

**International Longevity Centre–Israel (ILC-Israel)
Center for Multidisciplinary Research in Aging (CMRA)
2025 Annual Report**

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Members of the CMRA Steering Group

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Prof. Ella Cohn-Schwartz	Co-Director of the CMRA; Head of the Gerontology Program, Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Community Health Sciences, School of Public Health
Ms. Silvia Perel-Levin	Consultant to CMRA, President of ILC-Israel
Prof. Sara Carmel	Gerontology Program, Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Community Health Sciences, former director of the CMRA
Prof. A. Mark Clarfield	Emeritus Professor. Former Head of the Medical School for International Health
Prof. Tomer Hertz	Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Genetics
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
Prof. Yan Press	Head of the Department of Geriatrics, Soroka Medical Center
Prof. Danit Shahar	Department of Public Health, International Center for Health and Nutrition
Dr. Stav Shapira	Department of Emergency Medicine

ILC-Israel Advisory Committee:

Prof. Liat Ayalon	Professor in the School of Social Work, Bar-Ilan University.
Dr. Vered Hermush	President, Israel Geriatrics Society, Director of Geriatric Department, Laniado Hospital. Lecturer at Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
Prof. Israel (Issi) Doron	Past dean, Faculty of Social Work and Health Sciences 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.

2025 activities of ILC-Israel and CMRA

A) Conferences:

- *Optimal Aging with a Psychosocial Approach – From Research to Therapeutic Practice*, co-organised with the MA programme on Gerontology at BGU and in collaboration with the Amcha Association - The Israeli Center for Mental Health and Social Support for Holocaust Survivors and the Second Generation. The conference took place on 9 June 2025 at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. The event was in Hebrew and the participants were researchers and practitioners from the different parts of the country. It was divided in two parts: 1) Research insights for promoting well-being in old age and 2) The Israeli Center for Mental Health and Social Support for Holocaust Survivors and the Second Generation as a model for a space promoting optimal aging with a psychosocial approach.
- *Human rights and health in old age - The role of cities and communities in Israel and abroad* with photo exhibition on 4 September 2025, at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. The event was well attended with participants from government, academia, and community organizations. Dr. Yongjie Yon, the focal point on ageing at the WHO European office came to Israel for the conference and WHO representatives in Israel attended and helped arrange meetings for Yongjie with the Ministry of Health. The objectives of the conference were to reflect on what Israel does on age-friendly cities and communities, to align with international principles and developments in the field of ageing, public health and human rights and to present new research. At the conference in September, we unveiled a traveling photo exhibition *Looking back – Older persons in personal and community documentation of October 7 and the life after*. All photos were taken by older persons in the framework of a Photo Voice project, Photo Israel.
- Following the conference, we held a working meeting with a selected number of participants who are active in different aspects of age-friendly cities and communities and WHO, to discuss the possibility of establishing a National Affiliate Program to the WHO network. A task force was created to follow up and we have held since then a couple of online meetings. We are planning to attend the Global Conference in San Sebastian in June 2026.



B) Other 2025 activities

- We launched two calls for research proposals to start in 2026. One call invites researchers to submit research proposals related to human rights and ageing, addressing a wide range of life areas such as health, society, environment, accessibility, equality, participation, and more. The second call is for a new research group on ageing across Ben Gurion University for doctoral and postdoctoral students. The research group will be led and facilitated by Prof. Ella Cohn-Schwartz, co-director of the Multidisciplinary Center for Aging Research and Head of the Gerontology Programme at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.
- A. Mark Clarfield contributed to ILC France Views project related to vaccinations in older persons on behalf of ILC Israel
- Silvia Perel-Levin attended and actively participated in the IFA global conference in Cape Town in September where she proudly received the Julia Alvarez Award for 2024. Silvia also attended the WHO EURO stakeholder meeting with experts, WHO collaborating centres, and key research networks in the Hague. The meeting's objectives were to discuss the WHO EURO strategy on Ageing, co-develop a regional research agenda and establish a WHO research network across the EURO region.
- Ella Cohn-Schwartz, Galit Nimrod and Stav Schapira participated in the annual conference of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) in Boston (11-15 November 2025).
- The CMRA is listed as an associated partner in a proposal to the Europe Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions grants led by the University of Birmingham and Haifa University *Older Persons RIGHTS in Intersectional Contexts: Law and AGing in Europe Doctoral Network (RIGHTS-AGE)*, which seeks to establish and train an international and interdisciplinary group of 15 exceptional Doctoral Candidates (DCs) to form the core of the next generation of scholars and socio-legal academic leaders on older persons rights in Europe.
- A. Mark Clarfield - during his recent sabbatical, visited the Singapore ILC, worked with colleagues at Flinders University in Adelaide and visited ILC-UK several times in London. He has also been active offering his expertise to the Israel Family Hostage Forum in matters pertaining to the health of the older hostages (see relevant article in publications). He continues to chair the National Council on Geriatrics.

International advocacy

- Silvia Perel-Levin continues with her active global advocacy as vice-chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing in Geneva and member of the steering group of the [Global Alliance for the rights of older people \(GAROP\)](#). Currently organising a civil society meeting on 17 February 2025 that precedes the Organisational meeting of the new Intergovernmental Working Group on 18-20 February 2026.
- Galit Nimrod was selected to be a member of the Content Working Group (CWG) of GAROP that is preparing a conceptual framework for the elements of a Convention to present and discuss at the and the scope of a the Convention we, as civil society may want, to be discussed at the meeting on 17 February in Geneva. The CWG will later work on a full proposed text to contribute to the process of elaboration of the Legally binding instrument.
- Stav Shapira is part of a network of experts who will inform the CWG on specific issues. Stav's expertise is on emergencies, conflict and climate change.

