

The Center for Women's Health Studies and Promotion at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev



המרכז לחקר וקידום
בריאות האשה

The BGU Center for Women's Health
Studies and Promotion



Moshe Rosenthalis, *Woman*, 2003 משה רוזנטליס, *אישה*, 2003

Annual Report – 2014

אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev



THE BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV
CENTER FOR WOMEN'S
HEALTH STUDIES AND PROMOTION
ANNUAL REPORT 2014

1. **Name of the Center:** THE BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV
CENTER FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH STUDIES AND PROMOTION

2. **Center Directors:** Dr. Dorit Segal-Engelchin and Prof. Julie Cwikel, PhD, The
Charlotte B. and Jack J. Spitzer Department of Social Work

3. **Center Advisory Board**

Prof. Dan Blumberg, Vice President and Dean for Research and Development

Prof. David Newman, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Prof. Amos Katz, MD, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences

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Dr. Hagit Perez, Department of Epidemiology

Prof. Orly Sarid, Department of Social Work

Prof. Golan Shahar, Department of Behavioral Sciences

Prof. Ilana Shoham-Vardi, Department of Epidemiology

Ms. Sheila Warshawsky, MS, Faculty of Health Sciences

4. Center Steering Committee

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Prof. Julie Cwikel, Department of Social Work

Prof. Ilana Harman-Boehm, MD, Internal Medicine

Dr. Efrat Huss, Department of Social Work

Ms. Orly Liberman, Recanati School of Nursing

Dr. Hagit Perez, Department of Epidemiology

Prof. Orly Sarid, Department of Social Work

Dr. Dorit Segal–Engelchin, Department of Social Work

Prof. Ilana Shoham-Vardi, Department of Epidemiology

Ms. Sheila Warshawsky, MS, Faculty of Health Sciences

The Center Acknowledges its Generous Supporters

The supporters of the work of the Center make our dreams for improving the lives of women and families from the Negev, come true. Our supporters are a varied group including women and men from different parts of the world. We offer you this annual report to provide a window into the diverse set of activities that take place here at the Center. We are very glad to meet our donors should they visit Israel. We offer you our most sincere thanks for the vote of confidence you have given us and our work and we hope that you stay in touch during the coming year.



Center Research and Community Activities

We are pleased to share our 2014 Annual Report, which highlights our new research and community initiatives. As can be seen in the report, over the last year, we have expanded both our research and community activities to address the emerging issues and challenges related to the current family trends in Israel. This is due to our underlying assumption that the family context plays an important role in shaping the health and quality of life of women. We also chose to delve deeper into fatherhood because we believe that, as part of the process of empowering women, we must also look out for the men, thus paving the way for both partners' healthy growth and involvement.

This year we were confronted with added challenges due to the stressful security situation during Operation Protective Edge. This situation generated unique needs in the Negev region, which were particularly evident among mothers with children at home. Based on our past experience with previous military operations, the Center operated unique interventions during this operation and offered our services to many social services in the Negev.

During this year, we also concentrated our efforts in developing the Center's website. The renewed website now provides extensive information on the Center's activities and publications.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful staff members for their devoted work and commitment to promote the Center's vision.

Research Activities

Mind-body Techniques for Cancer Patients and Their Family Members

Support from a grant from the Oncology Patients Memorial Fund is supporting research on how to use SKYPE based interventions to help support cancer patients and their families, who have difficulties leaving the house and accessing psychosocial support services. In collaboration with Prof. Pesach Schwartzman of the Faculty of Medicine, Community Health department, we are engaging in a demonstration project on how SKYPE can open treatment options to cancer patients and their families. Collaborating on this project with Prof. Julie Cwikel is Tali Samson, a doctoral student supervised by Prof. Schwartzman, who designed a research protocol that will examine how to use SKYPE-based interventions in palliative care. We are now awaiting the ethics committee approvals before we can start to work with the palliative care staff in the Negev.

Combining Cognitive Behavioral Techniques with Art Therapy (CBI-ART) - Research Continues

Combining aspects of art with strategies of empirically tested cognitive behavior therapy techniques has led to a research, practice and treatment innovation at the Center, evolving from theoretical and clinical work done by our members, which was generously supported by Aileen Whitman of Philadelphia, PA. Following the publication of our article on CB-ART, this work was expanded to a collaborative research project with colleagues from the Monash University, Prof. Jane Fisher and Dr. Heather Rowe. These two colleagues, who work in the area of perinatal mental health, will be testing the CB-ART protocol with selected populations of mothers in Melbourne, Australia. At the same time, we are beginning to test the application of their program, called WAWA (Why are we anxious?) designed to work with new mothers around common anxieties that present during pregnancy and in the post-partum period.

Art-Based Trauma Assessment for Women in the Army

We continue to analyze the data collected on sources of stress and resilience of students who served in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). This study uses the arts-based trauma assessment (ABTA) procedure that was developed and published by leading researchers at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Dr. Efrat Huss, Prof. Orly Sarid, and Prof. Julie Cwikel, in 2010. We hope this initiative will further our understanding of the impact of combat and non-combat army-related experiences on how women return to "normative" roles in society. This study was funded by the Brandeis University's Hadassah-Brandeis Institute and is being jointly conducted by Dr. Ephrat Huss and Prof. Julie Cwikel, together with two Master's students, Ms. Agam Marom and Ms. Miri Kogan.

The Effectiveness of CB-ART Workshops in Reducing Security-related Stress

During Operation Protective Edge the Center held CB-ART workshops offering a combination of guided imagery and drawing (a more detailed description of this intervention is provided below). These workshops were followed by an evaluation study in order to assess the effectiveness of these workshops in reducing security-related stress and in transforming security-related stressful-memories. We are now analyzing the data collected. This research is led by Dr. Dorit Segal- Engelchin, Prof. Orly Sarid, Dr. Efrat Huss and Prof. Julie Cwikel.

The Health and Quality of Life of Women and Men in Diverse Family

Configurations

Dr. Dorit Segal-Engelchin continues to work on her study of the effects of diverse family configurations on women's health and quality of life. The study compares differences in quality of life and health outcomes among married mothers, single mothers by choice, mothers in hetero-gay families, divorced mothers, and partnered and un-partnered lesbian mothers.

Based on her initial findings on the women in diverse family configurations, she is now in the process of developing a new study designed to examine the impact of family structure on men's health and quality of life.

Examining Treatment Preferences for Women Post-Partum, With and Without Post-Partum Depression

Prof. Orly Sarid and Prof. Julie Cwikel are in the last stages of data collection on a grant funded by the Gertner Institute for Epidemiology and Health Policy Research. This research focuses on the treatment preferences of women after childbirth, including options for web-based treatment. This grant supports the Ph.D. research of Meital Simhi, who is being jointly supervised by Prof. Sarid and Prof. Cwikel.

