A Word from the Region President

It’s Official! The 2016 Hadassah National Convention – The Power of Our Dreams – is a huge success. What a wonderful experience those of us who were able to attend enjoyed. We cried, we laughed, we hugged. Tears of joy as well as tears of sadness and yet hope for a future of peace and health abounds and fills our hearts and stirs our souls as we know with Hashem we can do anything we set our minds to. And who better sets our minds with dreams and goals than Hadassah. As Henrietta Szold admonished: when you dream, dream big.

From the Opening Plenary on Monday evening we began learning together and didn’t stop until the closing Plenary at Thursday noon. We assembled together and we attended separate breakout sessions on the various topics we chose – from Curriculum Watch- Fact, Fiction, Innuendo or Bias to Jewish Perspectives on End-of-Life Care: Medical Ethics, Do No Harm to To Be Young, Jewish, Female…and a Leader!

So many sessions, so little time! We watched excellent videos, heard from speakers as varied as actress and entrepreneur Gwyneth Paltrow, recipient of Hadassah’s Power of our Dreams Award, Letty Cottin Pogrebin, founder of Ms. Magazine and writer and Abigail Pogrebin, author and daughter; Caroline Glick, senior contributing and chief columnist for The Jerusalem Post and Natan Barak, CEO of mPrest Systems, leader of the Iron Dome command and control system development – bringing military applications to the commercial sector. Malcolm Hoenlein, CEO of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations gave an electrifying speech and HMO Director General, Prof. Zeev Rotstein. spoke of his vision for our hospitals.

We will be hearing more about the Research in Service to Humanity campaign. A new Young Leaders Initiative will be rolled out. Hadassah International, including Hadassah International Israel, is an area we will be hearing more about.

Are You on Face Book? Have you LIKE(D) Hadassah? If not, please do it now. You will not only get Hadassah’s incredible posts you will so easily be able to SHARE them with your friends. What better way to get the word out about how Hadassah is leading the world in health research and advocacy for women and Israel?

When was the last time you checked out www.hadassah.org? Hopefully after reading my Note on Convention you want to know more. Just a click and you are privy to so much incredible information.

Register for the next Great Plains Conference and Board Meeting being held in Northbrook, Il November 12-13: Did you know that anyone in the Region can attend? Did you know there is a chapter near you? Do you know who to contact if you are not currently involved in your chapter? Please email me at tfarbstein@hadassah.org for information about your chapter and the leadership in your chapter you can contact.

Shalom
Teree Farbstein
Hadassah Great Plains President
Hadassah National Convention Comes to the Great Plains

Starring Ellen Hershkin, Hadassah National President

Also Starring: Dr. Yehuda Ginosar, HMO – Director, Mother & Child Anesthesia Unit and Chief of Obstetric Anesthesiology at Washington University and Michele Rubin, Hadassah Research Campaign Chair and

Featuring: Members of Hadassah Great Plains

When: Saturday, November 12, 5:00 pm – Sunday, November 13, 3:30 pm
Where: Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel, Northbrook, IL

Please email President, Teree Farbstein at tfarbstein@hadassah.org for Registration Form
Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem has been ranked as the leading medical center in the country for quality assurance by Israel’s Ministry of Health.

This is the second year that the Ministry has publicized its statistics, believing that this transparency encourages hospitals to improve their service. Rather than showcasing dramatic surgical results or breakthroughs, these measurements evaluate practices that mark good medicine. They provide a means to define what hospitals actually do, as compared with their original targets, allowing them to identify opportunities for improvement.

One measure, for example, is how long a person who was suffering from an ischemic stroke had to wait before getting a CT scan or MRI. At Hadassah, the answer is 24 minutes. This is in comparison to 55 minutes at Shaare Zedek in Jerusalem, 44 minutes at Tel Hashomer Hospital in Tel Aviv, and over an hour and a half at Beilinson Hospital in Petach Tikva.

