

ILC Israel: Biennial Activity Report: 2016 – June 2017

Our People in the Steering Committee:

Prof. Sara Carmel – Chairperson of the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev Center for Multidisciplinary Research in aging, and President of ILC-Israel

Dr. Yaakov Bachner – Former Director of the Master’s Program in Gerontology, Department of Public Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU)

Prof. A. Mark Clarfield – Head of the International Medical School, Faculty of Health Sciences, BGU

Prof. Tzvi Dwolatzky – Head of the Geriatrics Department – Rambam Medical Center, Haifa

Dr. Vadim Fraifeld – Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Faculty of Health Sciences, BGU

Prof. David Galinsky – Former Head of the Department of Geriatrics at Soroka Medical Center, and Faculty of Health Sciences, BGU

Prof. Jacob Kaplansky – Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Health Sciences, BGU

Dr. Itzik Melzer – Department of Physical Therapy, Head of Recanati School for Community Health Professions, Faculty of Health Sciences, BGU

Prof. Shraga Shany – Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Health Sciences, BGU.

Highlighted Events

On April 19th, 2017, ILC Israel and The Center for Multidisciplinary Research in Aging of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev held its semi-annual conference. This year’s conference topic was “Innovations and challenges in gerontology and geriatrics: The effects of the Holocaust on the health and well-being of survivors and their offspring (children, second, and third generation).”

This multidisciplinary conference was a great success with an estimated 200 attendees present. Topics of discussion shared two main focuses – “Late effects of the Holocaust in the mirror of research,” and “Late effects of the Holocaust in the treatment field.”

Presenters and attendees came from all over Israel, and included faculty and students from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Bar-Ilan University, and the University of Haifa, as well as members of the Israel Ministry of Health, and members of 'Amcha' - a non-profit organization with the goal of providing psychological and social services to Holocaust survivors and their families.

Research highlights

Most Recent Studies:

Five new major research projects were initiated in 2016 (supported by the Israel-America Foundation):

1. Gut microbiota correction as a potential treatment for Parkinson's Disease, led by Prof. Vadim Fraifeld.

2. Use of feeding tubes in patients with end-stage dementia: The Israel perspective in the wake of a reform in health policy, led by Prof. Mark Clarfield & Prof. Tzvi Dwolatzky.
3. Relative reliability, absolute reliability and concurrent validity of the Narrow Path Walking Test in people with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, led by Prof. Itzik Melzer & Dr. Marc Gotkin.
4. Effects of the use of movement monitoring on physical and cognitive function and subjective wellbeing of older people without major neurocognitive disorders, led by Prof. Sara Carmel, Prof. Yaacov Bachner, Prof. Tzvi Dwolatzky & Prof. Itzik Melzer.
5. Active euthanasia and physician assisted suicide in Israel: Attitudes of older persons, social workers and gerontologists, led by Prof. Sara Carmel & Prof. Yaacov Bachner.

Ongoing Studies:

1. Patterns of coping with losses and successful aging: A longitudinal study of a national sample of elderly Israelis (Supported by United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation – BSF, the Ministry for Senior Citizens, and the Sonia and Abraham Rochlin Foundation)
2. Autobiographical memory and well-being in later life (Financed by International Opportunities Fund: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada – SSHRC)
3. The effects of a guided life review on psychological wellbeing of terminally-ill young and old cancer patients (Supported by The Israeli Ministry of Health and Aid to the Oncological Patient Foundation)
4. Well-being of old community dwellers and residents of sheltered housing: A comparative study (financed by the Sonia and Abraham Rochlin Foundation and The Ministry for Senior Citizens)
5. Determinants of the will-to-live of Israeli older adults (Supported by The MINERVA Foundation)
6. Open communication about illness and death between caregiving spouses of terminal cancer patients
7. Israeli centenarians: Health status, psychosocial characteristics, and special needs (Supported by the Sonia and Abraham Rochlin Foundation and the Israel Ministry for Senior Citizens)
8. Caregivers' experiences with community dwelling parents versus assisted living residents (Financed by the Ministry for Senior Citizens)
9. Effects of early and late retirement on cognitive functions (Supported by the Berlin Demography Forum)
10. Health risks of primary caregivers to severely ill patients: Awareness and preventive treatment among primary care physicians and primary caregivers (Financed by The Israel National Institute for Health Policy and Health Services Research)
11. Application of the will-to-live scale to daily practice with older adults. (Financed by Sol Leshin Program for Collaboration between UCLA and BGU).

Selected Publications & Presentations- 2016

Plenary lectures:

In February 2016, Prof. Carmel participated in the ILC-GA panel on "Labor Force Participation in Israel" at the 5th Berlin Demography Forum, ESMT European School of Management and Technology, Berlin, Germany.

In April 2016, Prof. Carmel gave a plenary lecture on "Prolongation of life in terminal illness conditions: Desires and reality" at The End-of-Life Care Conference: A Multidisciplinary Approach to End-of-Life Care: Past, Present and Future, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem.