Mothers' Strategies in Strengthening Daughters' Body Image

A final version of this paper is now under consideration for publication, following the fruitful collaboration between Dr. Maya Maor from gender studies and Prof. Julie Cwikel. The theory developed in this study is being expanded on by PhD candidate, Ms. Efrat Cohen-Noyman, who is now collecting data on how mothers can help their teenage daughters develop a positive body image and avoid eating disorders.

Culturally Sensitive Medical Care: Hospice Services and the Bedouin Population

In collaboration with Dr. Yoram Singer, head of the Negev Hospice Services, and Dr. Maya Maor, we have made progress on a study of how hospice medical professionals work in a culturally sensitive way with Bedouin patients in a hospice service.

Understanding Women's Traumatic Birth Experiences

Working together with a nurse-midwife researcher, Dr. Ofra Halperin, a lecturer at Emek Yezreel College's nursing faculty, we completed a study on how women view their birth experiences and how these experiences impact their post-partum adjustment period. Women were studied at two hospitals in northern Israel, in order to gauge how they assess their birth experiences, both directly following and 6-8 weeks after delivery. In addition to the earlier paper published from these data, an additional paper based on the follow-up data is under review for publication.

New Postdoctoral Researcher

This year, Dr. Orna Donat, a postdoctoral researcher, has joined our Center. Dr. Donat has completed her PhD dissertation in the Department of Sociology at Tel-Aviv University. She has conducted two innovative qualitative studies related to family choices. The first study, which is presented in her Master's thesis, focused on Israeli men and women who chose to be childfree. Her second study, which she conducted as part of her PhD research, focused on Israeli Jewish women who regret becoming mothers.

Based on her previous research findings, she is now developing a group intervention, the first of its kind in Israel, for both single and married women who are considering whether or not to become mothers. Her postdoctoral study is designed to explore the views and experiences of the women who will participate in the group. Dr. Donat's research project is conducted under the guidance of Dr. Dorit Segal-Engelchin and Dr. Niza Berkowitz from the Gender Studies Program at BGU.

Graduate Students Creating New Research in Women's Health

PhD Students

Tzipi Hornik-Lurie is in the last stages of approval of her thesis: "Challenges to Israel's Primary Health Care System in the Treatment of Mental Health Problems among Those Seeking Care - Implications for Health Care Policy". Three papers were published from her thesis research in: 1) *Complementary Therapies in Medicine* 2) *Israel Journal of Psychiatry and related sciences* and 3) *Psychiatric Services*. Her research has been supported in part by a student grant from the Gertner Institute for Epidemiology and Health Policy Research. She is supervised by Prof. Julie Cwikel.

Yael Damri has been busy this year collecting data for her thesis on the reflective capacity of parents and their school-aged children among families with attention-deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), compared to families without ADHD. The study is based on the mentalization theories of Profs. Peter Fonagy and Ariete Slade, and is supervised by Prof. Cwikel, Prof. Naama Atzaba-Poria and Dr. Shosh Arbel from Soroka Medical Center's Child Psychiatry Unit.

Avigdor Kaner has developed an innovative internet-based group intervention for new fathers, based on his initial findings on the experiences of new fathers during the first year postpartum. His study is designed to evaluate the effectiveness of this unique intervention for new fathers. He is now in the process of conducting on-line groups for new fathers. This year he conducted five internet-based groups of new fathers and he is now starting a sixth group. Avigdor is supervised by Dr. Dorit Segal-Engelchin and Prof. Julie Cwikel.

Efrat Cohen-Noyman, PhD candidate with an accepted proposal. She has now started to collect data on: "The effect of the mother-daughter relationship on the development of positive body image among girls in childhood and adolescence". She is supervised by Prof. Julie Cwikel.

Shimrit Engelsman, PhD candidate with accepted proposal and now is collecting data on: "The birth experiences of Haredi Israeli women". She is supervised by Dr. Ephrat Huss and Prof. Julie Cwikel.

Nirit Volk, PhD candidate. She is developing a proposal on: "Empowerment of women who experienced child sexual abuse in their transition to motherhood". She is supervised by Prof. Julie Cwikel.

Master's Students

Tali Nevo is now in the final stage of writing up her thesis, entitled "The meaning of choosing an anonymous sperm donation as a route to motherhood from the perspective of single mothers by choice". She is supervised by Dr. Dorit Segal-Engelchin.

Daya Perach-Yosef is continuing her thesis, entitled "Mothers and daughters' health behaviors: An inter-generational perspective". She is supervised by Dr. Dorit Segal-Engelchin and Prof. Julie Cwikel.

Aizen Talia, is now developing a proposal on the experience of motherhood among women who married widowed fathers, as part of her MA thesis completion towards a PhD degree. To date, this group of mothers has received very little scholarly attention. She is supervised by Dr. Dorit Segal-Engelchin.

Oz Peperberg, is in the process of developing a proposal on men coping with infertility. He is supervised by Dr. Dorit Segal-Engelchin, Prof. Orly Sarid and Dr. Iris Har-Vardi.

Community Activities

Promoting the Health of Mothers and Infants

Prof. Julie Cwikel continues to work through the National Advisory Board to the Minister of Health, on developing a national program for meeting the needs of women who are screened as positive for Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (PMAD) in perinatal care services nationally. Together with a committee that includes representatives of the Ministry of Health and all the Sick Funds, a proposal has been submitted for debate at the National Council prior to presenting this position paper to the Minister of Health.

Women and National Insurance Institute (Bituach Leumi) – Making the Transparent Apparent

This project was initiated by women health activists from Isha Le-Isha, Feminist Center in Haifa and coordinated by Ms. Tzvia Dei. Women are more likely to suffer from fibromyalgia and other diseases such as chronic pain syndromes which are “transparent” in terms of their medical and social rights, particularly when efforts are made to recognize their disability through the National Insurance Institute. Recent research has shown that these diseases, which are more prevalent among women, are associated with discriminatory practices in medical committees and are much less likely to be granted disability payments.

The Center for Women’s Health Studies and Promotion joined this national project in April, 2014, as part of the organizing committee, together with the Project activists and the Beer-Sheva municipality, of a conference called “Invisible coverage: Women’s health and coping with chronic pain syndromes”. This conference was held at the Teacher’s College in Beer-Sheva and was attended by over 400 persons. Prof. Cwikel was one of the plenary speakers and gave a presentation on “The Social Epidemiology of Fibromyalgia”. Since this conference, a Negev group of women health activists has been meeting at the Center, approximately once every month in order to develop a national plan of action. The goal is to develop achievable targets in the fight for rights for women suffering from fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue and pain syndromes. A group of 9 activists are meeting in the South and are collaborating with a national activist group of close to 30, including health professionals, lawyers and activist women. The group is focusing on two levels: 1) changing the National Health Insurance law and 2) increasing awareness among both health professionals and laypersons about this group of diseases and their special social and medical issues.



