Braun School of Public Health
and Community Medicine
Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Hadassah Medical Organization

THE HEBREW
UNIVERSITY
OF JERUSALEM

International MPH Alumni Newsletter Fall 2023

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Fall 2023

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Dear IMPH Alumni,

The 48th IMPH cohort graduated on September 11, 2023, with a very beautiful and moving ceremony, and has joined the remarkable community of IMPH alumni, bringing pride to their families, nations, as well as to the Braun School, Hebrew University, and Hadassah.
We were fortunate to have with us at the ceremony, among the many distinguished guests, Sir Trevor, and Lady Pears, of the Pears Foundation. We closed the ceremony with an Israeli song of hope for the upcoming year, that was sang jointly by our students and teachers. The translated words of the chorus are "you will see how good it will be in the year to come." Little did we know then what a terrible time awaited us.

On Saturday October 7, Hamas terrorists entering the South of Israel from the Gaza strip, massacred over 1,400 people, wounded over 3000, and kidnapped over 200 people, including women, children and elderly. The humanitarian crisis and loss of innocent lives in Gaza, due to Israel's response to these atrocities, should be acknowledged as well. The impact of this catastrophe is tremendous, and it will take a long time to fully appreciate its implications.

In the micro-cosmos of the Hebrew University, a committee was formed from among Jewish and Arab faculty and staff to address the tensions created by the war. The committee sent out a joint message to the management of the Hebrew University. Quoting the first paragraph of the message: "The horrific massacre perpetuated by Hamas on October 7th, 2023 left all of us - Jews and Arabs - shocked, heartbroken, and angry. The families or acquaintances of many members of the Hebrew University were killed or harmed in Hamas's attack. Many members of the community have been called up from reserves, and many of our Arab students have family members and acquaintances in Gaza. The challenging days of war that we are experiencing are accompanied by loss, grief, and profound pain." These words convey something of the complexity and the pain this war brings to everyone involved, be it directly or indirectly.

Given the situation, the opening of the academic year in all Israeli universities has been postponed, and our students of the 49th IMPH cohort are awaiting its beginning in their home countries. This year's cohort includes 22 IMPH students from 14 countries, 11 women and 11 men, with varied professional and cultural backgrounds. We have started remote teaching two weeks ago and although we are being challenged by technical issues, familiar to us from the time of the pandemic, all students are fully committed and enthusiastic. We are very hopeful that our students will be able to join us in Jerusalem in several weeks.

Knowing our remarkable group of alumni, I trust that you are all engaged in doing good globally. I hope to meet many of you at our IMPH Alumni Conference in Nairobi in May 2024. The global challenges of Public Health are huge, dynamic and ever-growing. At times these challenges feel overwhelming. Yet, it is our duty to do whatever we can to cope with them, to relentlessly work for the well-being of communities around the world. Even at times of uncertainty, especially in these times, we must not lose sight of the core missions in Public Health: Preventing suffering, delaying and averting disability, promoting social justice, and above holding on to our humanity.
The alumni community is a resource of mutual learning and support, solidarity and inspiration. We can and should rely on each other's knowledge, experience and assistance to promote global health.

Wishing us and our world peace and health.

Sincerely,

Dr. Hagit Hochner, MSc, PhD, IMPH Director

Dear IMPH Alumni,

We all appreciate how our lives can go from joy to sadness but we all hope to return to joy! In the midst of the war in Israel, with all that continues to be horrific, we step back to remember the joy and pride we felt as we welcomed our 48th IMPH cohort to the IMPH Alumni family upon their graduation, 11 September 2023.

We want to share with you in this newsletter the photos, stories of our new graduates from their year with us. We congratulate them all on their achievement and look forward to hearing more as they have returned home. Enjoy the read and many thanks to Shira Nanavati, our IMPH Alumni Communications Coordinator, for her work to produce this newsletter.

To our alumni family, you have now received an invitation to the IMPH Alumni Conference to be held in Nairobi, 27-29 May 2024. We are grateful to Pears Foundation for making this possible. We have secured a lovely space – the KCB Leadership Conference Center – for the Conference and very much hope for a large and representative (by region) participation. After meeting with alumni in Kenya, our theme was set: Innovation in Public Health: Research, Policy, Training, Practice. There is room for all of you to present your work!

We remind you of the Pears Seed Grant Award – open for application year-round! If you have a research project you would like to 'get off the ground', please be in touch.

Wishing you all – indeed, all of us – a more peaceful time.

Warm regards,

MAUREEN
IMPH Alumni Academic Coordinator

Dear IMPH Alumni,

It was wonderful to meet the graduating class in September, at the 48th IMPH cohort graduation. The highlights of the graduation for me, were seeing the incredible video the students put together of their impactful year in Israel, and the dance at the end, where each student played some music and did a dance representing their home country. I learned that the 48th cohort was not only an incredibly accomplished group, but also a fun and dynamic one. Congratulations to the graduates! I am thrilled to continue to build our relationship, with you as the newest IMPH alumni.

