



The Heart Institute Newsletter

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Message from the Head of the Heart Institute



*To all our Friends
A Happy and Healthy New Year*

Dear Friends,

It is a real pleasure to present you with the first edition of our Heart Institute Newsletter.

Over the past two years my staff and I have invested a tremendous amount of effort into turning the Heart Institute at the Hadassah-University Medical Center into a modern, state-of-the-art, Cardiology Department, the absolute best in the Middle East. This was possible only with the help of all our friends and supporters.

In order to keep you up to date on the various activities, we have created this newsletter.

Clinical research, basic research, prizes received by our physicians and scientists, exciting papers that were published, all this and more we will bring to you. For without you, none of it would be possible.

Shalom

Prof. Chaim Lotan

*We are indebted to
Alice and Jack Ormut
For their generous Gift to our Institute*



The Tale of a Soldier

Like most young people her age in Israel, she joined the army when she was 18 years old. One day she suddenly felt her heart race, as if she just had run a marathon, her throat was constricted and hurt and she could hardly breathe. Shortly after that she felt that all her joints were hurting, she was weak, nauseous and felt absolutely miserable. She just didn't know what had happened to her and even worse the entire situation deteriorated from day to day!

At the end of May, she was hospitalized at the Hadassah-Hebrew University-Medical Center, initially in the Department for Internal Medicine. There she underwent a 24-hour ECG test which revealed that her symptoms were most probably heart-related.

We received her at the Heart Institute where she was checked intensively. To our surprise we found that the main artery that delivers blood to the heart was nearly completely blocked, in addition the artery leading to her left hand was completely closed. Both these findings lead to the diagnosis of Takayasu syndrome, a very rare disease found in only two of a million people. Takayasu usually develops in very young women but hardly affects the arteries leading to the heart.

The accepted treatment for the severe state she was in would have been bypass surgery. However, we just couldn't face the impact in the quality of life this operation would have had on this young woman. We therefore decided to introduce a stent into the main artery of the heart during regular angioplasty. In the entire world only a few cases have been described, where this procedure was carried out in patients as young as our soldier. The treatment was a full success and today she is as healthy as all her friends. We wish her luck!



People of all Nations Patients and professional Staff

Sometimes, when walking by the 8th floor, where the Heart Institute is located, one might ask oneself, where exactly are we?

The number of different languages spoken by both patients and the staff is a true measure of the integration that is taking place at the Hadassah Hospital. Arab nurses will treat a French tourist, a Russian doctor will confer with the trainee from India in English. The Hebrew of our Turkish cardiologist is definitely better than that of our new French doctor, probably because he has been in the country much longer. The technician from Germany will speak in... yes German, with one of our scientists, and she in turn is trying to learn Arabic from her Israeli-Arab technician.

What unites all of us is our dedication to the patient's well being. Therefore no matter where our patients come from, at the Heart Institute, everyone is given the highest professional care and the Staff meetings are held, you bet, in Hebrew!





The 50th Annual Conference of The Israel Heart Society

Once a year all Israeli cardiologists, heart surgeons, heart researchers, in short everybody in the field of cardiovascular diseases attends the annual conference of the Israel Heart Society (IHS).

This year the Heart Institute celebrated the 50th jubilee of the IHS by presenting 29 peer reviewed abstracts. Seventeen of our papers were chosen to be given as lectures, whereas the other twelve were shown in poster presentations. We are very proud of this achievement as our Department has never before been represented at such a force! As if this wasn't enough, eight of the sessions were also chaired by our physicians.

The presentations ranged from basic science to clinical case reports. In every field we were there.



The Annual Meeting of The Israel Heart Research Group

This year the Israel Heart Research Group (ISHR) meeting was organized right here at Hadassah by the Heart Institute, in collaboration with researchers from The Hebrew University, Faculty of Medicine. The ISHR meeting is usually very small as only basic researchers attend. Nevertheless, over 70 scientists from all over Israel participated in a very stimulating meeting that had been planned to the very last detail. Its success could be measured by the fact that even for the last lecture of the day over 50 participants were still present.

To all our friends

*In the name of all of us at
The Heart Institute
I wish you a*

Happy New Year
שנה טובה



Prof. Chaim Lotan