Other indices are as diverse as whether antibiotics were administered before surgery at the correct time, whether hip surgery was completed in under 48 hours, and whether patients were advised properly about certain preventive health measures--for example, at Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem, 98 percent of patients were advised about taking aspirin after experiencing a heart blockage. By the same token, women undergoing caesarian sections at Hadassah were all given prophylactic antibiotics to prevent potential infections.

While certain hospitals excelled in particular measurements, Hadassah did well in all of them. In addition, Hadassah was praised for making major improvements in all of its measures from 2014 to 2015.

"All the credit goes to Prof. Tamar Peretz, who preceded me," commented Hadassah Medical Organization Director General Prof. Zeev Rotstein. “We always knew that Hadassah has superb medicine and the best medical teams in the country. I hope that in addition to the excellent medicine at Hadassah, we will be able to provide financial security and to propel forward a new Hadassah which will be number one overall in the State of Israel."

Three-Prong Approach to Breast Cancer Research at Hadassah

Understanding what part inherited traits play in an individual’s chance of developing breast cancer; analyzing the specific biology of each tumor to better tailor therapy for each patient; and diagnosing cancer through blood samples, rather than performing biopsies, are the goals that are shaping the approach the Hadassah Medical Organization is taking to cancer research and treatment.

One current study, involving 130 breast cancer patients, is aimed at identifying founder mutations in various ethnic groups which put people at higher risk for breast cancer. These founder mutations are found in high frequency within a specific population---all with a common ancestor. While Hadassah research confirmed many years ago that there is at least a 10 times greater prevalence of BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene mutations among women of Ashkenazi descent, more recently Hadassah identified a founder mutation in Sephardic Jews and then in Kurdish Jews. This latest finding is highlighted in Open Medicine Journal, 2015, 2: 31-36.

Click here to read the complete article: Three-Prong Approach to Breast Cancer Research at Hadassah
Successful Start to Hadassah’s Unique Stem Cell Clinical Trial to Treat Major Cause of Blindness

Dry-AMD is the leading cause of blindness in people over the age of 60, and a condition for which there is currently no FDA-approved therapy. In dry-AMD, there is a loss or dysfunction of the layer of RPE cells generally in the region of the eye called the macula, which is the part of the retina responsible for sharp, central vision that is important for facial recognition, reading, and driving.

The Hadassah “home-grown” stem cell protocol is unique in two ways: it uses only animal free (xeno-free) products in deriving and growing pure RPE cells from human embryonic stem cells (hESCs); and it grows those cells through a process called direct differentiation. Rather than let the stem cells grow and differentiate (develop) spontaneously in-vitro and then transfer the best cells to another dish to continue differentiating, the Hadassah team directs the differentiation process by adding factors that will guide the cells to become RPE cells. The potential danger in using spontaneous differentiation, Prof. Banin notes, is that the stem cells may turn into other types of cells, which could prove harmful if injected into the retina.

The first cohort of three legally blind patients, two women and one man, received a low dose of 50,000 stem cells. Now Hadassah is authorized to move forward with the enrollment of the second cohort in the OpRegen® clinical trial. Recruitment will begin immediately. These patients will receive a higher, more clinically significant dose of 200,000 cells of OpRegen®. If that dose proves safe, a third cohort will receive an escalated dose of 500,000 cells. Enrollment in the second cohort is expected to be completed in 2016 and, if the data are positive, it is anticipated that there will be DSMB approval to proceed to the third cohort by the end of 2016.

The fourth cohort, which will consist of six patients, will be given the maximum dose. This fourth cohort will comprise patients who have slightly better vision, reports Prof. Banin. It is anticipated that these supportive cells will stop degeneration of the patients’ photoreceptors so they can retain the vision they currently have.

At this point, seven months have gone by since the first patient received treatment, with no adverse effects--such as retinal detachment, formation of a tumor or inflammation.

[Click here for more information about the trial is available at the US National Institutes of Health]

Stem Cell Transplant: delivery of hESC-derived RPE cells into the sub-retinal space, through a thin cannule.
Diabetes Alert!