C) Selected Publications by members in 2025

Yaacov Bachner

Shulyaev K, Edelstein OE, Tur-Sinai A, Bachner YG, King A, Band-Winterstein T. Balancing the Self: Intervention for Family Caregivers Through the Lens of Terror Management Theory. *Qualitative Health Research*. 2025;0(0). doi:[10.1177/10497323251387015](https://doi.org/10.1177/10497323251387015)

Asmer Khoury, H., Band-Winterstein, T., & Bachner, Y. G. (2025). Depressive Symptoms Among Older Gay Men: What Are the Most Important Determinants? *Healthcare (Switzerland)*, 13(3), Article 216. <https://doi.org/10.3390/healthcare13030216>

Abreek-Sarhan, N., Sarhan, B., Kalichman, L., Ezra, D., Bachner, Y. G., & Alperovitch-Najenson, D. (2025). Development of ergonomic risk factors (physical and psychosocial) questionnaire among preschool teachers' work environment. *Applied Ergonomics*, 126, Article 104508. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apergo.2025.104508>

Batcir, S., Livne, K., Lehman, R. L., Berdichevsky, Y., Maoz, S., Shkedy, L. W., Adar, R., Rabaev, E., Bachner, Y. G., Shani, G., Lubovsky, O., Shapiro, A., Alexander, N. B., & Melzer, I. (2025). Feedback-based perturbation balance training during stationary cycling improves reactive and proactive balance among older adults: A single-blinded randomised controlled trial. *Age and Ageing*, 54(8), Article afaf215. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ageing/afaf215>

Cohn-Schwartz, E., Gooldin, S., & Bachner, Y. G. (2025). Gender Disparities in the Mental Health of Gay and Lesbian Adults in Later Life: the Role of Internalized Homophobia and Age Discrimination. *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13178-025-01175-8>

Dolev Nissani, A., O'Rourke, N., Carmel, S., & Bachner, Y. G. (2025). Predictors of Support for Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide (EPAS) Among Older Adults in Israel. *European Journal of Investigation in Health, Psychology and Education*, 15(10), Article 207. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ejihpe15100207>

Cohn-Schwartz, E., Gooldin, S., Meiry, L., & Bachner, Y. G. (2025). Sexual Orientation and Internalized Homophobia of Middle Aged and Older Gay and Lesbian Adults: The Role of Social Relationships. *Journals of Gerontology - Series B Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*, 80(6), Article gbaf048. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geronb/gbaf048>

Cohn-Schwartz, E., Sagi, D., O'Rourke, N., & Bachner, Y. G. (2025). The coronavirus pandemic and Holocaust survivors in Israel. *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*, 12(5), 502-504. <https://doi.org/10.1037/tra0000771>

Mannheim, I., Lifshitz, R., Bachner, Y. G., & Cohn-Schwartz, E. (Accepted/In press). The Effect of Displacement During Extreme Circumstances on Digital Engagement and Well-Being Among Older Adults. *American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jagp.2025.03.004>

Cohn-Schwartz, E., Gooldin, S., Meiry, L., Heidemann, R. & Bachner, YG. The unique characteristics of “families of choice” and families of origin of older LGBTQ + adults: are they related to mental health? *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology* (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00127-025-02919-y>

Lian, Meiry-Dashti MA¹; Bachner, Yaacov G. PhD²; Ben Akiva-Maliniak, Achinoam MA³; Tzlil, Rabinovitz Sassoon MA³; Sharon, Barak PhD^{4,5}. Toward a Self-Report Cumulative

A. Mark Clarfield

Clarfield, AM “ Alice in Wonderland’s “Father William”: Advice for Healthy Aging and a Pushback Against Ageism,” *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* (2025): 1–4, <https://doi.org/10.1111/jgs.19519>

Clarfield AM. Older persons, new challenges: Caring for vulnerable persons during wartime in Israel. *J Am Geriatr Soc.* 2025; 73(2): 658-660. doi:[10.1111/jgs.18710](https://doi.org/10.1111/jgs.18710)

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Ella Cohn Schwartz

Cohn-Schwartz, E. (2025). From loss to closer bonds: Pregnancy loss and the emotional bonds with children in later life. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 42(11), 3344-3359. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02654075251369854>

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Cohn-Schwartz, E., Gooldin, S., Meiry, L., & Bachner, Y. G. (2025). Sexual Orientation and Internalized Homophobia of Middle Aged and Older Gay and Lesbian Adults: The Role of Social Relationships. *Journals of Gerontology - Series B Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*, 80(6), Article gbaf048. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geronb/gbaf048>

Cohn-Schwartz, E., Sagi, D., O'Rourke, N., & Bachner, Y. G. (2025). The coronavirus pandemic and Holocaust survivors in Israel. *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*, 12(5), 502-504. <https://doi.org/10.1037/tra0000771>

Mannheim, I., Lifshitz, R., Bachner, Y. G., & Cohn-Schwartz, E. (Accepted/In press). The Effect of Displacement During Extreme Circumstances on Digital Engagement and Well-Being

Among Older Adults. *American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jagp.2025.03.004>

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Galit Nimrod

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Stav Shapira

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