Eye-Opening Advances: Hadassah Transports Us Into the Future of Eye Care

As Prof. Itai Chowers, head of the Hadassah Medical Organization’s Division of Ophthalmology, told his international audience during a November 19 webinar, “Hadassah has been at the cutting edge of technology to fight eye disease for over 103 years.” The webinar “Now I See You” is the second of Hadassah International’s series, “50 Shades of Health: A Journey Into the Future of Medicine.” It featured four of Hadassah’s leading ophthalmology experts, who shared some of the latest advancements in eye treatments and predicted revolutionary progress we can expect over the next 20 years. “The field of eye medicine,” Prof. Chowers said, “will advance in a very fundamental way, probably in the next few years, thanks to progress in computer science, cell biology, genetics, statistics and communication technology. While there are diseases that currently are untreatable, for example, he believes that situation will at least partially change. Because the eye is a great organ for testing new therapies, Prof. Chowers related, ophthalmology is in the forefront of medicine. He explained that the eye is small and accessible, responsive to treatments can be accurately and reliably measured, and the risk of systemic adverse effects is relatively small. He noted, too, that thanks to artificial intelligence (AI), we can identify early signs of eye disease that a doctor is not able to see and also predict how that disease will progress. Already, computers are analyzing huge data sets of eye images and identifying very subtle signs of disease. Prof. Chowers asked webinar participants to imagine a scenario where an individual is at his family physician’s office, and a picture is taken of his retina. Through an algorithm generated by AI tools, the image is analyzed and, immediately, the individual receives a readout that tells him if he has an eye disease or not. “We are starting to see this happening today,” Prof. Chowers said. Prof. Banin has been conducting early clinical trials using human embryonic stem cells to slow the progression of age-related macular degeneration. He and Hadassah’s world-renowned stem cell pioneer, Prof. Benjamin Reubinoff, have created retinal pigment epithelium cells, which our bodies are unable to renew once they deteriorate, and these cells have proven to be “almost identical” to those in the eye. “I am very hopeful that in 10 to 15 years we will have the means to slow down macular degeneration and even treat it,” Prof. Banin commented. Nanotechnology, a tool for manipulating very small molecules, is another high-tech advancement that is taking eye treatments to new frontiers. Dr. David Smadja, head of Hadassah’s Refractive Surgery Unit, explained during the webinar that nanodroplets of medicine, by changing the trajectory of light, may replace eyeglasses. “Eyeglasses that automatically focus as needed are also in the offing. They will be able to zoom in just like our smartphones,” Dr. Smadja reported. In addition, he said, enhanced by AI, an ophthalmologist’s slit lamp, which is used to examine the interior of the eye, will integrate examination and diagnosis because “the ophthalmologist will already be inside the slit lamp.” Personalized medicine is also getting a boost from advances in AI. During the webinar, Dr. Hadas Ben-Eli, director of Hadassah’s Optometry and Biometry Service and an expert in big data approach, we will be able to predict the best lens for each patient, providing clear vision at various distances. “Every implantation will be unique,” she said. “It is our vision at Hadassah to create a future where general intra-ocular lenses will no longer exist.” There also may be semi-digital or camera-based lenses. Dr. Ben-Eli predicts that we will arrive at that point in “five to 15 years.” “If we look over the horizon toward the future of eye medicine, we will see that eye treatments will be able to do what our smartphones do. Eventually, Dr. Smadja predicted, “we will have the same technology in the eye that we have in the smartphone.”

The Dallas Hadassah office is going Virtual!!

Programming, Book Clubs, Webinars and more will continue on online, with a variety of topics. Board members will continue working from home, as we have done since March, when the pandemic started. Watch for news in our Hadassah emails.

Do we have your correct email? If you don’t get emails from us, we don’t have it!

We have until the end of December to sell, store or give away our furniture, files, printers, copier, artwork and memorabilia. Contact us and make an offer.

Jo Reingold 972-479-9856 Jo14711@att.net
Susie Avnery 469-233-0222 Susieblueiz@sbcglobal.net

Shades of Health: A Journey Into the Future of Medicine.
Message from Elise Power, President of the Dallas Chapter of Hadassah

Happy New Year!! We welcome 2021 with open arms!!! Good riddance to 2020!!!

