



Professor Ido Wolf, MD

ICA Funded Scientists Make Strides in Cancer Research

Professor Ido Wolf, M.D. is the Head of the Oncology Division and Oncology Laboratory at Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center. **He is an ICA-funded researcher, specializing in tumors of the gastrointestinal tract and endocrinological malignancies.** He is an Associate Professor at Tel Aviv University (TAU) and serves as Chairman of the Professional Training Committee at ICA. Prof. Wolf is the recipient of many research funding grants, including the ICA-USA excellence grant for his research in “Deciphering activities of novel mutations of the estrogen receptor in endocrine resistant breast cancer.” His work focuses on deciphering endocrine aspects of cancer development. **His team has discovered a protein that appears to arrest the development of pancreatic cancer.** The protein, klotho, could potentially be effective against other aggressive cancers as well.



Professor Eli Pikarski, MD, PhD

Professor Eli Pikarski, MD, PhD serves as Chairman of the Department of Pathology at Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center and is a professor at the Lautenberg Center for Immunology and Cancer Research at the Hebrew University Medical School. Prof. Pikarski has served as Chairman of the ICA Research Committee since 2013. He is also a Board member of the Israeli Association for Cancer Research. **Prof. Pikarski’s current research focuses on the intersection between cancer biology, inflammation and histopathological studies of mouse models of human disease,** with the primary goal of understanding tissue aspects of cancer development by analyzing the interaction between inflammation and cancer.



Professor Shai Izraeli

Professor Shai Izraeli is a full professor, Director of the Rina Zaizov Pediatric Hematology Oncology Division, Schneider Children’s Medical Center of Israel, the Dora and Gregorio Chair of Hematological Malignancies Department of Human Molecular Genetics & Biochemistry, Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University. With continuous support from the Israel Cancer Association, **he has led the treatment and the clinical research of Israeli children with leukemia, the most common cancer in children.** His team is developing novel therapeutics targeting STIL



pathways for epithelial cancers, such as ovarian cancer. **Prof Izraeli's honors include the ICA Excellence Award for identifying genes that predict metastasized spreading in general and in the brain in primary lung tumors.** His current focus is on the study of the mechanism and treatment opportunity of the spread of leukemia to the brain. In 2017 he received Honorary Knighthood Award by the Italian President for promoting science and medicine of children with cancer between Israel and Italy.

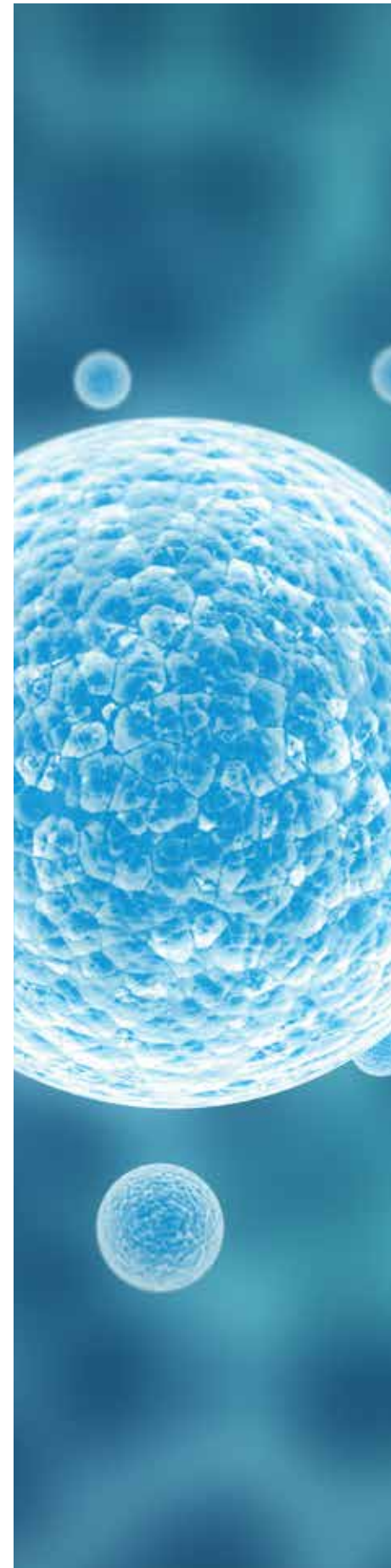
Professor Rinat Yerushalmi, an honors graduate from the Technion Bruce Rappaport Faculty of Medicine, has been a practicing medical oncologist since 1998, currently at the Davidoff Cancer Center, Beilinson Hospital **with a focus on breast cancer patients.** Since August 2016, in addition to being part of the managerial team of Davidoff Cancer Center, she has headed the Breast Cancer Unit and BRCA clinic at the Institute. Prof. Yerushalmi is also the Clinical Director of the Breast Cancer Laboratory at the Felsenstein Medical Research Center, Tel-Aviv University, Sackler School of Medicine, Rabin Medical Center. **She has published more than 60 scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals, and been awarded several national and international awards, including the AACR Scholar-In-Training for The Cure Award funded by Susan G. Komen®.**



