My life before BGU:
My academic life began at Ben-Gurion University. I finished studying nursing in 1995 and then worked for 15 years in the emergency medicine and neonatal departments, and also in the community. I really loved the work and the contact with the patients and their families. Eventually I went on to graduate studies in the Department of Emergency Medicine here at BGU. After completing my PhD, I began to teach in the Department of Nursing. I also serve as the head of graduate studies in the Department of Emergency Medicine and as research coordinator at the Medical School for International Health. I am also currently carrying out postdoc research with the International Council of Nurses (ICN).

My research interests are preparedness and response to emergencies and disasters, and research methods in complex situations. I participate in research projects both in Israel and worldwide on the subject of management characterized by resilience, assessment and measurement of community resilience to emergency situations, and the role of medical personnel in emergency situations.

Why BGU?
My husband and I grew up in the center of the country, but we knew we would eventually come to the South. We love the scenery and the social tapestry of the area. We wanted to raise our children in this climate. I stayed at BGU because of the infinite range of opportunities, and the experts and researchers of the highest calibre who gave me direction and a path.

Something that doesn’t appear on my resume:
I love doing crafts like sewing, patchwork, paper mache and cooking.

A source of inspiration:
My grandmother, Mali Brukenthal, died this year at the age of 103. She immigrated to Israel, was a kibbutz founder, went through the Holocaust with three children and saved many teens. She was a model of determination and optimism, always focused on what could be changed, and never let the “here and now” obscure the bigger picture.

When I grow up:
When I was little I would answer that I wanted to be a nurse. Today I say: to be grown up.

An insight from my research:
There is a deep connection between normal times and emergency situations! Proper comportment in emergencies depends on learning ability, preparation and development of responses ahead of time. The same is true for providing optimal clinical treatment, as well as at the higher level of community and national preparedness.