networking between Australia and Israel in my two months there. I look forward to nurturing these relationships further and contribute to collaborative research projects between Israel and Australia in my future career.

The scholarship from the Australian Jewish Medical Federation generously supported my medical and cultural studies throughout my elective. I have supported myself financially throughout my entire university career, and this has proved challenging when balancing my strong academic results, research, and extra-curricular commitments. As such, my elective to Israel was my first long overseas trip. Israel has a history comprised of multiple layers from numerous cultures and it was humbling learning about these defining points in human history. My travels went from the Old City of Jerusalem to the roman ruins of Masada, and from the Crusader period in Akko to the modern Israeli culture of Tel Aviv. I had so many precious experiences, a small fraction of which are shared in the photographs below. My elective in Israel has changed my life for the better, in nurturing my passion for medical research, the wonderful friendships I gained, and the privilege of being part of cultural richness of Israel. I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to the Australian Jewish Medical Federation for nurturing my love of medicine, research, and Israel.

Erika Strazdins UNSW Medicine, VI



Assessing the effect of chemokines on melanoma cells in the laboratory

Israeli Fellowship | Advanced Laproscopic Surgery, Royal Women's Hospital

Uri Dior received support from the VIC branch of AJMF

My wife Shalhevet, and I, with our four kids - Hodaya (14), Noam (12), Beeri-Miriam (8) and Hillel (5), moved to Melbourne 1.5 years ago for my fellowship in Advanced Laparoscopic surgery and Endometriosis. My wife and I are both Israeli "Tzabars" (being 6th and 8th generation in Israel!) and live in Jerusalem since we married. I have completed my 6 years training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Hadassah Ein Kerem Medical Centre in Jerusalem at 2015. My main interest during my training was in the fields of infertility and surgery. I was fortunate to be trained in infertility in my home hospital by doctors who were pioneers and world leaders in the field of infertility. In the second half of my training I have established in Hadassah the recurrent pregnancy loss clinic in which I had the privilege to treat and help women and couples who suffered the terrible experience of losing their pregnancy multiple times.

One of the diseases that can very badly affect women's fertility is Endometriosis. Endometriosis, that can present with pain symptoms and/or infertility, affects 10% of women of reproductive age and up to 50% of women with infertility. Even though this disease is so common, I hardly came across patients with endometriosis during my training. This was due to the fact that there is not even one treatment centre for endometriosis in the entire Jerusalem district. Endometriosis, which is an enigmatic disease that is called by some "the benign cancer" can cause severe dysfunction and can be debilitating. In rare cases, it can progress into cancer. The treatment approach to endometriosis is complex and involves psychological support, medical and surgical treatment. Endometriosis can affect all pelvic and abdominal organs. In severe cases, the surgical treatment can be extremely complex.

In order to obtain the skills that would allow me to provide good medical and surgical treatment for patients who suffer from endometriosis, as well as from other gynaecological diseases, I applied for a fellowship position of the Australian Gynaecological Endoscopy and Surgery Society. I was very lucky to be successful in the application and to be accepted to the fellow position at the Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne in the Endometriosis Unit. During my fellowship, I'm taught by leading surgeons in the field of advanced laparoscopic surgery and endometriosis. I am learning the medical and surgical treatment of endometriosis, including the



Left to Right: Beeri-Miriam, Uri, Noam, Hodaya, Shalhevet, Hillel

management of complex cases of endometriosis involving bowel and bladder and collaborating with other surgical teams. I am also exposed and trained to treat a large variety of other gynaecological diseases who require complex laparoscopic treatment. Being highly interested in research and as I have done during my work in Israel, also here I'm involved in multiple research projects. The large volume of patients at The Royal Women's Hospital (so much larger than what I was used to in Israel!) - allowed me to initiate and conduct two large clinical trials that will hopefully be completed by the time I go back home.

We are now almost three quarters of our way through our Aussie experience. While the move to Australia was quite challenging - the kids and us are now enjoying very much our time here and trying to make the most out of it. We really love Australia (and especially Melbourne) and are very grateful to all those who have welcomed us here so warmly. We are also very thankful for the AJMF for the support you have provided us with.

Alongside this unique family experience, I truly hope to be able to bring back to Jerusalem the skills I acquired here, and to be able to combine treatment of infertility and surgery so I could assist those women who are suffering so much as a result of infertility, endometriosis and other gynaecological diseases.

Dr. Uri Dior



Contact UIA for further info: NSW (02) 9361 4273 VIC (03) 9272 5533 WA (08) 9275 1186

Jewish Founder Mutations | Genetic Testing

Leah* was a busy 38 year old mother of two primary aged children, juggling home and work and rarely having time for herself. However when she found a lump in her breast she wasted no time having it assessed. Within weeks she had undergone breast conserving surgery for a lymph node-positive and triple negative (ER-, PR-, HER2-) breast cancer and started a long course of chemotherapy.