Lecturers at the conference on fibromyalgia

Community Health Promotion Programs

Mom to Mom - Em le Em

Mom to Mom is now a well-established program, providing support for new mothers and their infants in Beer-Sheva and the Negev. We are now marking the ninth year of this special volunteer program modeled after a successful program that began in Boston, Massachusetts. This program is led by Limor Niego, MSW - clinical social worker, Nirit Segal – administrator, Prof. Julie Cwikel and Dr. Dorit Segal-Engelchin – supervisors. The program also operates in Jerusalem under the direction of Dr. Marsha Kaitz, a developmental psychologist at Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In this program, veteran mothers receive volunteer training in order to provide one-on-one support to new mothers who feel that they do not have adequate confidence during the first year following childbirth. The program's volunteers provide much-needed support on a weekly basis through home visits. By supporting new mothers, we help them foster healthy childhood development for the next generation.



This year we have continued to train volunteer mothers who are now working on an individual basis with new birthing moms. To date, 29 groups of volunteers have been trained and have conducted close to 525 home visits to new mothers. Since the beginning of the program, we have matched volunteers with 402 new mothers. There are currently 25 active mother-volunteer pairs. We are considered the leader in this field in the Negev and have been asked by local councils in the region, including Arad, Rahat, Beer-Sheva and Ofakim, to advise them on setting up and training staff for similar programs.

We also continued running our morning mothers group, which enables mothers to meet once a week with their infants to hear a lecture, to network with each other and to receive attention to individual issues in mothering. The major topics presented in this year's group included: coping with immunizations in light of the polio scare, physiotherapy and child development, yoga for mothers and infants, nutrition, optimizing sleep for parents and children, handling difficult situations in parenting, and managing relations with parents and in-laws. In addition, Prof. Julie Cwikel and Limor Niego conducted a six session workshop on positive parenting with the mothers attending this group.

Throughout the past year, over 30 mothers had benefited from participation in the mothers group by acquiring knowledge concerning mothering infants and establishing supportive contacts and social circles with other mothers. This group has grown significantly over the past year, at times outstripping the capacity of the room where mothers meet once a week. To address the growing demand for this service, we are now at the process of opening an additional mothers group, which will be held in the afternoons. This will also allow mothers who had returned to work after maternity leave to benefit from this weekly group.

This year, we also expanded our efforts to include active collaboration with the neonatal unit at Soroka University Hospital. The volunteers visited the NICU and now we are giving services to four mothers of premature infants.

In July, during Operation Protective Edge, the staff kept in close contact with both the mothers participating in the program and the volunteers through personal phone calls and group cell phone messages. Based on our experience in Operation Iron Cast, we encouraged mothers who were able to leave the area and move to more protected areas of Israel with their infants and children, to do so. After the cease-fire, we resumed our group meetings in order to allow mothers to ventilate their traumatic experiences and gather support from meeting each other.

Tragically, as the operation neared its end, one of our volunteers, who has been volunteering in our "Mom to Mom" program for many years, lost her 4-year-old grandson, Daniel Tregerman, killed by mortar shell fire in his Kibbutz home at Nahal Oz. We are now in the process of exploring various options to perpetuate his memory at our Center.

Isha Be-Shela – Counselling Service for Women in the Negev

The Center's counselling service, which is the first counselling service in the Negev designed specifically to meet the needs of women, has now been operating for six years. During these years, this service has become a well-known and highly regarded mental health service in the Negev. This is reflected in both the growing number of clients who seek our counselling services, including male clients, and in the growing referrals from the professional community.

Since the beginning of the project, we have seen 25 men and nearly 400 women in psychotherapy treatment, more than half of them, young women between the ages of 20-30. As in previous years, many of our clients this year have reported significant financial problems. Due to the generosity of our donors, we were able to offer subsidized psychotherapy to some of these clients.

Our counselling service is led by Vered Deichman, psychotherapist, MSW, together with Dr. Ruth Siton, psychologist, Dr. Dorit Segal-Engelchin and Prof. Julie Cwikel. The staff now includes 14 psychotherapists, including two male therapists, all of which are senior social workers. Most of our therapists are graduates of BGU. Our staff provides individual psychotherapy to women and men of all walks of life from throughout the Negev. The staff met regularly over the course of the year for monthly training sessions and case presentations, along with peer group sessions. In order to enrich the staff's knowledge and skills several guest lecturers, leading experts in their field, were invited this year to participate in these peer group sessions. Among them was Israela Meyerstein, LCSW-C, LCMFT, a family therapist from Philadelphia, who gave a lecture entitled "Clinical work with stepfamilies: conducting a challenging orchestra".

Innovative services for women in new family configurations

Thanks to the generous support of the Robert Sillins Foundation, the Center has started to set up new and innovative services designed to address the needs of women who are parenting in nontraditional family forms and/or of women who contemplate the option of creating a nontraditional family. One such service is a *group for single mothers by choice (SMC)* that we have developed. This group, the first of its kind in the Negev region, is designed to provide SMC in the Negev an opportunity to associate with other mothers who share similar experiences and challenges, as well as to receive support and counseling on various issues related to lone motherhood. Child care will be provided to participants' children during the group meetings. We are now in the process of interviewing potential participants for this group.

An additional new service developed at our Center, which was mentioned above, is a *group for women who contemplate the option of becoming a mother*. This group, entitled "To Be or Not to Be a Mother", is the first group of its kind in Israel. The group is designed for both single and married women. We are now also in the process of interviewing potential participants for this group.

CB-ART Workshops

The daily exposure to incessant rocket and missile fire from our southern border, during Operation Protective Edge this July and August, has led residents of the Negev, and particularly those residing in the southern border towns, to experience high levels of stress. In an attempt to provide some form of solution for the heightened stress levels experienced by members of the community, the Center held eight CB-ART workshops offering a combination of guided imagery and drawing. This unique intervention developed by the Center and put to use in previous operations was found to be highly effective in lowering stress levels among the various participating populations. The workshops were open to professional staff working in the Negev region under the burden of both personal and professional demands, university faculty members, volunteers in our "Mom to Mom" program and students, and received highly positive feedbacks.

The workshops were conducted under the leadership of Dr. Dorit Segal-Engelchin, in collaboration with Prof. Orly Sarid, Dr. Ephrat Huss and Vered Deichman.