Professor Rinat Yerushalmi

ICA USA is proud to be Four-Star rated by Charity Navigator

Non-profits are rated by an independent rating organization, Charity Navigator. Like restaurants and their Michelin stars, charities covet a high rating. I am proud to say that we have Charity Navigator's highest ratings, four stars. Our actual score is 96.66 out of a possible 100. Charity Navigator also found that our percentage of total expenses spent on the programs or services we deliver is 90.6%. Put another way, out of every dollar donated, other than directly to a fellowship, almost 91 cents go to fund research fellowships that we use donations to create.



Research Updates

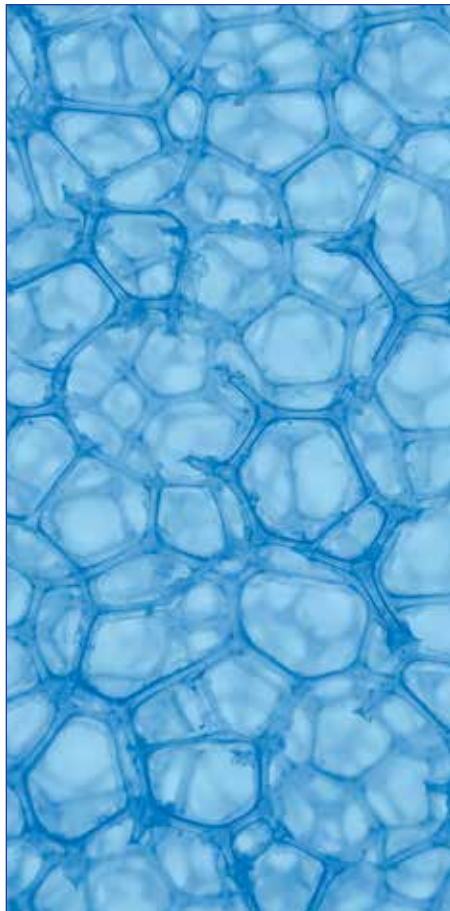
Research by Professor Ronit Satchi-Fainaro Chair of the Department of Physiology & Pharmacology at the Sackler Faculty of Medicine at Tel Aviv University, led to a breakthrough in treating Glioblastoma, known to be a highly aggressive brain cancer. Despite all the treatments offered by modern medicine, 97% of patients die within 14 months of diagnosis, including many who die within a few months. However, the remaining 3 percent of those diagnosed may survive three years or more. In the new study, Prof. Ronit Satchi-Fainaro and her colleagues explored what distinguishes the survivors from the rest of the patients. The study demonstrated that a 7-gene signature, previously found to govern the switch of glioblastomas from dormancy to aggressive tumor growth, correlates with improved overall survival of patients with glioblastoma. The study showed that dPGS-PTX in combination with a peptidomimetic of the anti-angiogenic protein thrombospondin-1 (TSP-1 PM) resulted in a remarkable synergistic anticancer effect on intracranial human and murine glioblastoma. This unique therapeutic approach offers a viable alternative for the treatment of glioblastoma.



