

International Longevity Centre–Israel (ILC-Israel)
Center for Multidisciplinary Research in Aging (CMRA)
2024 Annual Report

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ILC-Israel vice president and past president: Prof. A. Mark Clarfield, markclar@bgu.ac.il

In August 2024, Prof. Vadim Fraifeld was elected by the members of the CMRA Council as the new Chairperson and Director of the Center. CMRA is the administrative home of ILC-Israel.

Members of the CMRA Council

Prof. Yaacov Bachner *,**	Department of Public Health - Gerontology,
Prof. Sara Carmel*,**	Department of Public Health, Director of the Center
Prof. A. Mark Clarfield*	Emeritus Professor. Former Head of the Medical School for International Health
Dr. Ella Cohn-Schwartz	Department of Public Health - Gerontology, Director of the Master's Program in Gerontology
Dr. Offer Edelstein	Department of Social Work
Prof. Vadim Fraifeld, MD *	Former Head of the Lab for the Biology of Aging, The Shraga Segal Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Genetics, Faculty of Health Sciences
Dr. Lilach Friedman	Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Genetics
Prof. Reli HersHKovich**	Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences
Prof. Tomer Hertz	Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Genetics
Prof. Raz Jelinek**	Vice-President & Dean for Research and Development
Dr. Natalia Khvorostianov	Department of Communication Studies
Prof. Dvora Lieberman (Emeritus)	Former Head of the Department of Geriatrics, Soroka Medical Center
Prof. Itzik Melzer *, **	Physiotherapy, Head of Recanati School for Community Health Professions
Prof. Galit Nimrod	Department of Communication Studies
Prof. Norm O'Rourke	Master's Program in Gerontology, Department of Public Health

Ms Silvia Perel-Levin *	Consultant, President of ILC-Israel
Dr. Yan Press *	Head of the Department of Geriatrics, Soroka Medical Center
Dr. Doron Sagi	Department of Public Health - Gerontology
Prof. Danit Shahar	Department of Public Health, International Center for Health and Nutrition
Dr. Stav Shapira	Department of Emergency Medicine
Prof. David Wettstein **	Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

* Members of the Steering Committee ** Ex-officio Members of the Center

ILC-Israel Advisory Committee:

Prof. Liat Ayalon	Professor in the School of Social Work, Bar-Ilan University. Prof. Ayalon coordinates an international EU funded Ph.D. program on the topic of ageism (EuroAgeism.eu)
Dr. Vered Hermush	President, Israel Geriatrics Society, Director of Geriatric Department, Laniado Hospital. Lecturer at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Prof. Israel (Issi) Doron	Dean, Faculty of Social Work and Health Sciences at the University of Haifa. Head of the Center for Research and Study of Aging at the University of Haifa.
Prof. Shai Brill	Minerva Center for Interdisciplinary Studies of the end of life, Tel Aviv University; Chief Geriatrician, Clalit Health Services
Prof. Carmel Shalev	Chair, Department for Reproduction and Society, International Center for Health Law and Ethics, University of Haifa. Fields of interest: Bioethics, human rights and social justice

Mission of the Center

The goal of the CMRI of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev is to promote good quality of life for older people. Our Center's activities focus on promotion of evidence-based ageing-related information, on disseminating knowledge to national and local policymakers, service providers, the professional communities, and to the public, and on mentoring research students.

Older adults in Israel are a unique heterogeneous population comprised of Israeli-born Jews and Arabs, as well as Jewish immigrants from more than a hundred countries including older Holocaust survivors who still make up > 10% of Israel's older persons.

Our Center cooperates with Israeli policymakers and institutions for older people. Our conferences are often organized in collaboration with social organizations and institutions for older adults.

Activities of ILC-Israel

Despite challenging times in a long and terrible war for all involved on both sides of our borders, MCRA and ILC-Israel have been active in research and planning future activities. However, the international meeting that was initially scheduled to take place at BGU late 2024, then early 2025 has been rescheduled to June 2025.