Positive Parenting Program

Thanks to the generous support of Judge Leon Kaplan, the Center continues to expand opportunities for supporting new parents in the Negev. This year Limor Niego and Prof. Cwikel conducted positive parenting training with a group of mothers, together with their infants, in a series of six sessions. In addition, a leaders' manual was developed and produced (in Hebrew) that summarizes the theoretical and practical knowledge gained in this project of working with parents of 0-3 year old children (Cwikel, Niego & Gueron, 2014). With a manual available, we will be able to train and supervise other professionals working with this age group in communities around the Negev. We were pleased to host Judge Leon Kaplan at his visit to the Center in May, 2014.

We continued teaching a Master's seminar on positive parenting skills for Master's students of social work (MSW). This year, the format include elements from the reflective parenting training, with topics such as child temperament, setting boundaries, and dealing with child distress without losing parental perspective. The seminar was led by Prof. Cwikel and Noa Gueron, a graduate student, who was supervised by Prof. Atzaba-Poriah and has now completed her Ph.D. in developmental psychology. There were 16 MA students in the practicum, and each student worked with one set of parents, who had a child between the ages of 6 months and 2 years. The students taught reflective parenting skills and provide guidelines and counseling.

The program emphasized the role of fathers in childhood development. In addition, different topics were presented throughout the year including: coping with postpartum depression, communication between couples, parenting adopted children, milestones in child development, historical and cross-cultural approaches in parenting, understanding the importance of play and reading to children, and coping with problems with sleeping and feeding.

During the course of this academic year, Prof. Julie Cwikel and Limor Niego continued a fruitful collaboration with the Municipality of Beer-Sheva on incorporating concepts of Positive Parenting into work in the various neighborhoods around Beer-Sheva with an emphasis on tailoring the program to meet the needs of special populations. At the request of the Beer-Sheva Municipality, they taught a group of professional and paraprofessional social workers how to work with parents of infants and toddlers. The group participants now are setting up groups in the various neighborhoods around Beer-Sheva with the positive parenting skills they acquired.

Visitors and Guest Lecturers at the Center

Mrs. Esther and Mr. Roger Shacket visited the Center on November 3rd. Esther is the founder of the Jewish Women's Foundation of Broward County and a founding member of KOLOT at JFS of Broward, a coalition that helps women who are victims of domestic violence. We discussed options for collaboration.

The Center hosted **Prof. Susan Sered**, of the Department of Sociology and the Center for Women's Health and Human Rights at Suffolk University, Boston, on December 29. She gave an inspiring lecture to a group of graduate students on "Criminalized Women, Health and Human Rights".

Prof. Judith Rosenberger, former Chair of Clinical Practice and the Human Behavior departments at the City University of New York/Hunter College Graduate School of Social Work, visited our Center on December 31. We hosted her together with the Regional Alcohol and Drug Abuse Research (RADAR) Center. Prof. Rosenberger gave a lecture to faculty and students entitled "Psychoanalytic Perspectives on Addiction". During her visit we discussed possible avenues for research collaboration.

Travels to Philadelphia with AABGU: June 2014

This year, Dr. Dorit Segal-Engelchin traveled with Prof. Julie Cwikel to Philadelphia to address our donors there on the topic of Alternative Family Structures: Changes in the Israeli Family, and give an update on the Center's ongoing activities at a lovely reception hosted by Sylvia Brodsky at her home on the 11th of June, Dorit had a chance to meet some of the many generous donors to the Center from the Philadelphia area and to present her vision. With the help of Claire Winick from AABGU, we had a very fruitful and eventful day of meetings. We had a chance to catch up with Aileen Whitman and her daughter, Barbara Sivan, who hosted us for dinner at a 300 year old farmhouse, now turned into a local restaurant, the Blue Bell Inn.

During our visit to Philadelphia we also had the pleasure to meet with the Women of Vision group of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia. At a luncheon meeting hosted by this group, we introduced our Center's goals and various activities and gave a presentation entitled " Charting New Traditions: The Challenges of a Changing Family Structure".



From left to right: Prof. Julie Cwikel, Ms. Sylvia Brodsky, and Dr. Dorit Segal-Engelchin



**The Women of Vision group of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia with
Dr. Dorit Segal-Engelchin and Prof. Julie Cwikel**

In Memoriam: Lora Warshawsky-Livne (1971-2013)



The Center staff sadly marks the passing of one of our first PhD students:

Dr. Lora Warshawsky-Livne (1971-2013).

She is the daughter of Sheila and Allan Warshawsky. Sheila is one of the founding members of the Center and serves on our board. Lora completed her Ph.D. in 2004 in the Department of Industrial Engineering and Management, at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Her doctoral thesis "An Analysis of the Organizational, Managerial and Economic Aspects of Healthcare Delivery for Women in Israel" was carried out under the supervision of Professor Joseph Pliskin and Professor Julie

Cwikel. She taught in the Department of Health Management and the Department of Industrial Engineering and Management at Ben-Gurion University and was a Lecturer in the Logistics Department of Sapir College teaching Logistics as well as supervising the esteemed Logistics Projects Course. Her research emphasized the health needs of women and gender differences in health related issues.

She was a community activist, served on the Moetza of Lahavim for several years, played flute in the town band and was an active member in the Magen Avraham Masorti Synagogue in Omer. She was married to Dovi Livne and mother to Liron and Gali. Lora died on April 11, 2013 after bravely fighting lymphoma for three years.

In her last year, she completed a research project which continued her interest in gender differences in health risks. This resulted in the following publication, which unfortunately she did not live to rejoice in seeing published:

“Differences in Risk Attitudes by Gender” by L. Warshawsky-Livne, L. Novack, A.B. Rosen, S.M. Downs, J. Shkolnik-Inbar and J. S. Pliskin in *Preference Measurement in Health*, an edited volume in the series *Advances in Health Economics and Health Services Research*; Blomquist and Bolin, editors. Emerald Group Publishing Limited, Bingley, UK 2014. pp. 123-140

Publications and Academic Activities of Center Researchers and Scholars (Listed in Alphabetical Order by Last Name)

With great pride we share with you the publications and academic activities of the Center's researchers and scholars during 2014.

Dr. Orit Ben-Zvi Assaraf

Publications

Sedawi, W., **Ben-Zvi Assaraf**, O., & Cwikel, J.G. (2014). The conceptualization of health and welfare among elementary school students within the Bedouin Arab community in the Negev. *Journal of Cultural Studies of Science Education*.1-42.

Conference

Sedawi, W., & **Ben-Zvi Assaraf**, O. (2014). Hebron Stream as a Place Identity Component for Primary School Students Living in Nearby Bedouin Communities. Presented in the Fourth international conference on drylands, deserts and desertification: Implementing Rio+20 for drylands and desertification. Sede Boqer, Israel, November 12-15.