Professor Ronit Satchi-Fainaro

Fainaro was also part of the research team at Tel Aviv University that developed smart nanoprobes that turn on a florescent light in presence of cancerous cells, which may dramatically improve post-surgical outcomes for cancer patients. Injecting this “smart probe” into a patient a few hours before surgery to excise a primary tumor, may help surgeons pinpoint where the cancer is situated down to several cancer cells, permitting them to guarantee the removal of more cancer cells, and with the least possible damage to surrounding healthy tissue.

Research led by **Professor Ariel Munitz** of the Department of Microbiology and Clinical Immunology at Tel Aviv University's Sackler School of Medicine and conducted by TAU doctoral student Hadar Reichman of Prof. Munitz's TAU laboratory, in collaboration with colleagues in Tel Aviv Medical Center's Gastroenterology Department was **published in Cancer Immunology Research on January 21, 2019.** The study discovered that white blood cells



(eosinophils) responsible for chronic asthma and modern allergies may be used to eliminate malignant colon cancer cells, creating a new target for immunotherapy.

“Eosinophils are white blood cells that secrete powerfully destructive proteins,” Prof. Munitz says. “They may have played an evolutionary role in combatting parasites. But now that most people, particularly in the West, enjoy good hygiene and few parasites, the eosinophils have become destructive agents, causing allergies and asthma.

“Our new research theorized that since eosinophils are capable of killing parasites and can cause damage in the lungs of asthma patients, they might play a role in cancer treatment and would be able to kill tumor cells.”



Professor Ariel Munitz

Funding with Fashion

Our January 31st Runway Fashion Show set the stage to raise dollars and awareness at our Annual Hope and Heroes Luncheon. Grand Chair and Fashion Icon Iris Apfel was honored with a Cancer Research Fellowship, also in memory of her late husband, Carl Apfel. ICA USA Board member Gail Worth was honorary Chair. ICA USA donated a Fellowship in memory and honor of Co- Chair Patsy Spero’s late husband, Leslie Spero and a Fellowship in honor of Co- Chair Pamela Higer-Polani with a Fellowship in honor of her late father, Dr. Aaron Lee Higher. A Fellowship was also donated in honor of Peter and Nancy Brown’s 50th wedding anniversary, and longtime ICA USA supporters Bruce and Janet Adler generously donated a Fellowship.



ICA USA Secretary-Treasurer Peter Brown, Luncheon Grand Chair Iris Apfel, Elizabeth Thompson



Fellowship Funding 2019

Supporting ICA USA and our events is a meaningful opportunity to make a difference by supporting cancer research breakthroughs occurring in Israel, but impacting the world.

- ★ **Dr. Ella Evron at Kaplan Medical Center** has received funding for her research into BRCA mutation carriers with early mammary cancer.
- ★ **Dr. Dinora Frisemann-Morvinski at Tel-Aviv University** has received funding for her research on immunotherapy treatment in glioblastoma.
- ★ **Iris Gluck at Sheba Medical Center** has received funding for her head and neck cancer research.
- ★ **Dr. Yishai Ofran at Rambam, HealthCare Campus** has received funding for his myeloid leukemia research.