As we near the end of 2020 and approach 2021, our lives have adjusted to social distancing, masks, ZOOM celebrations with our family and friends, and sometimes this leaves us feeling empty. Yet, I live my life with gratitude and hope. Yes, I believe we can find gratitude in our victories, like the teamwork it took for the Dallas Chapter Hadassah Board to plan and implement our COVID-19 Annual Fundraiser, and the amazing medical research and treatments happening at Hadassah.

Go to Hadassah.org and read the amazing stories about what YOU are supporting!

Heartfelt appreciation to my entire Hadassah family, volunteers, donors and professionals. Thank you to our annual donors! You are essential to Hadassah. Members of Chai Society donate $180-$999 annually; Keepers of the Gate donate $1,000 and up each year. You can join on our website: www.hadassah.org

Communication is vital. If we do not have your email address, please send it to Chapter.dallas@hadassah.org

I am very proud, honored and thankful for the strength, passion and commitment that all of our HADASSAH leaders and members continue to show. Your dedication, volunteerism and time is vital to support Israel, our homeland. Let’s pray for humanity worldwide, for health, happiness and prosperity, and that in time, the pandemic will end, and there will be a vaccine and a cure.

In fact, we have included an article about the Hadassah vaccine trial.

Wishing you and your families a very Happy & Healthy Thanksgiving, Hanukkah and Winter Holiday season.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Elise

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For you: A monthly charitable gift of $15.

For them:

New cutting-edge technology to save lives.

Your support of $15 a month — or even $30 a month to double your impact — can help Hadassah Medical Organization doctors conduct groundbreaking medical research that saves countless lives.

For Hadassah:

A way to advance our healing work.

Whether we’re advancing groundbreaking medical research, empowering women to effect change or saving a young person on a path to success, your support of $15 a month — or even $30 a month to double your impact — will ensure our global impact.

For you: A monthly charitable gift of $15.

For them:

An opportunity to learn about what we do.

Your support of $15 a month — or even $30 a month to double your impact — can help us provide you with a personalized educational calendar and our HADASSAH members’ newsletter. Join Chai Society and join our youth the gift of a brighter future.

For Hadassah:

A way to advance our healing work.

“Every day our doctors in Israel serve lives and give hope.”

The world-renowned Hadassah Medical Organization treats one million people every year — regardless of race, religion or nationality — and advances groundbreaking medical research that saves countless lives.

Help our doctors being healing to the people of Israel — and the world. Become a Keeper of the Gate.

Your minimum annual gift of $1,000 assures Hadassah’s impact every day, in Israel, the US and around the world.

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Yes, I am choosing to support Hadassah by becoming a Chai Society Member. I understand that this gift automatically recovers every year, and I can stop the ongoing commitment at any time.

My annual tax-deductible commitment to Hadassah is $ (minimum annual amount: $100)

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(at 800) 928-0685 to make payment arrangements.

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Understanding Women’s Health Equity

Women and men often present different symptoms for the same diseases and react differently to certain drugs, medical devices, and treatments. Gender disparities in medicine—among research subjects, and in health care access and delivery—put women at risk for misdiagnoses, ineffective treatments and compromised care.

Heart disease, for example, is the number one killer of women, and yet only one third of cardiac research subjects are women. Studies also show that medical providers are more likely to ascribe women’s pain symptoms to stress or psychological causes, as opposed to men who receive diagnoses for physical or neurological conditions.

As the convener of the Coalition for Women’s Health Equity, Hadassah serves as a critical leader in the health field and works to improve women’s health outcomes through public education, legislative advocacy, and stakeholder collaboration. Hadassah supports women’s health throughout their lifespan, with a focus on prevention, research, maternal and reproductive health, and access to quality care.

The Coalition for Women’s Health Equity is a broad coalition committed to advocating for equity in women’s health, including illness and disease prevention, research, program funding, access to and quality of care; and to raising awareness about how health inequities adversely affect women and families throughout the United States. A lack of women’s health equity impacts the well-being of women now and for generations to come.

HADASSAH: THE WOMEN’S ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA, INC.