Selected Refereed articles in Scientific Journals:

Members of the center are identified in bold:

- **Carmel, S., Granek, L., & Zamir, A.** (2016). Influences of nationalism and historical traumatic events on the will-to-live of elderly Israelis. *The Gerontologist*, 56(4), 753-761. doi: 10.1093/geront/gnv031.
- Ilan, S., & **Carmel, S.** (2016). Patient Communication Pattern Scale: Psychometric characteristics. *Health Expectations*, 19(4), 842-853. doi:10-1111/hex.12381.
- **Carmel, S., Raveis, H.V., O'Rourke, N., & Tovel, H.** (2016). Health, coping and subjective well-being: Results of a longitudinal study of elderly Israelis. *Aging & Mental Health*. doi:10.1080/13607863.2016.1141285.
- **Carmel, S., King, D. B., O'Rourke, N., & Bachner, Y.G.** (2016). Subjective well-being: Gender differences in Holocaust survivors-specific and cross-national effects. *Aging & Mental Health*. doi:10.1080/13607863.2016.1148660.
- Canham, S.L., Peres, H., **O'Rourke, N., King, D.B., Wertman, A., Carmel, S., & Bachner, Y.G.** (2016). Why do Holocaust survivors remember what they remember? *The Gerontologist*. doi:10.1093/geront/gnw131. Canham, S.L., Peres, H., O'Rourke, N., King,
- Elhai, N., **Carmel, S., O'Rourke, N., & Bachner, Y.G.** (2016). Translation and validation of the Hebrew version of the SHALOM Spiritual Questionnaire. *Aging & Mental Health*. doi:10.1080/13607863.2016.1222350.
- **O'Rourke, N., Canham, S., Wertman, A., Chaudhury, H., Carmel, A., Bachner, Y., & Peres, H.** (2016). Holocaust survivors' memories of past trauma and the functions of reminiscence. *Gerontologist*, 56, 743-752.
- **Bachner, Y. G.** (2016). Psychometric properties of responses to an Arabic version of the Hamilton Depression Rating Scale (HAM-D6). *Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association*, 22(1), 27-30.
- Edelstein, O. E., Band-Winterstein, T., & **Bachner, Y. G.** (2016). The meaning of burden of care in a faith-based community: The case of ultra-Orthodox Jews (UOJ). *Aging & mental health*, 1-11.
- Yanai, H., Lumenta, D. B., Vierlinger, K., Hofner, M., Kitzinger, H. B., Kamolz, L. P., ... & **Fraifeld, V. E.** (2016). Middle age has a significant impact on gene expression during skin wound healing in male mice. *Biogerontology*, 17, 763-770.

- Yanai, H., Budovsky, A., Tacutu, R., Barzilay, T., Abramovich, A., Ziesche, R., & **Fraifeld, V. E.** (2016). Tissue repair genes: the TiRe database and its implication for skin wound healing. *Oncotarget*. doi, 7, 21145-21155.
- Toren, D., Barzilay, T., Tacutu, R., Lehmann, G., Muradian, K. K., & **Fraifeld, V. E.** (2016). MitoAge: a database for comparative analysis of mitochondrial DNA, with a special focus on animal longevity. *Nucleic Acids Research*, 44(D1), D1262-D1265.
- Gimmon, Y., Barash, A., Debi, R., Snir, Y., David, Y. B., Grinshpon, J., & **Melzer, I.** (2016). Application of the clinical version of the narrow path walking test to identify elderly fallers. *Archives of gerontology and geriatrics*, 63, 108-113.
- Kurz, I., Gimmon, Y., Shapiro, A., Debi, R., Snir, Y., & **Melzer, I.** (2016). Unexpected perturbations training improves balance control and voluntary stepping times in older adults—a double blind randomized control trial. *BMC geriatrics*, 16(1), 1.
- **Nimrod, G.** (2016). The hierarchy of mobile phone incorporation among older users. *Mobile Media and Communication*, 4(2), 149-168.
- **Nimrod, G.**, Janke, M. C., & Kleiber, D. A. (2016). Leisure and aging qualitative research 15 years into the third millennium (introduction to a special issue). *Journal of Leisure Research*, 48(1), 12-14.
- **Nimrod, G.** & Shrira, A. (2016). The paradox of leisure in later life. *Journal of Gerontology, Series B: Social Sciences*, 71(1), 106-111.
- King, D.B., Canham, S.L., Cobb, R.J. & **O'Rourke, N.** (2016). Reciprocal effects of life satisfaction and depressive symptomology in older long-wed couples over time. *Journals of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*.
- King, D.B., Sixsmith, A., Yaghoubi Shahir, H., Sadeghi, M., Razmara, M., & **O'Rourke, N.** (2016). Developing an ecological momentary sampling tool to measure movement patterns and psychiatric symptom variability. *Gerontechnology*, 14, 105-109.
- **O'Rourke, N.**, Sixsmith, A., King, D.L., Yaghoubi-Shahir, H., Canham, S.L. & the BADAS Study Team (2016). Development and validation of the BD Sx: A brief measure of symptom variability for use with young and older adults with bipolar disorder. *International Journal of Bipolar Disorders*.
- Giesbrecht, C.J., **O'Rourke, N.**, Leonova, O., Strehlau, V., Paquet, K., Vila-Rodriguez, F., ... & Honer, W.G. (2016). Factor structure of the PANSS in persons with psychiatric multi-morbidity. *PLoS ONE*, 11(3), E0151648
- **O'Rourke, N.**, King, D.B., & Cappeliez, P (2016). Reminiscence functions over time: Consistency of self functions and variation in prosocial functions. *Memory*.
- Fischer, A.L., **O'Rourke, N.**, & Thornton, W. L. (2016). Age differences in cognitive and affective theory of mind: Concurrent contributions of neurocognitive performance, sex, and vascular health. *Journals of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*.