Prof. Julie Cwikel

Publications

Halperin, O. Sarid, O., & **Cwikel**, J. (2014). A comparison of Israeli Jewish and Arab women's birth perceptions. *Midwifery* 30(7):853-861.

Czamanski-Cohen, J., Sarid, O., **Cwikel**, J., Levitas, E., Lunenfeld, E., Douvdevani, A., & Har-Vardi, I. (2014). Decrease in cell free DNA levels following participation in stress reduction techniques among women undergoing infertility treatment. *Archives of Women's Mental Health*, 1:1-3. DOI 10.1007/s00737-013-0407-2.

Czamanski-Cohen, J., Sarid, O., Huss, E., Ifergane, A., Niego, L., & **Cwikel**, J. (2014). CB-ART- The use of a hybrid cognitive behavioral and art based protocol for treating pain and symptoms accompanying coping with chronic illness. *Art and Psychotherapy*.

Huss, E., & **Cwikel**, J. (2014). Women's stress in compulsory army service in Israel: A gendered perspective. *WORK: A Journal of Prevention, Assessment & Rehabilitation for the special issue devoted to Soldier Rehabilitation*.15:32 (in press).

Hornik-Lurie, T. **Cwikel**, J. Zilber, N. Feinson, M. Biderman, A., & Lerner, Y. (2014). Does specializing in family medicine improve the detection and diagnosis of mental health problems? *Israel Journal of Psychiatry*. (accepted).

Sarid, O., Shraga, Y., **Cwikel**, J., Pereg, A., & Reuveni, H. (2014). The effect of ethno-culture and health beliefs on mothers' vaccination behavior. *Bitahon Soziali* (Social Security – Hebrew), (accepted).

Sedawi, W., Ben-Zvi Assaraf, O., & **Cwikel**, J.G. (2014). The conceptualization of health and welfare among elementary school students within the Bedouin Arab community in the Negev. *Journal of Cultural Studies of Science Education*.1-42.

Invited Lectures and Conferences

2014 - Segal-Engelchin, D., Sarid, O., & Cwikel, J. Transferring Knowledge: An Interactive Approach to Service Development for Postpartum Depression (PPD). Hunter College: 3rd International Conference on Practice Research in Social Work. June 9-11, 2014, New York

2014 - Cwikel, J. Goren, T. & Teller, Y. Social development of Bedouin women of the Negev through environmental activism. Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development, 2014, Melbourne, Australia.

2014 - Cwikel, J. & Maor, M. Mother-daughter relationships and strategies for the promotion of a positive body image for daughters. Seventh International Conference on Motherhood, feminisms and the future. RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia. 17-20 July, 2014

2014 - Inter-sectorial research on postpartum depression (PPD) in Israel, Monash University School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Jean Hailes Research Unit for Women's Health, July 21st, 2014

Invited Plenary

2014 - "Social epidemiology of fibromyalgia". Invited lecture at "Invisible coverage: Women's health and coping with chronic pain syndromes", Teacher's college, Beer-Sheva, May, 1, 2014, Invited plenary speaker and co-organizer together with Women and Social Security and the Beer-Sheva Municipality.

Research Grants

2014 Preferences and barriers to treatment for post-partum depression among Israeli women. Joint project with Prof. Orly Sarid, Israeli National Institute for Health Policy Research. 2 years.

2014 Developing resources for cancer patients and their families using remote computers access and webcam. Yad la-Holei Haoncologi.

2014 Expanding treatment options for new mothers with anxiety and depressive disorders, a joint BGU-Monash research program. Co-investigators: Prof. Orly Sarid, Dr. Ephrat Huss, Prof. Jane Fisher and Dr. Heather Rowe, 3 years.

Dr. Johanna Czamanski-Cohen

Publications

Czamanski-Cohen, J., Sarid, O., Cwikel, J., Levitas, E., Lunenfeld, E., Douvdevani, A. & Har-Vardi, I. (2014). Decrease in cell free DNA levels following participation in stress reduction techniques among women undergoing infertility treatment. *Archives of Women's Mental Health*.17, 251-253.

Czamanski-Cohen, J., Sarid, O., Huss, E., Ifergane, A., Niego, L., & Cwikel, J. (2014). CB-ART-The use of a hybrid cognitive behavioral and art based protocol for treating pain and symptoms accompanying coping with chronic illness. *The Arts in Psychotherapy*, 41(4), 320–328.

Presentations at Conferences

American Psychosomatic Society (APS): Chosen to be an APS Young Investigator Scholar.

Dr. Czamanski-Cohen completed her post-doctoral studies at IDC, and from September 2014 is a R25T Cancer Prevention and Control Translational Research Fellow at the University of Arizona Cancer Center. She will be studying the use of art based interventions on emotion regulation and the reduction of risk for depressive symptoms in women coping with breast cancer.

An article based on research funded by a generous donation of the Warshawsky family titled "The relationship between Cell free DNA and telomere length in women undergoing in vitro fertilization" authored by : Czamanski-Cohen, Sarid, Cwikel, Douvdevani, Lunenfeld & Har-Vardi is under review for publication.

Dr. Leeat Granek

Publications

Granek, L., Bartels U, Scheinemann K, Labrecque M, Barrera M. (In Press). Grief Reactions and Impact of Patient Death on Pediatric Oncologists. *Pediatric Blood & Cancer*.

Granek, L., Lazarev, I., Birenstock-Cohen, S., Geffen, D. Riesenber, K., & Ariad, S. (In Press). Early Exposure to a Clinical Oncology Course During Preclinical Medical Education for Second Year Medical Students. *Academic Medicine*.

Jonas-Simpson, C. Steele, R., **Granek**, L., Davies, B & O’Leary, J. (In Press). Always With Me: Understanding Experiences of Bereaved Children Whose Baby Sibling Died. *Death Studies*.

Klassen, A., Rosenberg, Z., D’Agostino, N., Caro, S., Syed, I., **Granek**, L., Greenberg, R., Dix, D., Nathan, P. (In press). The development of scales to measure childhood cancer survivors' readiness for transition to long-term follow-up care as adults. *Health Expectations*.

Granek, L. (2014). The Heritability of Cancer. *Journal of Clinical Oncology*. 20, :2270-2271.

Granek, L. (2014). Mourning Sickness: The Politicizations of Grief. *Review of General Psychology* Vol. 18(2), 61-68.