Thanks to a grant by a private foundation in Germany, ILC-Israel is working on a conceptual framework on integrating human rights into health and social care in Israel and plan an international meeting focusing on Age-friendly Cities and Communities (AFCC) in Israel following the WHO framework and the ILC GA

efforts to become a WHO affiliate. The meeting will include a photo exhibition reflecting the active participation of older persons in all aspects of life.

We are also partners in the COST Action Proposal Ageing and climate change from a human rights-based approach.

Ongoing Grants 2021-24

ABC Robotics initiative for Research Development Projects in Rehabilitation. Title: Developing the "Perturbation Elliptical system" to Improve Balance among older Adults. PI's: Itshak Melzer and Amir Shapiro

Keep Healthy and Active Ageing: A comprehensive approach linking early risk detection of disability, fall prevention and intervention in older adults. PI's: Itshak Melzer and Amir Shapiro

Selected Publications by members

Vadim Fraifeld

Rejuvenation and Longevity Introduction to Rejuvenology Book by Khachik K. Muradian and **Vadim E. Fraifeld**, Part of the book series: Healthy Ageing and Longevity (HAL, volume 20) He presented the book at the Longevity Nation Conference: Enhancing Research, Development, and Education for Healthy Longevity, October 28-31, 2024, Bar Ilan University, Israel.

Mark Clarfield

Active aging in social advocacy: Seniors at the forefront of political activism, **Shapira, S. & Clarfield, A. M.**, 1 Aug 2024, In: Journal of the American Geriatrics Society. 72, 8, p. 2618-2619 2 p.

Kidnapped But Not Kids: A Case Series of Three Octogenarian Hostages Held in Captivity by Hamas, **Clarfield AM**, Levine H. Rambam Maimonides Med J 2024;15 (4):e0020. doi:10.5041/RMMJ.10534

Prevalence of orthostatic hypotension and associated factors among older people with hypertension in Northern Ethiopia, Workagegnehu Hailu, Tsebaot Tesfaye, Lemma Derseh, Awraris Hailu and **A. Mark Clarfield**

Silvia Perel-Levin

Elder Abuse, chapter in the third edition of the International Encyclopedia of Public Health, Elsevier 2024, Morrissey MB, Daichman LS, **Perel-Levin S**, Brownell P, Somers SB , Volume 5, 2025, Pages 639-647 Academic Press, ISBN 9780323972802

Ageing of the Oppressed: A Pandemic of Intersecting Injustice. **Perel-Levin S**, ed. New York: Peter Lang, 2023

Yaacov Bachner

Characteristics of Unsuccessful Balance Reactive Responses to Lateral Loss of Balance in Older Adults, Batcir, S., Berdichevsky, Y., **Bachner, Y. G.**, Lubovsky, O., Debi, R. & Melzer, I., 1 Jul 2024, In: Gerontology. 70, 7, p. 689-700 12 p.

Older adults' attitudes toward using Euthanasia at the end-of life: cancer vs. Parkinson's disease Lifshitz, R., **Bachner, Y. G.** & Carmel, S., 1 Jan 2024, In: Frontiers in Public Health. 12, 1393535.

The Way Older Childless Women Value Their Life—A Qualitative Study

Boker Gonen, T., **Bachner, Y. G.** & Slonim-Nevo, V., 1 May 2024, In: Behavioral Sciences. 14, 5, 418.

Ella Cohn Schwartz

A prospective association between social isolation and cognitive performance among older adults in Europe: the role of loneliness and poor oral health, Khalaila, R., **Cohn-Schwartz, E.**, Shiovitz-Ezra, S. & Lawlor, B., 8 Jan 2024, In: Aging and Mental Health. 28, 8, p. 1-7 7 p.

Assessment of a digital intervention program with Holocaust survivors, **Cohn-Schwartz, E.**, Mannheim, I. & Meiry, L., 1 Jan 2024, In: Aging and Mental Health. 28, 4, p. 587-594 8 p.