Looking back to the night of graduation, September 11, as we stood on the rooftop of the IMPH building, watching the sunset over Jerusalem, I was thinking about my long train ride back to Zichron Yaakov, I never would have imagined only weeks later, we would be embroiled in this devastating war. I have seen the great importance of a global community of support, and the importance of evidence based analysis of news and current events, especially in times of crisis.

It is a tremendous comfort and inspiration to be in touch with the IMPH alumni around the globe, and to continue to hear about the incredible work you are doing. I am looking forward to the alumni conference in Nairobi, as I wish everyone more peaceful days ahead.

Please enjoy the photos in the coming pages of the graduation, and the COPC workshop, two events which highlight how unique the IMPH program is.

Warmly,

Shira Nanavati

IMPH Alumni Communications Coordinator

Graduation of the 48th IMPH Cohort

Graduation of the 48th IMPH Cohort

Sir Trevor and Lady Pears, Professor Yehuda Neumark, Edna Jospe Perez.

Dr. Catalina Lopez-Quintero - IMPH 2003 Alumna, Colombia Department of Epidemiology, University of Florida, USA, with IMPH Program Director, Professor Hagit Hochner.

The 48th cohort with Sir Trevor and Lady Pears, and Professor Yehuda Neumark.

Graduation of the 48th IMPH Cohort

The Jeremy D. Kark Legacy Prize Presented by Prof. Ruth Kark and Family Awarded to Bihle Mbinkar (Cameroon).

The Dr. Osnat Keidar Memorial Prize Presented by Amb. Jacob Keidar and Family Awarded to Riya Mathew (India).

Class representatives Kator Igbudu (Nigeria) & Veneranda Kirway (Tanzania).

Community Oriented Primary Care Workshop - Loni, Maharashtra, India

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

The International COPC workshop, jointly organized by the Hebrew University-Hadassah Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine, and the School of Public Health and Social Medicine (SPHSM) at Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences – Deemed to be University, Loni, India, took place from July 31 to August 03, 2023. Professor Yehuda Neumark from the Braun School spearheaded the coordination and content delivery for the workshop, with invaluable support from IMPH alumni Dr. Ruchi Verma, Kandarp Talati, Nidhi Mankar, and Mridula Kapil Bhargava. Dr. Maureen Malowany, Alumni Academic Coordinator from Braun School, also provided guidance and oversight.

The workshop kicked off on July 31, 2023, with a memorable ceremonial event attended by Dr. V. N. Magare, Vice Chancellor of the University. Esteemed students and faculty members from the constituent colleges joined in the festivities. Professor K. V. Somasundaram, Dean of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences at PIMS (DU), set the stage by introducing the luminaries and resource persons. Professor Yehuda then led an introductory session which sensitized participants to the fundamentals of epidemiology, emphasizing its pivotal role in evidence-based decision making.

On the second day, workshop participants were divided into four teams, each of which had a mix of undergraduate and post-graduate students, an approach which enhanced the collective learning experience. The COPC workshop was characterized by its dynamic and engaging pedagogy, which participants greatly appreciated. The content delivery was not only informative but also infused with moments of levity, fostering an enriching learning environment while delivering a public health toolkit. The community and health facility visits provided participants with invaluable insights into local health needs and conditions. These experiences offered fresh perspectives, enabling participants to better conceptualize and design locally adaptable public health interventions.

Participants and organizers appreciated the design of the workshop, the approachability of resource persons and the interactive shared learning approach. Alumni played a pivotal role in co-facilitating the workshop alongside Professor Yehuda, under the guidance of Dr. Maureen. This interaction allowed alumni to reconnect with their mentors and share their IMPH insights and professional skills with the next generation of public health professionals.

PHOTOS FROM THE COPC Workshop

HIGHLIGHTING ALUMNA:
Amal Khayat
(Jerusalem | IMPH 2017)

Amal Khayat is a Palestinian from East Jerusalem. Amal completed her undergraduate degree in Pharmacology at Al-Quds University in the West Bank and completed two international graduate programs at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Glocal Community Development Studies and the International master's in public health, IMPH. Amal is currently pursuing her PhD in Public Health at the Hebrew University, under the supervision of Dr. Yael Bar-Zeev and Prof. Hagai Levine. This academic year, Amal became a junior faculty member at the Department of Nutritional Sciences, at The Robert F. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment, teaching international students and is working as a teaching assistant at Glocal. In addition, Amal is a fellow of the George Pinto Jerusalem Leadership Fellows Program with the Jerusalem Foundation and is working with students from East Jerusalem studying Social Work at the Hebrew University as part of her fellowship.