Presentation at a Conference

Granek, L. & Nakash, O. (2015). The Impact of Qualitative Research on the “Real World”: Knowledge Translation as Education, Policy, Clinical Training, and Clinical Practice. To be presented at the Eleventh International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry in Champaign-Urbana, IL. (May 20-23, 2015).

Granek, L. (2015). The Bits on the Cutting Room Floor: Erasures and Denials within The Qualitative Research Trajectory. To be presented at the Eleventh International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry in Champaign-Urbana, IL. (May 20-23, 2015).

Jonas-Simpson, C., Steele, R., **Granek**, L., Davies, B., & O’Leary, J. (2014). *Children who grieve and mourn a baby sibling: A research-based documentary film translating knowledge for bereavement education*. 20th International Congress on Palliative Care, Montréal, QC, Canada.

Granek, L. (2014). *Mourning Sickness: The Politicizations of Grief. Science, Technology & Gender: Challenges & Opportunities*. University of Waterloo, Canada. (August 12-14th, 2014).

Jonas-Simpson, C., Steele, R., Davies, B., **Granek**, L., O’Leary, J. (2014). *Children who grieve and mourn a baby sibling: A research-based documentary*. Presentation at the 19th Biennial International Perinatal Bereavement Conference (Nov. 6-9th, 2014) in San Antonio Texas, USA .

Granek, L. (2014). Why do women delay seek care for breast cancer symptoms?: A synthesis of three studies. 6th Biannual National Conference on Qualitative Methods. Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Faculty of Social Sciences, Israeli Center for Qualitative Research of People and Societies (February 4-6, 2014).

Invited Talks

Granek, L. (November, 2014). Coping with chronic patient loss. **Oncology Grand Rounds**, Sheba Medical Center, Tel-Aviv, Israel.

Granek, L. (November, 2014). An introduction to psycho-oncology: A review of three studies. **Psychology Rounds**, Soroka Hospital, Beer-Sheva Israel.

Granek, L. (August, 2014). Self-care for the Oncologist. **Oncology Grand Rounds**, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York City, United States.

Granek, L. (August, 2014). Dealing with patient loss in pediatric oncology. **Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center**, New York City, United States.

Granek, L. (May, 2014). *Introduction to Psycho-Oncology and the Emotional Well Being of Oncologists*. The Medical School for International Health, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.

Granek, L. (May, 2014). *Introduction to Psycho-Oncology and the Emotional Well Being of Oncologists*. Ben-Gurion University Medical School, 2nd year Clinical Oncology Course, Beer-Sheva, Israel.

Granek, L. (February, 2014). The grief of oncologists and its impact on patient care. **Oncology Grand Rounds**, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York City, United States.

Granek, L. (February, 2014). Oncology Fellows Coping with Patient Death: A research based workshop for fellows and trainees. Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York City, United States.

Granek, L. (February, 2014). A workshop for pediatric oncology fellows on how to cope with patient death. **Oncology Fellow Rounds for Pediatric Oncologists**, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario.

Granek, L. (January, 2014). Emotional Well-Being of Oncologists and its Impact on Patient Care. The Psychiatric Hospital and Mental Health Center, Beer-Sheva, Israel.

Granek, L. (January, 2014). *Qualitative Research: What we leave on, what we leave off, and what we wish we could say*. Pele Forum for Qualitative Research, Bar-Ilan University, Israel.

Ms. Tzipi Hornik-Lurie

Publications

Hornik-Lurie, T., Cwikel, J., Zilber, N., Feinson, M., Biderman, A., & Lerner, Y. Does specializing in family medicine improve the detection and diagnosis of mental health problems? *Israel Journal of Psychiatry and Related Sciences* (In press).

Hornik-Lurie, T., Lerner, Y., Zilber, N., Feinson, M., & Cwikel, J. (2014). Physicians' influence on primary care patients' reluctance to use mental health treatment *Psychiatric Services*, 65(4):541-545.

Aharonson-Daniel, L., Schwartz, D., **Hornik-Lurie, T.**, & Halpern, P. (2014). Quality of coding diagnoses in emergency departments: effects on mapping the public's health *Israel Medical Association Journal*, 16(1):11-16.

Presentation at a Conference

17th EPA Section Epidemiology and Social Psychiatry Meeting "The influence of physicians' recommendations on primary care patients' reluctance toward mental health treatment" Ulm, Germany, May, 2014.

Grant

A student grant from the Gertner Institute for Epidemiology and Health Policy Research.

Dr. Ephrat Huss

Publications

Single Authored Books

Huss, E. (2014). A Theory-Based Approach to Art therapy: Implications for Teaching, Research and Practice. London: Routledge. (Accepted).

Book Chapters

Huss, E. (2014). Social Workers as Artists or the Art of Social Work. In Bryant, L.(ed.) *Critical and Creative Social Work Methods*. Ashgate Publishers. (Accepted).

Peer-reviewed articles

Segal-Engelchin, D., Kaufman, R., **Huss, E.** (2014). The impact of multi-method field training on the practice orientations of social work students. *Social Security*,95, 139-166. (Hebrew).

Czamanski-Cohen, J., Sarid, O., **Huss, E.**, Ifergane, A., Niego, L., & Cwikel, J. (2014). CB-ART: A combination of cognitive behavioral interventions and art therapy in the treatment of depression and pain symptoms among women. *The Arts in Psychotherapy*, 41 (4), 320-328.

Huss, E., & Cwikel, J. (2015). Women's stress in compulsory army service in Israel: A Gendered Perspective. *'Work' Journal: Special issue on women in the army.* 50(1) January.

Kaufman, R., **Huss, E., & Segal-Engelchin, D.** (accepted). Arts based research as way to bridge emotional versus social knowledge of community workers. *The International Journal of Social, Political and Community Agendas in the Arts.*

Huss, E., & Maor, H. (In Press). Towards an integrative theory for understanding art discourses. *Visual Art Research.*

Presentation at a Conference

2014 - Opening Plenary Lecture Art Therapy Association Annual Conference; A theoretical understanding of Art Therapy.

Ms. Orly Liberman

Shor, V., Grinstein-Cohen, O., Reinshtein, J., **Liberman, O., & Delbar, V.** (2014). Health-related quality of life and sense of coherence among partners of women with breast cancer in Israel. *European Journal of Oncology Nursing.*

Liberman, O., Peleg, R., & Shvartzman, P. (2014). Chronic pain in type 2 diabetic patients: A cross-sectional study in primary care setting. *European Journal of General Practice*, (0), 1-8.

