



HADASSAH
the power of women who **DO**™

Hadassah – Byte-Size
Belated May 2018

From Your Writer/Editor – Sharon Hox

I won't bore you with details of jetlag, but I am behind in my life and so, therefore, is Byte-Size. But I couldn't miss wishing every woman HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY. We are all daughters, and most of us are mothers, grand-mothers, some are great-grands, mothers-in-law, daughters-in-law, puppy or cat-mommies.....the list is endless. Also endless is all the love you bring to those you cherish. For those of you who include HADASSAH in your outpouring of affection – thank you.



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SAVE THE DATE

October 6-7 2018 – Bids & Bites Art Auction co-sponsored by Hadassah and KKBE Sisterhood

Saturday evening auction with heavy hors d'oeuvres, wine, and wonderful art; Sunday short auction of remaining items. WATCH FOR NEWS. VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED. Contact Sharon Hox at 843-259-1710 or SharonHox@aol.com

Jan 2, 2019 – Second Annual Rosh Chodesh program (with KKBE Sisterhood)

March 3, 2019 – Vashti's Banquet (with KKBE Sisterhood)

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News from Hadassah

Why Hadassah's Campaign for Gender Equity in Medical Research Matters

HWZOA in the United States and the Linda Joy Pollin Cardiovascular Wellness Center in Israel, together with women's organizations, and the Israel Heart Society, are working to promote gender equity in medical research.

For the physicians and staff at Hadassah Medical Organization's Heart Institute, complaints that there aren't enough women included as test subjects in medical research or, for that matter, in medical academia are not new. Does it really matter? Does it make a difference in what happens to patients? Is there still gender bias in medical research? Currently, don't both men and women get the optimal treatments based on evidence-based practice?

Unfortunately, even in 2018, the answers are not clear. Much of the time, medical research starts out in the animal lab, but animal studies use five times as many male animals as female animals, even when the study is on diseases more common in women. This comes despite the fact that data from male animals may not accurately predict what will happen in human females. Some treatments that might benefit women more than men may be getting lost from the start.

Women are underrepresented as participants in almost every type of medical research other than research on cancers that occur primarily in women. Only 25 percent of the participants in research on heart failure are women, even though more than 50 percent of the people suffering from heart failure are women. Ironically, this can even happen in studies on drugs that are primarily used in women. For example, the medication fibanserin was recently studied in combination with alcohol to see if it led to a drop in blood pressure. Twenty-three men and two women participated in the study. Since fibanserin has been approved for use only in women, results of such testing are not helpful.

Research that does not account for gender differences can result in inaccurate conclusions about how women respond to disease, and this, in turn, will influence the effectiveness of treatment choices. Cardiovascular disease is a prime example of the manner in which disregarding gender differences can unduly influence treatment effectiveness. It is now known that women may have different symptoms of a heart attack when compared to men. For many years women were misdiagnosed, or were diagnosed late in the event, resulting in excess morbidity and mortality in women due to heart disease.

Benefits of gender equity in medical research do not apply just to women. Improved understanding of gender issues improves medical care for men as well. The more researchers learn about "female" patterns of disease, the more they realize that men may have similar disease states, though in lower percentages. Sometimes more is known about the female manifestation of a disease, such as depression, than the male manifestation. Research has traditionally been done on the female pattern of depression; this frequently leaves men under-diagnosed and under-treated.

Some differences are biological and some are related to the socio-cultural differences of what it means to be male or female in our society. Women may fail to seek care for chest pain because of concerns about being perceived as hysterical or because caretaking responsibilities overtake other concerns. Young men are at increased risk of smoking and violence because of cultural norms that are more salient than concerns about the distant future. Following an acute medical incident, women are prescribed less medication than recommended by evidence-based practice. Interestingly, research has shown that checklists remove these differences. Medical

professionals are not purposely treating women insufficiently; instead, underlying biases interfere with appropriate care.

Will getting more women into academia make a difference? It is known that research trials in which the first author and last author are both men have a significantly lower rate of female study participants. At this point in time, funding and staffing decisions by research funders and institutions are made by committees almost exclusively staffed by men.

How can we ensure that both men and women get the medical care they deserve? Research funders need to adopt formal policies that encourage researchers to include considerations of gender in their research designs and analyses. Additionally, all medications should be tested in both women and men, and drug companies should be required to report gender analyses of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics.