She was surprised when her surgeon referred her to the Hereditary Cancer Clinic – both her parents were alive and well and she knew of no family history of breast cancer.

Leah was not aware that more than 2% of Ashkenazim carry one of the three specific mutations in the BRCA1 or BRCA2.

Leah was also not aware that these mutations are carried equally by both men and women.

Genetic testing showed that Leah carries a mutation in BRCA1, and so does her Dad. Her Dad has a younger brother and no sisters, his mother is cancer free at 89 and his father was the only child, giving no clue to the gene fault in the family.

After her treatment was completed, Leah elected to have bilateral mastectomies with reconstruction. Both Leah and her older sister Debbie, who also carries the mutation, underwent risk reducing salpingo-oophorectomy. Debbie is on hormone replacement therapy to prevent the long term effects of early surgical menopause. She is having annual breast MRI as well as mammography, and is considering risk reducing mastectomy.

Leah's treatment took a huge toll on her family for over a year, and the ongoing effects of a cancer diagnosis on a young woman such as Leah last much longer. While Leah is grateful that her sister Debbie and other relatives could have predictive testing, she is understandably frustrated that she could not have had genetic testing before she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Until now, genetic testing for BRCA gene faults associated with Jewish ancestry (known as the Jewish Founder Mutations or JFMs) was done on individuals with a personal or family history of breast or ovarian cancer. Testing was only done through genetics services after pre-test genetic counselling at a hospital and collection of one or two blood samples.



However, there is emerging evidence that other methods of providing pre-test information and consent may be an option. In some laboratories, testing can be done using a cheek swab and not a blood sample.

With the support of the Wolper Jewish Hospital, Lesley Andrews, Head of the Hereditary Cancer Clinic at the Prince of Wales Hospital, and her colleague, Nicole Cousens, have developed an interactive website to provide pre-test information and consent for JFM testing. Anyone aged over 18 who lives in Sydney (male or female) who has Jewish ancestry and wants to be tested for the three Jewish founder mutations of BRCA1 and BRCA2 can be tested. On submission of the online consent, a cheek swab kit will be mailed to the participant.

As this is a novel approach to genetic testing, participants will be asked to complete questionnaires before and after they receive results. Participants with a positive result or who has a concerning family history, together with a random sample of negative participants, will be told their results at a clinic appointment. All other participants with a negative result will receive their results by email.

As an alternative method of pre-test information and consent, Prof Martin Delatycki from the Victorian Clinical Genetics Services and Murdoch Childrens' Research Institute in Melbourne will be offering testing through community events, supported by Ovarian Cancer Australia.

Lesley's goal is to work towards the day when no Jewish woman will be diagnosed with breast or ovarian cancer that could have been prevented if she had known she was at high risk. "Of course being told there is a BRCA mutation in the family can be devastating, but not as devastating as being told that you or your daughter has incurable cancer."

The program is due to start pilot testing shortly and will be launched to Jewish communities in Sydney and Melbourne early next year.

*Dr Lesley Andrews,
Hereditary Cancer Clinic, Prince of Wales Hospital*

**Not her real name*



International Program in Emergency & Disaster Management
Sackler Faculty of Medicine
Tel Aviv University

The Department of Disaster Management and Injury Prevention (DMIP) at the Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel-Aviv University, invites you to join a one-year intensive **Master's program in Emergency and Disaster Management** for international students (taught in English).

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Further info: emergexint.tau.ac.il or email: emergex@tauex.tau.ac.il.

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SAVE THE DATE

Further information about upcoming events and conferences are posted on our website
www.ajmf.org.au

VIC - 22 NOV 2017

Community screening program for 8 conditions common in Ashkenazi Jewish people.

Beth Weizman, 6:00 – 7:30pm.
Further information: Kate Scarff
(03) 8341 6394 or email
katrina.scarff@vcgs.org.au

VIC - AGM 26 NOV 2017

Emmy Monash Aged Care, 7:30pm
Guest Speaker: **Prof Ashley Bush: Alzheimer's Disease: The Search for the Cure.**

RSVP: presvic@ajmf.org.au

ISRAEL - 3-8 DEC 2017

MDA International Seminar in Emergency Response
Further info: MDA NSW
(02) 9358 2521,
MDA VIC (03) 9272 5633

ISRAEL - 9-18 OCT 2018

UIA Australia - Medical and Dental Mission to Israel
Register your interest with your local UIA office or contact
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AJMFNEWS



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