Dear Hadassah Great Plains Region Member,

Do you know someone with diabetes? Ask anyone with the disease and you will hear them say it is a constant effort to control. Diabetes is exhausting, not only sapping physical strength; the management and psychological components never end. The International Diabetes Federation forecasts a rise in cases from 285 million people to 485 million by 2030.

Diabetes cures have been promised forever but too much false hope and empty promises have made people cynical. Below are concrete examples where your contributions have made a significant difference:

- Diabetes causes more deaths per year than breast cancer and AIDS combined. Having diabetes nearly doubles your chance of having a heart attack. Hadassah doctors and researchers have developed a therapy to treat diabetes, including an orally administered antibody, in collaboration with Harvard Medical School and its teaching affiliate, Brigham and Women’s Hospital. It has been found to be safe and effective in clinical trials.

- SenseGO™ is a pressure-sensing intelligent sock which is paired with a Smartphone application to warn patients of developing wounds and help prevent serious foot ulcers and diabetic amputations. SenseGO™ is a product of BioDesign: Medical Innovation, a multi-disciplinary, team-based collaboration between the Hadassah Medical Organization and Hebrew University. The SenseGO™ project team leaders, include Sagi Frishman of The Peter Brojde Center for Innovative Engineering and Computer Science, Dr. David Morgenstern, Senior Surgeon in Hadassah’s Department of Orthopedic Surgery and team engineer Danny Bavli of the Hebrew University’s Alexander Grass Center for Bioengineering.

- Twenty-Five medical centers in the US and Australia are moving forward with clinical trials of IMM-124E, a Hadassah developed treatment used to combat Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD), which affects the liver and is frequently an outgrowth of Diabetes. IMM-124E is a natural product which contains Bovine Colostrum Powder.

Hadassah Medical Organization is synonymous with sophisticated, state-of-the-art, visionary medical research and treatment. Our Hadassah doctors/researchers are at the forefront of medical treatments and cures that are now in clinical trials around the globe.

Your Hadassah Region, Great Plains, has chosen to make a significant impact toward advancing the DIABETIC RESEARCH initiatives at Hadassah Medical Center. What we do today changes the world tomorrow.

With your generous contribution you not only advance medical research, you stand with our region and you support our motto: Hadassah, the Power of Women Who Do - The Power of Women Who Heal.

Thank you.

Terrie Farbstein
Hadassah Great Plains President

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I would like to make a generous contribution to Diabetes Research at Hadassah Hospital:

Name: ___________________ Address: ___________________ Chapter: ___________________

$18 _____ $36 _____ $72 _____ $108 _____ $360 _____ $_____

Your Chapter will receive Quota Credit.

Please mail your check to: Sherry Abramowitz, Great Plains Treasurer
National Programs

New JNF Certificates are here!

For generations, planting a tree in Israel has symbolized a lasting partnership with the land and people of Israel. Planting trees serves as a lasting legacy and shows you care and believe in the immutable bond between the soil and the soul. A partner with JNF and Keren Kayemeth L’Yisrael (KKL) since 1926, Hadassah has played a vital role in making a living commitment to Israel—a promise that the land will belong to the Jewish people forever. Together with JNF-KKL, Hadassah has helped with reforestation, preparing land for agriculture, creating parks, playgrounds and recreation sites, and providing urgently needed water conduits such as dams, aquifers and reservoirs. Hadassah’s newest partnership with JNF-KKL is the Greening of the Negev Project—a program in which we are helping to fund seven new communities in the Negev, complete the Be’er Sheva River Park Project and green army bases in the Negev. The tree(s) purchased with this certificate will be used in helping to “Green the Negev”. Planting a tree helps build a prosperous future for the land of Israel and its people.

If you would like to purchase this beautiful new Hadassah-JNF certificates, please visit Hadassah.org or call 212.685.9550.

Giving of your resources is not just tzedaka – it is a commandment. Making the world a better place starts at home and spreads wherever we plant the seeds. There are several ways you can make your gift of resources count when you give to Hadassah – If you choose.

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN HELP A CHILD GO TO CAMP OR ISRAEL?!

Any donation given to Hadassah can be earmarked for scholarship and YOUR UNIT GETS QUOTA CREDIT!