HWZOA in the United States and the Linda Joy Pollin Cardiovascular Wellness Center in Israel, together with Knesset members, women's organizations, and the Israel Heart Society, are working to promote gender equity in medical research. The hope is that those efforts translate into improved cardiovascular health for everyone.

Introducing the Full Circle Campaign: 360 Degrees of Healing

We are completely reimagining and renovating the iconic Round Building at Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem in Jerusalem, ensuring HMO's place as a world-renowned health care leader and global destination for advanced care, continued innovation, and cutting-edge research. Learn about the many ways you can support [360 Degrees of Healing](#) and keep HMO ahead of the curve as Jerusalem joins the ranks of the world's high-tech cities.

SUPPORT OUR LIFE-SAVING RESEARCH and HADASSAH HOSPITALS.

[*Hadassah Medical Organization.*](#)

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HADASSAH ISRAEL: A MOSIAC OF CULTURES – Touring Israel to encounter its people, art, food, nature, history, technology and more! May 30-June 11, 2018

SAVE up to \$855 per person in honor of the:

***100th Anniversary of HMO (Hadassah Medical Organization)
100th Anniversary of the School of Nursing
100th Anniversary of the Department of Ophthalmology
70th Anniversary of the State of Israel***

~~\$3,895~~ **Now \$3,040**

*Discounts applied during booking process.

Join Sophie Gottlieb in Israel to explore the mix of cultures, art, food, history & technology that make Israel unique. From visits to Independence Hall and the Western Wall, to Yad Vashem and the mystical city of Safed, plus tours of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Eshkol, Beersheba, nature preserves, food & wine tastings and architectural marvels, this Israel mission is packed with incredible destinations. There is something for everyone, from first-timers to returning visitors!

It's not too late to go on this mission and help celebrate Israel's 70th Anniversary!

Go to www.Hadassah.org

Advocacy Update: Hadassah on the Hill

Women's health is a much-discussed topic in Washington, DC, as inexcusable maternal mortality rates and gaping disparities in preventable health issues -- [such as heart disease](#) -- stubbornly remain the status quo.

That's why on Wednesday May 16 at 10 am, you should watch the second annual Women's Health Empowerment Summit live on [Hadassah's Facebook](#) page. Presented by the Coalition for Women's Health Equity (which Hadassah founded) during National Women's Health Week, you won't want to miss these timely discussions with trailblazers on caregiving, mental health and gender, and the importance of including women in clinical trials.

To follow up on a powerful Summit, members will spend Thursday on Capitol Hill meeting with federal legislators to discuss women's health equity, including pending legislation.

Hadassah members will also call on Congress to:

- [Eliminate the Dickey Amendment](#), which prevents any CDC funding to be used toward the study of firearms or gun control, and allocate funds to this essential research (H.R. 1832)
- [Advocate supporting Holocaust education](#) through the Never Again Education Act (H.R. 1474) and supporting the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act of 2017 (H.R. 1911 | S. 1292).

If learning about the incredible people working to advance women's health equity moves you to action, make an appointment in your home district with your federal legislator for a Day in the District. Hadassah National is here to help every step of the way, email advocacy@hadassah.org.

Don't miss this powerful JTA news story, "[These Jews are leading the fight for equal treatment of women in health care.](#)"

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Hadassah Open Meeting – Our next Chapter Open Meeting will be **Thursday, July 12** at 10:30am. Reply to this email or contact SharonHox@aol.com if you would like to attend and receive the location information. At our Chapter meetings we discuss programming, fundraising, and Hadassah news.

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS AROUND TOWN

A World of Jewish Culture at Piccolo Spoleto – June 2-6, 2018

Go to www.piccolospoleto.org for the full program and learn more about:

- Saffron's Jewish Coffeehouse – June 2 at 10:00pm
- Feature Film Series at Arnold Hall: Israel at 70 – various dates and films
- The Jewish Choral Society presents Visions of Jewish Music – June 3, 1:00pm at KKBE
- Tsvey Brider – contemporary and unique interpretations of music in the Yiddish language – June 3, 3:00PM at KKBE
- Chamber Music with Yuriy Bekker and Friends – June 3, 6:00pm at KKBE
- Aron Zelkowicz (cellist) and Friends at BSBI – June 4, 7:00pm

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What's on your mind?

We'd love to hear from you. If you have suggestions for programs or activities by the Charleston Chapter, or just want to start a conversation, let us know. REPLY to this email and we'll be in touch.

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