In September, Amal was invited to speak at a gathering held by the British Friends of the Hebrew University in London. Amal spoke about her experience growing up in a segregated neighborhood in East Jerusalem, having some of her most meaningful encounters with "the other side" thanks to her studies at the Hebrew University, and learning the importance of having more Palestinian students studying at Israeli academic institutions. Amal was granted a prestigious award for socially engaged PhD candidates from the Hadassah Medical Center, based on her volunteer work and academic excellence.

Amal is a peace activist and a fellow of "Solutions not Sides", a UK-based educational charity that helps counter antisemitism and Islamophobia in the UK by teaching about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from a humanitarian perspective, through the personal stories and political knowledge of Israeli and Palestinian peace activists.

Amal with Dean Dina Ben Yehuda top, and Professor Hagai Levine bottom, receiving an award from Hadassah Medical Center.

IMPH FACULTY | PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Yael Bar-Zeev

Dr. Yael Bar-Zeev has recently published the following article:

Barriers and Enablers to Implementing a Smoke-free Home and Car During Pregnancy: A Qualitative Study Among Expectant Israeli Fathers.

Professor Adam Rose

Professor Adam Rose has recently published the following articles:

Characterizing Patient Attitudes and Beliefs Towards Testosterone Therapy in Veterans Affairs: A Qualitative Study.

Vaccine hesitancy among health-care professionals in the era of COVID-19.

Work like a doc: A comparison of medical residents' working hours in 14 high-income countries.

Where internal medical patients receive intensive interventions - results from a tertiary-care hospital in Israel.

Greater Temporal Regularity of Primary Care Visits Was Associated with Reduced Hospitalizations and Mortality, Even After Controlling for Continuity of Care.

Pediatric overweight and obesity increased in Israel during the COVID-19 period.

Nationwide evaluation of quality of care indicators for individuals with severe mental illness and diabetes mellitus, following Israel's mental health reform.

Gaps in Evidence on Treatment of Male Osteoporosis: A Research Agenda. The Aging Male.

Enabling expedited disposition of emergencies using telepsychiatry in Israel: Protocol for a hybrid implementation study.

IMPH ALUMNI | P UBLICATIONS

Moses Banda, IMPH 2019

IMPH Alumni Moses Banda has recently published the following articles:

A time-motion study of community health workers delivering community-based primary health care in Neno District, Malawi .

The impact of COVID-19 and national pandemic responses on health service utilisation in seven low- and middle-income countries .

Decentralized Heart Failure Management in Neno, Malawi .

COVID-19-Related Testing, Knowledge and Behaviors among Severe and Chronic Non-Communicable Disease Patients in Neno District, Malawi: A Prospective Cohort Study .

Basic emergency care course and longitudinal mentorship completed in a rural Neno District, Malawi: A feasibility, acceptability, and impact study.

IMPH ALUMNI | CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Anna Schmitt, IMPH 2016, whose public health consulting company, Yarrow, received the Montana Public Health Association's (MPHA) President's Award. This award, chosen by the MPHA Executive Board, honors a group of individuals, an organization, or an agency whose ongoing work in policy, research, a program, or a project has a significant statewide impact in public health. Yarrow provides evaluation, quality improvement, project management, and many other public health services to the State of Montana, county, and Tribal governments. To learn more, please visit yarrowcommunity.org or reach out to Anna at anna@yarrowcommunity.org.

Congratulations to Moses Banda, IMPH 2019, on his admission to a PhD program in Epidemiology at University of Hamburg, Germany. He is working on an epidemiological study of snakebites in Malawi.

Congratulations to Mieraf Taddesse, IMPH 2009, on her appointment as the Principal Health Economist, Africa CDC, at the HQ in Addis Ababa.

Congratulations to Dr. Emmanuel Ogum, IMPH 2017, on his recent appointment to the WHO South Sudan country office, as STOP (Stop transmission of Polio and other vaccine preventable diseases) consultant.

Stay Connected

One of the many ways we connect and engage with our alumni, students, colleagues and friends is through social media. While we enjoy sharing news, photos, and fun facts with you, we also love receiving your photos and stories. You are doing incredible work that is worth sharing. We are thrilled to increase IMPH engagement on Twitter, and we are back on Instagram. Please explore the many ways you can connect and engage with each other and the students on our social media!

- Follow us on Instagram and tag @imph.huji
- Follow us Twitter and tag @HebuIMPH
- Follow our LinkedIn updates, posts, and tag us in your content
- Connect with us via Facebook
- Use #IMPHLikeNoOther, #IMPHAlumni, #IMPH_Huji
- Use our google form to send us updates, photos, achievements

Do you have a new research study, grant, award, or other achievements that you would like showcased on our social media platforms? You are invited to submit your news via email, or share it with your colleagues on our WhatsApp/WeChat groups.

Remember that life at HebrewU does not end when you graduate;
it continues, grows and thrives.

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