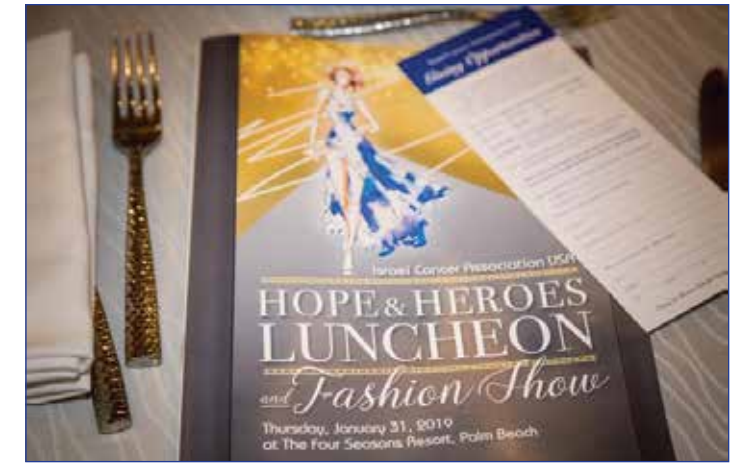
ICA USA Executive VP Phyllis Melman, Edith Stein, Barbara and Jim Sadowsky, Irene Milin



Tracy Caruso



Luncheon Runway



Luncheon Program



Cari Fund, Alexandra Fabrikant, Chelsea Manheimer, Elizabeth Williams, Luncheon co-Chair, Patsy Spero, Patsy's daughter, Jennifer Klein-Eisler, Kristin Scorza, Misty Babicka, Jana Hoffenberg



ICA USA Event MC Mike McGann



ICA USA Executive Vice President Lexye Aversa and Elaine Kaye



Mara Schainuck, ICA USA Executive Vice President Arthur Benjamin



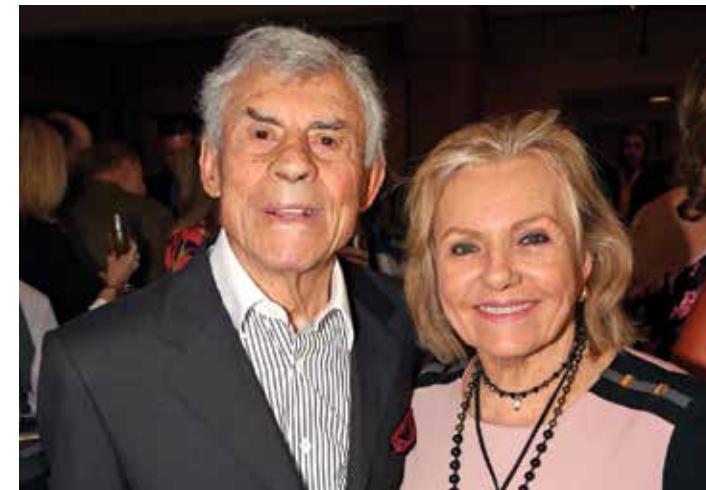
ICA USA Board President Bruce Koppel and his wife, Hedy



ICA USA Board Member Nancy Brown, Delayne Gold, ICA USA Executive VP, Deena Freeman, Margot Stein



Honorary Chair and ICA USA Board Member Gail Worth, Lois Pope, Maude Cook



Graciano and Gigi Duarte



Bonnie Judson, Luncheon Co-Chair Pam Polani, Marilyn Swillinger, ICA USA Board Member Elyssa Kupferberg



Clothes by Designer Anne Fontaine



Clothes by Designer Sully



Clothes by Designer Ahmad Couture



Mission Statement

Israel Cancer Association USA (ICA USA) is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization established in Palm Beach, Florida. Our mission is to raise funds for fellowship grants that support cancer research conducted by award-winning scientists at leading hospitals, universities and institutions throughout Israel. Uniquely, 100% of fellowship funding goes directly to the scientist – not the institution, nor for our overhead.

Israel Cancer Association (ICA) established in 1952, is the leading and largest health-related organization in Israel, but receives no government funding, depending entirely upon private donations.

..... Save the Date



March 1, 2020:
Put on your Sunday Best and join us at The Breakers, Palm Beach for **Sunday Supper with Amy Robach**, currently co-anchor of the ABC Show 20/20, who discovered her breast cancer via an on-air mammogram on Good Morning America.

This event will sell-out!
Call and reserve your tickets now.

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