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Hadassah Inoculates 1st Patient in Trial of Israeli-Made COVID-19 Vaccine

Anar Ottolenghi, a 34-year-old doctoral student in immunology, was one of the first Israelis to be inoculated as part of the Phase I clinical trial of an Israeli-made coronavirus vaccine at Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem. “I feel good, excited.” Ottolenghi said. “I want to encourage as many people as possible to join the experiment and stop the entire public.”

The Israeli vaccine, known as “Brilife,” was developed by the Israel Institute for Biological Research (IIBR). 80 healthy volunteers between the ages of 18 and 55 will participate - 40 at Hadassah and 40 at Sheba Medical Center in Tel Hashomer. Each volunteer will receive an injection, with some receiving the vaccine and some receiving a placebo. Volunteers will be monitored over the course of three weeks to assess the vaccine’s safety. Researchers will also examine whether volunteers develop antibodies to the coronavirus. If Phase I yields successful results, Phase II will probably begin in December with 960 healthy volunteers at medical centers throughout the country. Phase II will continue to monitor the vaccine’s safety and gauge effectiveness and also pinpoint appropriate doses. If the first two phases are successful, a Phase III trial of 30,000 volunteers will begin in April or May. Prof. Shmuel Shapira, head of IIBR and former deputy director general of Hadassah Ein Kerem, noted, “IIBR has developed many vaccines.”

He continued, “Six years before this crisis, we had already started preparing for such an event.” Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu commented, “The true exit from the coronavirus crisis is in the development of vaccines. With God’s help, we will have a vaccine made here in Israel.”

Hadassah Ein Kerem reported that two more Israelis were vaccinated: Jerusalemite Effi, age 26, a computer scientist originally from England, and Eli Ein-Dor, age 50, a programmer with the Israeli Port Authority. “I am neither a doctor nor a nurse, so in my eyes, the best way to contribute is by participating in the trial,” Effi said.
3D Imaging Technology Guides Hadassah Hand Surgeons

Injuries to hands and arms make up one-third of all the injuries in Hadassah Medical Organization’s emergency rooms, as well as those in other hospitals across Israel. Two teens, who hurt their arms in separate accidents and who were casted in other medical centers, came to Hadassah a year later. Though supposedly healed, their arms were disfigured and they experienced excruciating pain when using their hands. The girl, 13-year-old Nili Imbar, had given up guitar and taekwondo classes.

3-D technology to the rescue! “The computerized imaging and printing system eliminates guesswork and enables us to compare the bones in the injured arm with those in their healthy arm,” says Dr. Shai Luria, who heads Hadassah’s Hand Surgery Unit. “Using the printed models meant we could plan the repair properly down to the millimeter and degree.” The Hadassah team also printed 3D pathways that would guide surgeons to the right spot during the operations. The doctors worked with Synergy 3DMed, the Israeli company that makes the printer, to ensure precision. “Breaks are pretty common, especially among youngsters who fall on their wrist and don’t even realize it,” he says. “Later on, seeing that it didn’t heal properly, they have to undergo a fairly complex operation and can face months of immobility.”

Nili is back to playing guitar and is a happy teenager again.

Thank You to Carole Cohen!!

Carole raised $670 for Hadassah by collecting orders for the 2020 Mah Jongg Cards. She has been collecting the orders every year for over 30 years!! This year’s check was the biggest she’s ever received. When ordering for 2021 we urge you to include your email, plus the emails of everyone included in your order. Carole is shown holding the 2020 check from the National Mah Jongg League, received in October. Collectors designate a charity to receive the MJ donation every year and Carole always chooses Hadassah!

TODAH RABAH CAROLE!

May the Jokers be with you!

You can play mahjong online.

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- Renovation and modernization of the iconic Round Building.
- Cutting-edge technology at the Endovascular Neurosurgery and Stroke Unit.
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- New, modern space for the Vascular Surgery Department.

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360° of HEALING

HADASSAH THE WOMEN’S ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA, INC.

The solicitation described on page 360 is incorporated in this advertisement.

Copy of a Champion-level Check presented for a gift to the Hadassah Medical Organization, NPF, 1467 Broadway, New York, New York 10036

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