Dr. Michal Liebergall-Wischnitzer

Publications

Ilana Kadmon, Yelena Goldin, Yuval Bdolach, Murshid Farhat, Michal **Liebergall-Wischnitzer.** (2014). Knowledge, attitudes and practices of physicians and nurses regarding the link between IVF treatments and breast cancer. *European Journal Oncology Nursing* 18, 201-205. (Impact Factor 1.68; Nursing rank 11/106)

Liebergall-Wischnitzer, M. Cnaan T., Hochner, H & Paltiel, O. Self-Reported Prevalence and Knowledge About Urinary Incontinence Among Community-Dwelling Israeli Women of Child-Bearing Age. (Accepted for publication). *Journal of Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing* 46/106

Michal **Liebergall-Wischnitzer** (2014). Unfair conclusion in review of exercise methods for incontinence. *Journal of Physiotherapy* 60 (2): 115 (Impact Factor 2.25; Rehabilitation rank 10/64) (Invited letter)

Presentations at Conferences

- 2014 ICM 30th Triennial Congress, International Confederation of Midwives, Prague, Czech Republic. Paula Method Sphincter Control. Workshop, Michal **Liebergall-Wischnitzer**. Accepted for workshop N.w08

Courses development and implantation

- 2014 Women Health: Assessment Course, Master program, Women Health track, Hadassah-Hebrew University Henrietta Szold, School of Nursing, Israel.
- 2014 Women health: Decision Making Course, Master program, Women Health track, Hadassah-Hebrew University Henrietta Szold, School of Nursing, Israel.

Dr. Sheryl Mendlinger, Northeastern University, International Relations

Publications and Peer Review Conference Proceedings

GeoToursim 33rd Annual STTE Conference, Conference Proceedings: "Economic and Social Impact of Tourism on the Lives of Citizens in a Small New England Town, by Samuel Mendlinger, Tamoka Tsundoda, Sheryl E. **Mendlinger**. P. 88-108, 2014.

Book

Mendlinger, S. E. & Magen, Y. *Schlopping-schlep+love+shopping: Developing Relationships Self-Image & Memories*. (In Press: Me & Ma, Co. 2014.)

Prof. Orly Sarid

Publications

Czamanski-Cohen, J., **Sarid**, O., Lunenfeld, E., Levitas, E., Cwikel, J., Douvdenani, A, & Har- Vardi, I. (2014). Decrease in cell free DNA levels following participation in stress reduction techniques among women undergoing infertility treatment. *Archives of Women's Mental Health*, 17, 251-253.

Sarid, O. (2014). Assessment of anger terms in Hebrew: a gender perspective. *Journal of Psychology*, 1-22.

Czamanski-Cohen, J., **Sarid**, O., Huss, E., Ifergane, A., Niego, L, & Cwikel, J. (2014). CB-ART: A combination of cognitive behavioral interventions and art therapy in the treatment of depression and pain symptoms among women. *The Arts in Psychotherapy*, 41 (4), 320-328.

Huss, E., & **Sarid**, O. (2014). Visually transforming artwork and guided imagery as a way to reduce work related stress a quantitative pilot study *The Arts in Psychotherapy*, 41(4), 409-412

Sarid, O., Shraga, Y., Pereg, A., Cwikel, J., Reuveni, H. (In Press). The effect of ethno culture and health beliefs on mothers vaccination behavior. *Social Security* (Hebrew).

Presentations at Conferences

Halperin, O., **Sarid**, O. & Cwikel, J (2014). Birth perceptions: comparing between Israeli Jewish and Arabs mothers. Oral presentation in the Social Work and Health Conference, January 28, Jerusalem, Israel.

Sarid, O., Shraga, Y., Cwikel, J., Pereg, A., Reuvenni, H. (2014). The impact of mothers' ethno-cultural background and health beliefs on infant vaccination rates. Poster presented in The 10th Congress on Health Policy, May 21, Tel Aviv, Israel.

Berger, R., **Sarid**, O., Gensler, Y., Harman-Boehm, I., & Jonathan G. (2014). Pharmacy students decrease metabolic rates and improve aspects of quality of life among type II diabetes mellitus patients. Oral presentation in the Society of Medical Education, September 17, Tel Aviv, Israel.

Sarid, O., Slonim-Nevo, V., Schwartz, D., Dizengof, V., Abu Freha, N., Idelman, L., Gaspar, N., Odes, S., et al. (2014). Recently diagnosed Crohn's disease patients demonstrating mixed coping skills to control their psychological distress. Poster presented in UEG – United European Gastroenterology Week, October 18-22, Vienna, Austria. The poster won the National Scholar Award.

Awards

Won excellence in teaching and excellence in research from the faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

Dr. Dorit Segal-Engelchin

Publications

Segal-Engelchin, D., Friedmann, E., & Cwikel, J. (2014). The contribution of parental smoking history and socio- demographic factors to the smoking behavior of Israeli women. *Psychology, Health & Medicine*, 19(6), 625-634.

Segal-Engelchin, D., Kaufman, R., Huss, E. (2014). The impact of multi-method field training on the practice orientations of social work students. *Social Security*, 95, 139-166. (Hebrew).

Erera, P. & **Segal-Engelchin**, D. (2014). Gay men choosing to co-parent with heterosexual women. *Journal of GLBT Family Studies*, 10, 449-474.

Kaufman, R., Huss, E., & **Segal-Engelchin**, D. (accepted). Arts based research as way to bridge emotional versus social knowledge of community workers. *The International Journal of social, political and community agendas in the Arts*.

Presentations at Conferences

Shapira-Zur, A. & **Segal-Engelchin**, D. (2014). "Building their way to the top": The meaning of career success in the life stories of Ethiopian women. The 6th Israeli Conference on Qualitative Research, February, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel.

Kaner, A., **Segal-Engelchin**, D., & Cwikel, J. (2014). The transition to fatherhood. The 6th Israeli Conference on Qualitative Research, February, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel.

Segal-Engelchin, D., Sarid, O., & Cwikel, J. (2014). Transferring knowledge: An interactive approach to service development for postpartum depression (PPD). Third International Conference on Practice Research, June, Hunter College, NYC, New-York, USA.

Prof. Ilana Shoham-Vardi

Publications

Pariante G, **Shoham-Vardi I**, Kessous R, Sherf M, Sheiner E. Placental abruption as a significant risk factor for long-term cardiovascular mortality in a follow-up period of more than a decade. *Paediatr Perinat Epidemiol*. 2014 Jan;28(1):32-8.

Shai D, **Shoham-Vardi I**, Amsalem D, Silverberg D, Levi I, Sheiner E. Pregnancy outcome of patients following bariatric surgery as compared with obese women: a population-based study. *J Matern Fetal Neonatal Med*. 2014 Feb;27(3):275-8.

Wainstock T, Anteby EY, Glasser S, Lerner-Geva L, **Shoham-Vardi I**. Exposure to life-threatening stressful situations and the risk of preterm birth and low birth weight. *Int J Gynaecol Obstet*. 2014 Apr;125(1):28-32.