Editorial: New ideas in: psychology of aging, Yu, X., **Cohn-Schwartz, E.**, Zheng, Z., Yin, S. & Li, R., 1 Jan 2024, In: Frontiers in Psychology. 15, 1383415.

Employment over the life course and post-retirement social networks: A gendered perspective
Cohn-Schwartz, E. & Naegele, L., 1 Aug 2024, In: International Psychogeriatrics. 36, p. 655-665 11 p.

From attitudes to social networks: National gender-role attitudes and gender differences in late-life social relationships, **Cohn-Schwartz, E.** & Schmitz, A., 1 Jan 2024, In: Social Networks. 76, p. 79-87.

Global Conflict and the Plight of Older Persons: Lessons From Israel, Ayalon, L., **Cohn-Schwartz, E.** & Sagi, D., 1 Apr 2024, In: American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry. 32, 4, p. 509-511 3 p.

On Intergenerational Conflict and Solidarity at Times of Terror and War in Israel: The Case of Late-Life Physical Vulnerabilities and Emotional Resilience, Ayalon, L., Okun, S., **Cohn-Schwartz, E.** & Sagi, D., 1 May 2024, In: American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry. 32, 5, p. 639-641 3 p.

Reciprocal associations of posttraumatic stress symptoms and cognitive decline in community-dwelling older adults: The mediating role of depression, **Cohn-Schwartz, E.**, Hoffman, Y. & Shrira, A., 11 Feb 2024, In: International Psychogeriatrics. 36, 2, p. 119-129 11 p.

The multidimensionality of social health, **Cohn-Schwartz, E.** 1 Aug 2024, In: International Psychogeriatrics. 36, p. 612-614 3 p.

Galit Nimrod

Assimilation of socially assistive robots' by older adults: an interplay of uses, constraints and outcomes, Zafrani, O., **Nimrod, G.**, Krakovski, M., Kumar, S., Bar-Haim, S. & Edan, Y., 1 Jan 2024, In: Frontiers in Robotics and AI. 11, 1337380.

From experiencing parental mediation as a child to practicing it as a parent: An exploratory study with Israeli mothers, Elias, N., Lemish, D. & **Nimrod, G.**, 1 Jan 2024, In: Journal of Children and Media. 18, 1, p. 50-59 10 p.

Doron Sagi

Global Conflict and the Plight of Older Persons: Lessons From Israel, Ayalon, L., **Cohn-Schwartz, E.** & **Sagi, D.**, 1 Apr 2024, In: American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry. 32, 4, p. 509-511 3 p.

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Stav Shapira

Active aging in social advocacy: Seniors at the forefront of political activism, **Shapira, S.** & Clarfield, A. M., 1 Aug 2024, In: Journal of the American Geriatrics Society. 72, 8, p. 2618-2619 2 p.

Energy poverty and ethnic disparities among Jewish and Muslim households in Israel: The implications for welfare systems, Teschner, N., Said, H. & **Shapira, S.**, 1 Oct 2024, In: Energy Research and Social Science. 116, 103689.

Gaza Ceasefire: Improve WASH, Promote Cooperation, Razum, O., Agha, H., **Davidovitch, N.**, McCall, T. & **Shapira, S.**, 1 Jan 2024, In: International Journal of Public Health. 69, 1607412.

Managing a Mega Mass Casualty Event by a Civilian Emergency Medical Services Agency: Lessons From the First Day of the 2023 Hamas-Israel War, Jaffe, E., Wacht, O., **Davidovitch, N.**, Strugo, R., Blustein, O., Rosenblat, I., Bin, E. & **Shapira, S.**, 1 Jan 2024, In: International Journal of Public Health. 69, 1606907.

Parent-adolescent coping with prolonged geopolitical conflict: A qualitative analysis focusing on distress and resilience, Albala, D. & **Shapira, S.**, 1 Sep 2024, In: Family Process. 63, 3, p. 1502-1520 19 p.