Your Keeper gift or any other annual or one time gift can be designated for scholarship. This money is then credited back to Camp Young Judaea, Midwest and/or Israel Programs. In order for this to occur the scholarship donation must be coded correctly. In order for Camp Young Judaea, Midwest to get the money the code is 042-YJ scholarship and earmarked for JS02 Camp Young Judaea, Midwest.

Remember this money will help a child attend camp or go to Israel and learn about Zionism, Judaism and Israel and then when they go off to college they can be advocates for Israel and Future Hadassah members and leaders.

For information, call Ronna Ash at the Hadassah Chicago-North Shore office at 847-205-1900 or e mail her at ronna.ash@hadassah.org.

Submitted by: Miffie Nagorsky, Region Scholarship Chair and the Midwest Young Judaeia liaison, email symif@comcast.net.
Hadassah has always been an organization of visionaries. Over 100 years ago, Hadassah was the first to bring modern medicine to the Middle East. We established Israel’s first teaching hospital, its first nursing, medical and dental schools. We established the first cancer center, burn unit, trauma unit, bone marrow transplantation center, neonatal unit, and first Embryonic Stem Cell Research Center in the country. Doctors at Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) were first in the world to successfully complete a computer-assisted hip replacement. They performed Israel’s first double bypass surgery, first robot conducted surgery; and its first successful bone marrow, heart, liver, and lung transplants. HMO houses Israel’s National Skin Bank and the only bone marrow registry for Arabs in the world. Today Hadassah’s two hospitals in Jerusalem, one in Ein Kerem and one on Mt. Scopus, serve Israel’s largest population center and are known throughout Israel and the region for their pioneering research and healthcare expertise. HMO physicians are researchers. The researchers are physicians. Hadassah doctors perform Research In Service To Humanity.

Your annual gift can transform a life.
It has the power to mend a broken body, advance medical research, provide a future for at-risk children, or advocate for women and Israel in the US.

Chai Society gifts from $15/month. Keepers of the Gate gifts from $83/month.

We welcome all members, Associates and Hadassah supporters to invest in the future of Israel and medicine by joining Hadassah’s Annual Giving Societies.
Looking at the chapters locations in this quarter’s Chapter Chai Lights is like taking a tour around our Region

**DuPage/Will Chapter**

DuPage/Will Chapter is hosting a membership brunch Sunday, September 18, 2016 for both current and perspective members. This event is always a brunch with mouth-watering dishes donated by our board and other members.

**Illiana Chapter**

**Side By Side - Illiana Hadassah**

I got a geography lesson on this one – Illiana Hadassah - a combination of the words Illinois and Indiana when it comes to Hadassah. So of course the Chapter’s September Luncheon is being held in Munster, Indiana! And what better program topic than all the exciting cutting edge treatments Hadassah is leading the world in – ALS, MS, Melanoma and more! Guest speaker, Susan Levin-Abir, Director of Development for the Midwest Region.

**Mid-Missouri Chapter**

**Mid-Missouri Deborah Hadassah Summer Tea and Dessert Potluck**

Held in a lovely home overlooking a beautiful pond in the rolling hills of Columbia, Missouri. We talked Hadassah, met up with old friends and learned about Bette Weiss’ doll house and miniatures collections.

**St. Louis Chapter**

**Ice Cream Anyone!**

St. Louis Hadassah held an Ice Cream Social to welcome the chapter’s new gifted members. New members came, joined, socialized and playing Hadassah Bingo using Cardinals bingo cards was a hit.
Thank you to the many Board Members and Chapter Presidents who serve on the Region Board.

Please pass this bulletin on. If you would like this bulletin to be mailed to anyone please contact Teree Farbstein, Hadassah Great Plains President, at tfarbstein@hadassah.org.

"Charitable Deductions are allowed to the extent provided by law. While Hadassah intends to respect your wishes regarding gifts, in Accordance with U.S. tax law requirements regarding deductibility of contributions, Hadassah shall have full dominion, control and discretion over gifts."