Gabbay A, Tzur T, Weintraub AY, **Shoham-Vardi I**, Sergienko R, Sheiner E. Calcium level during the first trimester of pregnancy as a predictor of preeclampsia. *Hypertens Pregnancy*. 2014 Jan 29. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 24475770.

Peres H, Glazer Y, Landau D, Marks K, Abokaf H, Belmaker I, Cohen A, **Shoham-Vardi I**. Understanding Utilization of Outpatient Clinics for Children with Special Health Care Needs in Southern Israel. *Matern Child Health J*. 2014 Jan 12. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 24414986.

Erez Azulay C, Pariante G, **Shoham-Vardi I**, Kessous R, Sergienko R, Sheiner E. Maternal anemia during pregnancy and subsequent risk for cardiovascular disease. *J Matern Fetal Neonatal Med*. 2014 Oct 29:1-4. [Epub ahead of print] PMID:25270962.

Arazi ES, Kessous R, **Shoham-Vardi** I, Pariente G, Sergienko R, Sheiner E Is there an association between a history of placental abruption and long-term maternal renal complications? *J Matern Fetal Neonatal Med.* 2014 Oct 10;1-6. [Epub ahead of print].

Pariente G, **Shoham-Vardi** I, Kessous R, Sergienko R, Sheiner E.
Is stillbirth associated with long-term atherosclerotic morbidity?
Am J Obstet Gynecol. 2014 Oct;211(4):416.e1-12. doi: 10.1016/j.ajog.2014.07.032.
Epub 2014 Jul 25.PMID:25068554.

Alfayumi-Zeadna S, Kaufman-Shriqui V, Zeadna A, Lauden A, **Shoham-Vardi** I.
The association between sociodemographic characteristics and postpartum depression symptoms among Arab-Bedouin women in southern Israel. *Depress Anxiety.* 2014 Jul 10. doi: 10.1002/da.22290. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 25044129.

Waldman M, Sheiner E, Sergienko R, **Shoham-Vardi** I. Can we identify risk factors during pregnancy for thrombo-embolic events during the puerperium and later in life? *J Matern Fetal Neonatal Med.* 2014 Jul 31:1-5.

Daoud N, **Shoham-Vardi** I. Maternal Perceptions of Social Context and Adherence to Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Clinic Recommendations among Marginalized Bedouin Mothers. *Matern Child Health J.* 2014 Jun 14. [Epub ahead of print] PMID:24927786.

Kessous R, **Shoham-Vardi** I, Pariente G, Sergienko R, Holcberg G, Sheiner E.
Recurrent pregnancy loss: a risk factor for long-term maternal atherosclerotic morbidity? *Am J Obstet Gynecol.* 2014 Oct;211(4):414.e1-11. doi: 10.1016/j.ajog.2014.05.050. Epub 2014 Jun 3.PMID:24905415.

Daoud N, **Shoham-Vardi** I, Urquia ML, O'Campo P Polygamy and poor mental health among Arab Bedouin women: do socioeconomic position and social support matter? *Ethn Health.* 2014 Aug;19(4):385-405. doi: 10.1080/13557858.2013.801403. Epub 2013 May 30.PMID: 23721210.

Wainstock T, **Shoham-Vardi** I, Glasser S, Anteby E, Lerner-Geva L. Fetal Sex Modifies Effects of Prenatal Stress Exposure and Adverse Birth Outcomes. *Stress.* 2014 Oct 16:1-32. [Epub ahead of print] PMID:25319674.

Presentations at Meetings

Talya Wolak, Ilana **Shoham-Vardi**, Ruslan Sergienko, Yaakov Henkin, Esther Paran and Eyal Sheiner (presenter). Creatinine and uric acid levels during pregnancy predict long term atherosclerotic morbidity during non-pregnant life. Presented at the Society of Maternal Fetal Medicine: 34 annual meeting, February 8-13 2014, New Orleans. USA

Shakked Lubotzky-Gete, Ilana **Shoham-Vardi** (presenter) Comparing pregnancy outcomes of immigrants from Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union to Israel to those of native-born Israelis presented in the 20th International Epidemiology Association World Congress of Epidemiology. August 16-10, 2014 Anchorage, Alaska, USA

Ronit Ratzon, Daniella Landau, Eyal Sheiner, **Ilana Shoham-Vardi** (presenter) Disparities in Antenatal Corticosteroid Treatment to women experiencing threatened preterm delivery. Presented in the 20th International Epidemiology Association World Congress of Epidemiology August 16-10, 2014 Anchorage, Alaska, USA

Invited talks

Ilana **Shoham-Vardi** Pregnancy as a window of opportunity to identify women at high risk for future cardiovascular morbidity Israeli Public Health Association meeting. Tel Aviv, 12.5.2014

Ilana **Shoham-Vardi** Introducing Genetic Technology to a Traditional Moslem Community in Southern Israel Treuman Katz Center for Pediatric Bioethics, Seattle Children's Research Institute July 16th, 2014

Research Grants

2012 - 2014 National Committee on the reduction of infant mortality, Ministry of Health, With Dr. N. Bilenko (CoPI): Intervention to reduce the rate of birth defects and infant mortality in the Bedouin population of the Negev. Study number: 8970079

2013 - 2015 Israeli Science Foundation. With Nihaya Daoud (Co PI): Contribution of different forms of social capital: Bonding, bridging, and linking in explaining intimate partner violence during pregnancy and after birth among Arab and Jewish women in Israel. Study number: 87335921

Current students

M. Med Sc. and MPH Students

Dabach Abir: Does preoperational anxiety predicts post operational pain in patients undergoing open heart surgery (Jointly with Dr. N. Daoud)

Hana Abokaf: Pregnancy complications and childhood morbidity (Jointly with Prof. E Sheiner)

Svetlana Shindel: Compliance with treatment guidelines in patients presenting in ER with NSTMI (jointly with Dr. Gilutz)

Ph.D. Students

Zvi Perry: Laparoscopic Adjustable Gastric Banding and its results in unique study groups, a historical cohort study (proposal preparation (Jointly with S. Mizrahi-Soroka University Medical Center)

Ricki Krispel- Ochayon: Early fetal loss: The Association between air pollution and other major risk factors and spontaneous abortions among in southern Israel (Jointly with Prof. Michael Friger)

Nava Braverman: Obstetric services in Israel- Is there a need for change? (Jointly with Dr. D. van Dyke)

Rasmiah Abu Rabia: Service accessibility and users' characteristics as factors affecting utilization patterns of prenatal genetic services in the Bedouin Negev Population (Jointly with Prof. O. Birk)